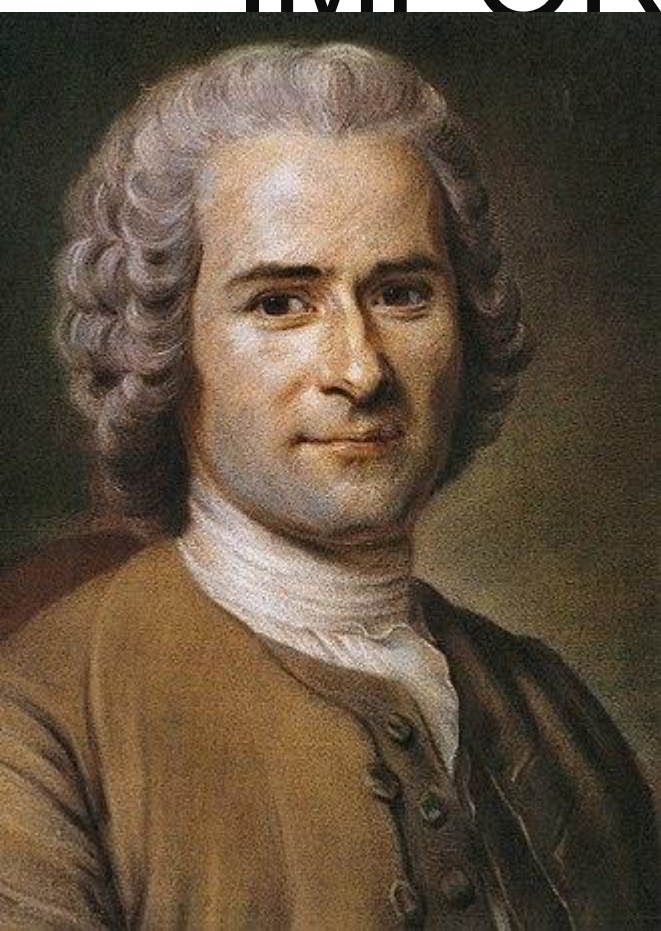


# FOUNDING PRINCIPLES

Topic 1.1-1.3

# WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE AND WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT TO US?



# I. IDEALS OF DEMOCRACY

## EXPLAIN HOW DEMOCRATIC IDEALS ARE REFLECTED IN THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE AND THE US CONSTITUTION

### A. Influence of enlightenment thought- What was the Enlightenment?

- Enlightenment philosophers
  - Thomas Hobbes and *The Leviathan*
    - *Human lives are* “solitary, poor, nasty, brutish , and short” how does this idea influence government?
  - John Locke
    - Natural law and consent of the governed
  - Jean-Jacques Rousseau and *The Social Contract*
    - popular sovereignty
  - Baron de Montesquieu and *The Spirit of the Laws*
    - *Republicanism*

# WHY IS THIS A BIG DEAL, AND HOW DOES IT RELATE TO GOVERNMENT?



IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.  
A DECLARATION  
BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
IN GENERAL CONGRESS ASSEMBLED.

WHEN in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the Political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them; a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the Separation.

We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness—That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient Causes; and accordingly all Experience hath shewn, that Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while Evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the Forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long Train of Abuses and Usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a Design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their Right, it is their Duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future Security. Such has been the patient Sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the Necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The History of the present King of Great-Britain is a History of repeated Injuries and Usurpations, all having in direct Obiect the Establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid World.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public Good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing Importance, unless suspended in their Operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the Accommodation of large Districts of People, unless those People would relinquish the Right of Representation in the Legislature, a Right inestimable to them, and formidable to Tyrants only.

He has called together Legislative Bodies at Places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the Depository of their public Records, for the sole Purpose of fatiguing them into Compliance with his Measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly Firmness his Invasions on the Rights of the People.

