

Ch. 4.1, From Federation to Constitution

- What were the successes and failure of the Articles of Confederation?
- What difficulties did the founders encounter when creating the Constitution?
- How did the Constitution increase the power of the federal government and lessened the power of the state legislatures?

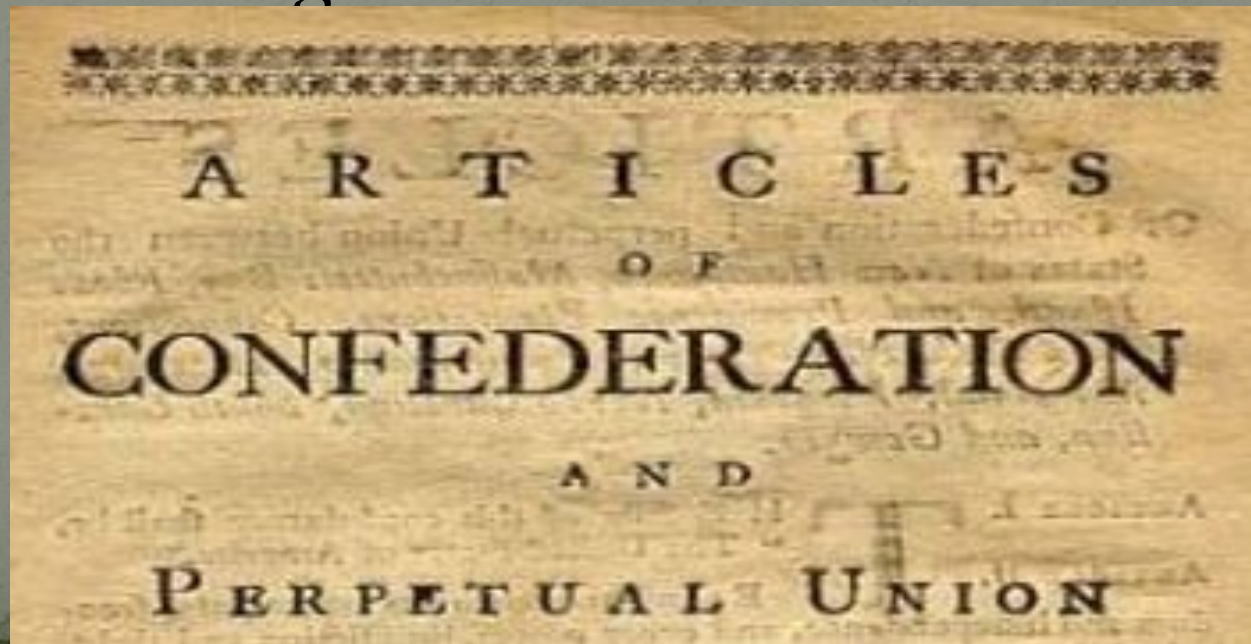
The Articles of Confederation

- The Articles were written in 1777 by John Dickinson, a Pennsylvania statesman
- The Articles were accepted by Congress in 1781 and is considered the first national constitution
- Created a framework of a loose confederation of states. Any powers not specifically given to Congress was reserved for the states.