He has refused for a long Time, after such Dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative Powers, incapable of Annihilation, have re-

# I. IDEALS OF DEMOCRACY

## B. Declaring Independence

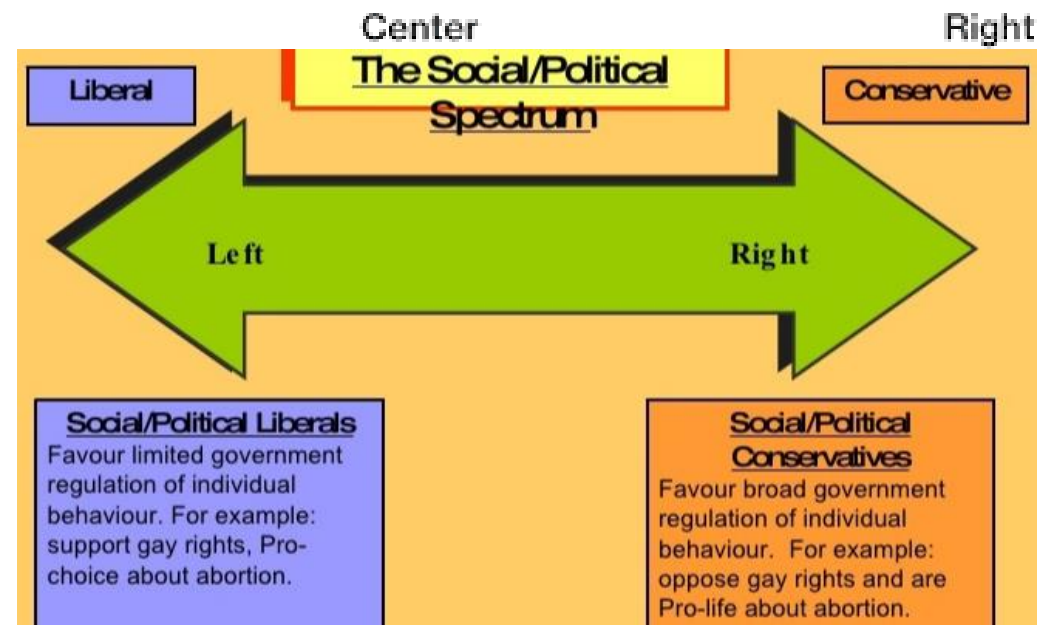
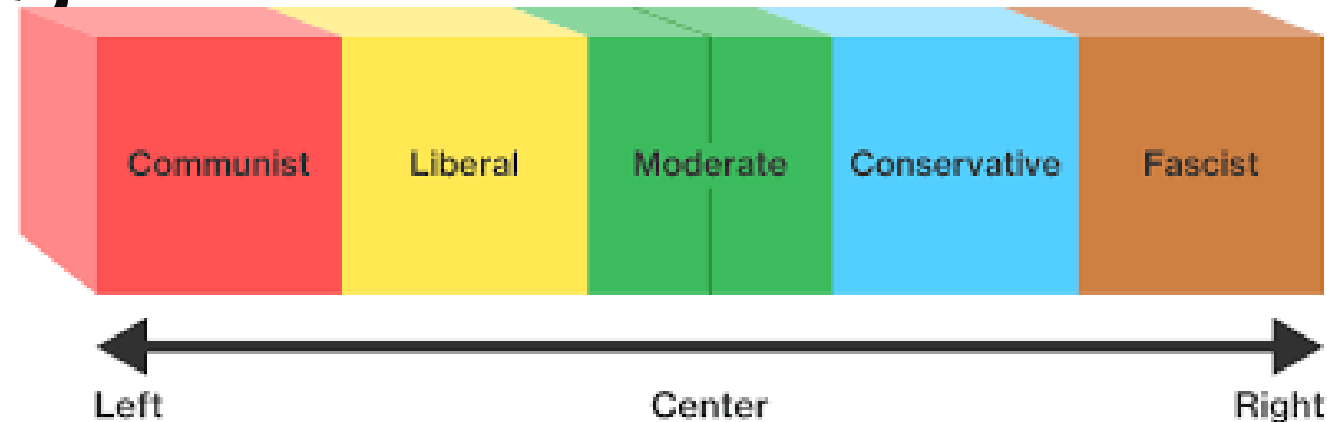
- Jefferson, Adams, Franklin, Roger Sherman, and Robert Livingston

### “Preamble” of the Declaration of Independence

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shown that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.