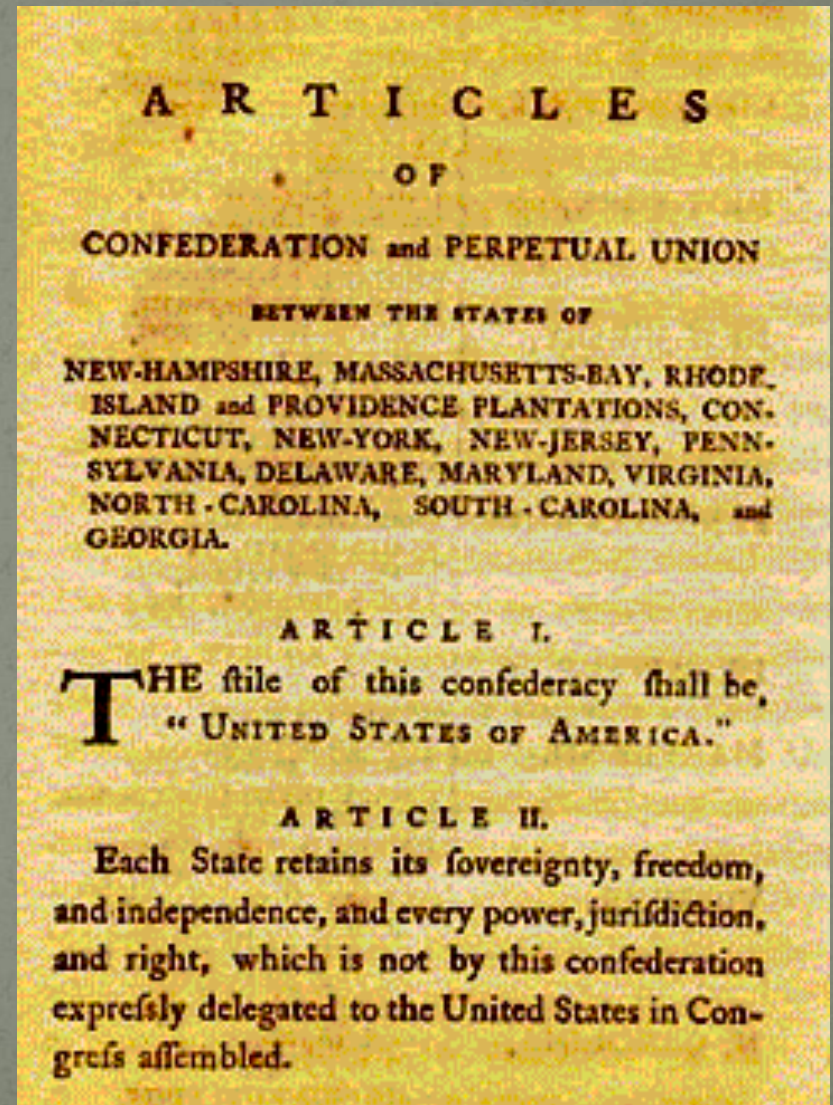
The Articles of Confederation

- The fear of having too much power in one person's hands reflects the experiences the colonies had under a monarchy
- In the Articles the state governments limit the power of the national Congress



The Articles of Confederation

- Only Congress could declare war, negotiate with foreign countries, establish a postal system and settle disputes between states.
- It could not impose taxes.
- There was no executive branch to carry out laws or a judicial branch to settle legal issues.



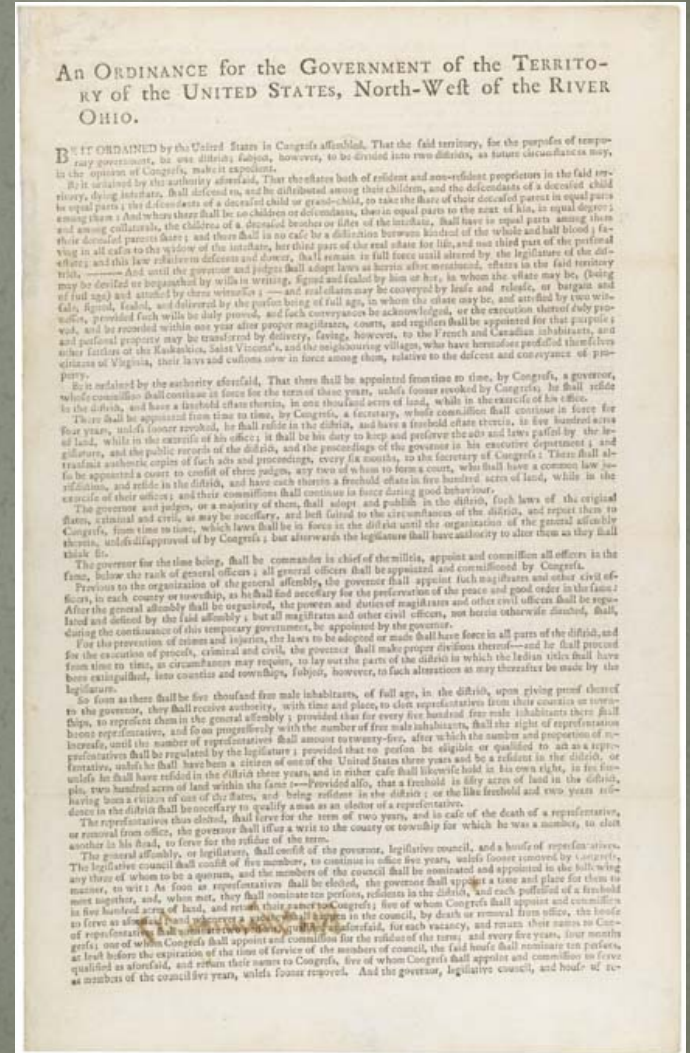
Land Ordinance of 1785

- In the Treaty of Paris, Britain gave up the Northwest Territory.
- Intended to provide a fair way to divide land .
- 36 “Townships” each 1 square mile
- Other provisions
 - One section (Section 16) was set aside for schools and school support



Northwest Ordinance of 1787

- Allowed for the creation of new states in the Northwest Territory
 - 5,000 free adult men → legislature
 - Population of 60,000 free inhabitants → create a constitution and form a government. With approval from Congress, then become a state.
- Forbade slavery
- Public education
- Fair dealings with Indians



Shays' Rebellion

- Falling crop prices and foreign trade left many farmers in debt.
- Property auctioned off and sent to debtor's prison.
- Summer of 1786, Daniel Shays led a group of armed and angry farmers to occupy courthouse after courthouse.
- The wealthy donated money to raise a militia to put down the rebellion.
- Demonstrated the weakness of Congress



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ImIEcsTEVo>

Shay's Rebellion 1787 - REVOLT Against the Blue Blood Masons - REAL American History



Shays' Rebellion 1787

0:14 / 44:07



Weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation



- No national unity, just 13 separate state governments
- No ability to tax
- No ability to regulate foreign or interstate commerce
- Each state had only one vote in Congress, regardless of population
- Support of nine of 13 states needed in Congress to pass important laws
- Support of all 13 states needed to revise Articles
- No executive branch
- No national court system

Taxation



Resistance



1775
The first shots
of the
Revolutionary
War fired
At Lexington
and Concord
In MA.



1776
Declaration of
Independence

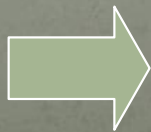


1781
The last major
battle was
fought in
Yorktown,
Virginia.

Articles of
Confederation



1786
Shay's
Rebellion



1787
Constitutional
Convention

Constitutional Convention

May - Sept 1787

55 delegates



A NEW CONSTITUTION

We the People

of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, insure domestic Tranquillity, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessing of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Article 1.

Section 1. All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of Representatives.

Section 2. The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, in each State shall have ^{the} Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

No Person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the Age of twenty five Years, and been seven Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.

Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons. The actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct. The Number of Representatives shall not exceed thirty Thousand, but each State shall have at least one Representative; and until such Enumeration shall be made, the State of New York shall be entitled to choose three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations one, Connecticut five, New York six, and Virginia ten, North Carolina five, South Carolina five, and Georgia three.

When Vacancies happen in the Representation from any State, the Executive Authority thereof shall issue Writs of Election to fill such Vacancies.

The House of Representatives shall choose their Speaker and other Officers; and shall have the sole Power of Impeachment.

Section 3. The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen by the Legislature thereof, for six Years; and each Senator shall have one Vote.

Immediately after they shall be assembled in Consequence of the first Election, they shall be divided as equally as may be into three Clases, of the Senators of the first Class shall be vacated at the Expiration of the second Year, of the second Class at the Expiration of the fourth Year, and of the third Class at the Expiration of the sixth Year, so that one third may be chosen every second Year; and if Vacancies happen by Resignation, Death, or otherwise, during the Term of any Senator, the Executive Authority of the State in which such Vacancies shall happen, may make temporary Appointments until the next Meeting of the Legislature of that State, which Appointments shall be in all respects as if they had been made by the Legislature.

No Person shall be a Senator who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty Years, and been nine Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.

How will each state be represented in the central government?

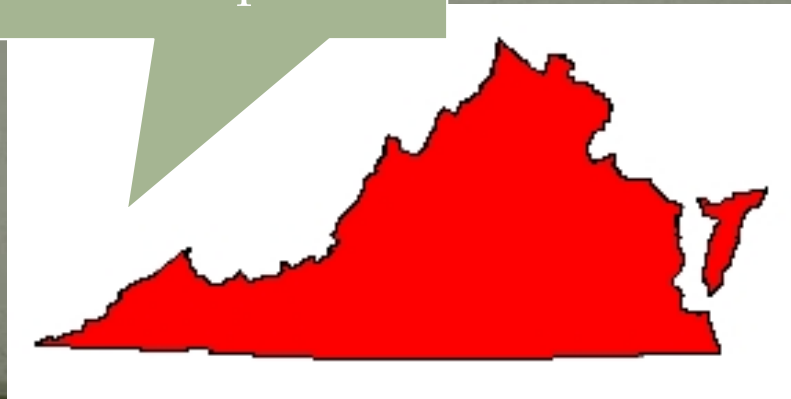


How will each States be represented in the central government?

Virginia Plan – representation should be based on state population.
Proposed by James Madison

New Jersey Plan – representation should be equal. Each state should have the same # of votes.

I'm Virginia...I represent a huge population so I should have more power!



Wah....that's not fair to little bitty states like me!



U.S. Capitol building

Senate:

Each state = 2 reps

House of Representatives:

of reps based upon population

The Connecticut Compromise

(aka the Great Compromise) - A bicameral (two-houses) legislature with a House of Representatives (based on population) and a Senate (equal representation – 2 senators per state)

Three-Fifths Compromise

- Southern delegates felt that slaves should be counted toward representation in Congress but not for taxation
- Slaves would count as three-fifths of a person when determining representation in the House of Representatives.



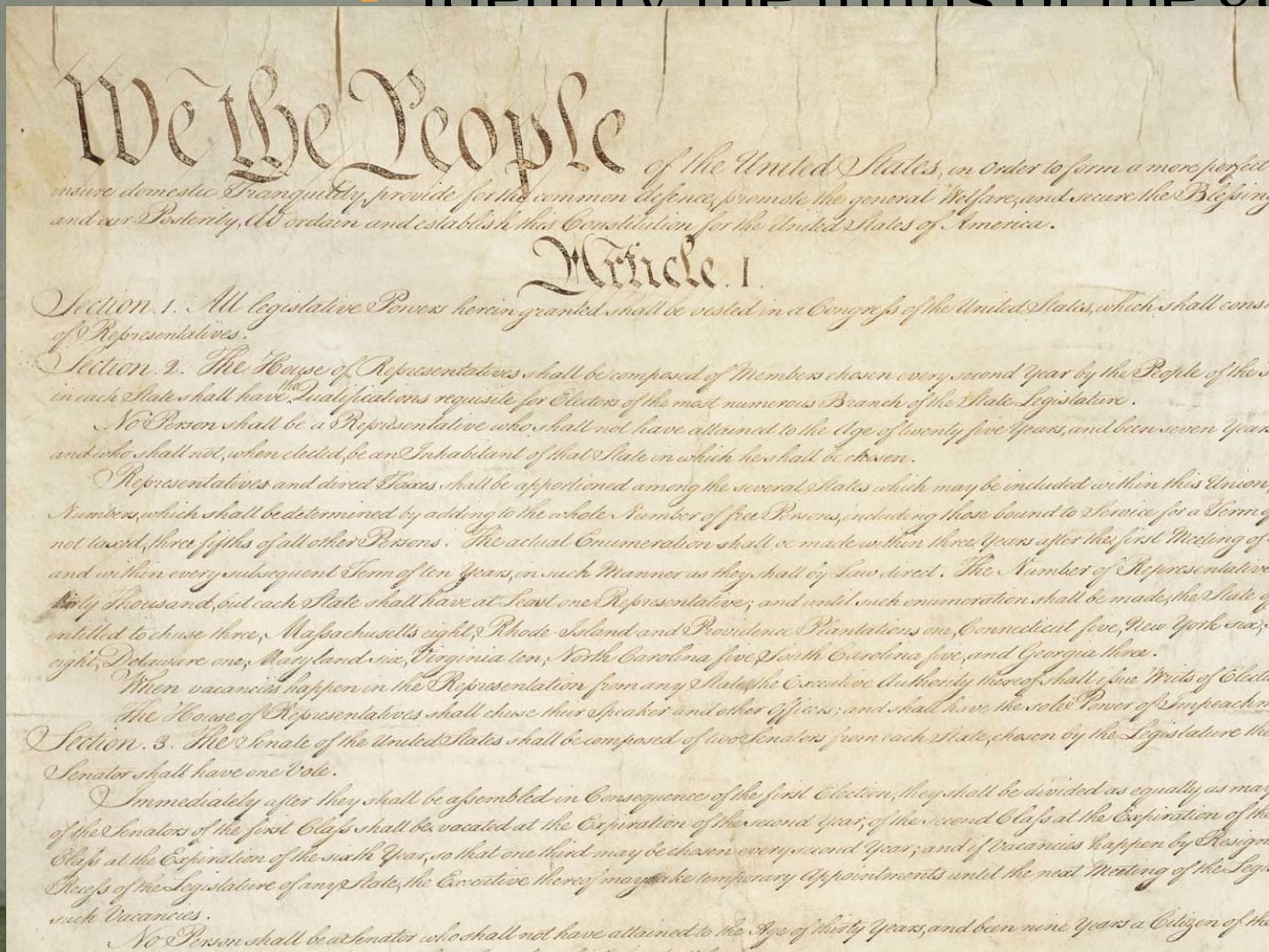
Governmental Power in the Constitution

- **Federalism** – power is divided between the federal government and the state and local governments.
- **Separation of Powers** – Congress would make the laws, the executive branch, headed by the president would enforce the laws and the judicial branch would interpret federal laws.
- **Checks and Balances** - each branch would monitor and limit the power of the other two.



What is the purpose of a Constitution?

- to set out the laws and principles of a govt.
- Identify the rights of citizens
- Identify the limits of the govt.

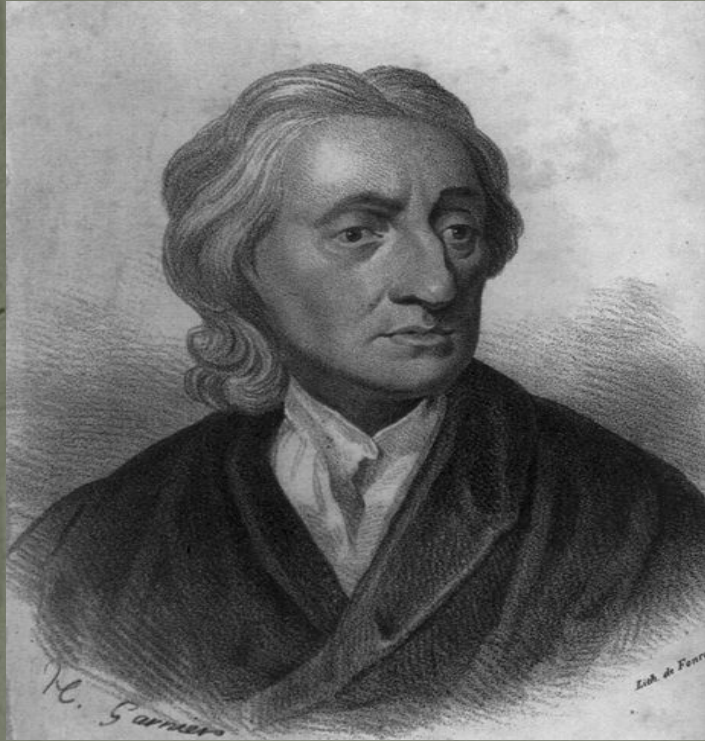


Democratic Ideas

Where did the colonist get their ideas about government from?

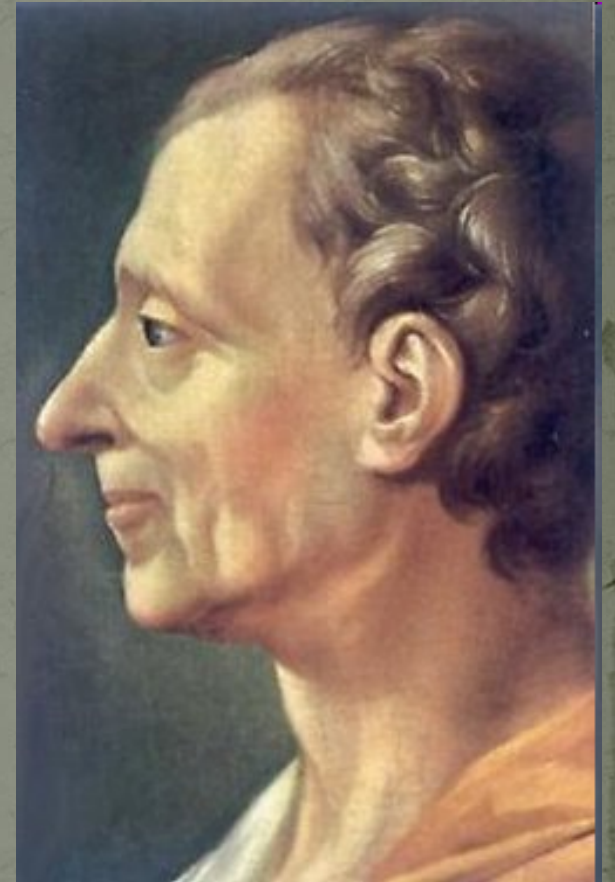
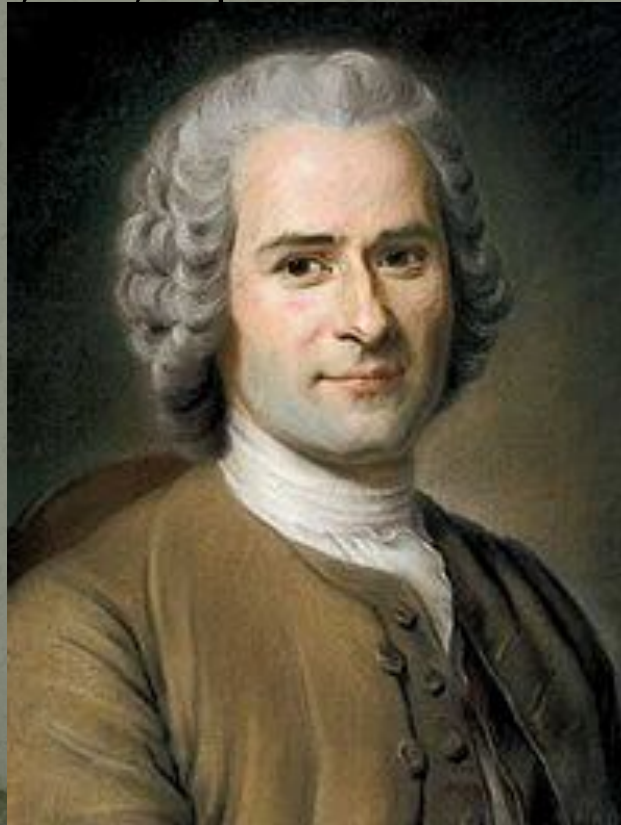
- The Enlightenment (late 1600s and 1700s) was a period where philosophers questioned traditional morals, religious values, and government.
- theorized that both the physical world and human nature operated according to natural laws and reason.

Enlightenment Thinkers



John Locke's

Jean Jacques Rousseau



Baron Montesquieu