What connections do you see with the enlightenment philosophers from the previous slide?

# WHAT ARE THE BIG IDEAS AND BELIEFS THAT ARE INCORPORATED INTO THE CONSTITUTION?



# I. IDEALS OF DEMOCRACY

## C. The US constitution

- James Madison, George Washington, Alexander Hamilton

## D. An “Enlightened” Constitution

-Checks and Balances, Federal and state powers, rule of law, balance between minority and majority rights

## C. A Representative Republic

-What does that mean? And how democratic was it?

# WHAT TYPES OF DEMOCRACY ARE THERE?





## II. TYPES OF DEMOCRACY

EXPLAIN HOW MODELS OF REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY ARE VISIBLE IN MAJOR INSTITUTIONS, POLICIES, AND DEBATES.

### A. Three Forms of a *Representative Democracy*

- Participatory Democracy= direct participation
  - Positives and negatives? Ex's?
- Pluralist Democracy= interest groups form and compete for influence
  - Positives and negatives? Ex's?
- Elite Democracy= people with skills and education represent the people
  - Positives and negatives? Ex's?

# II. TYPES OF DEMOCRACY

## B. Tensions over models

- What tensions are there within the constitution?

## C. Representative Democracy in the US today

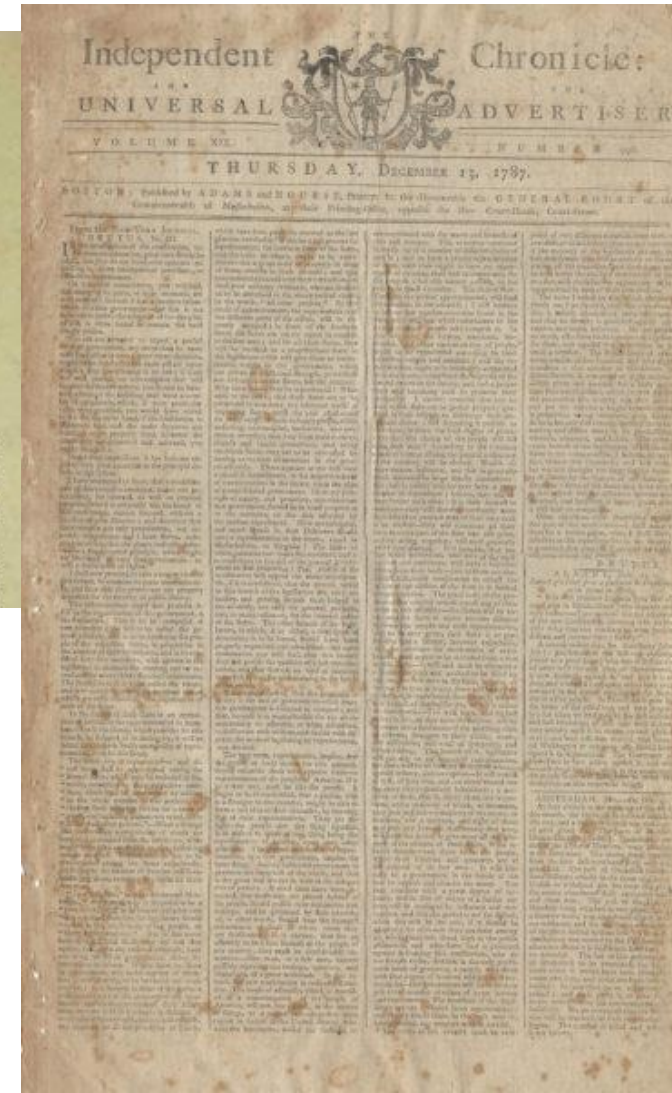
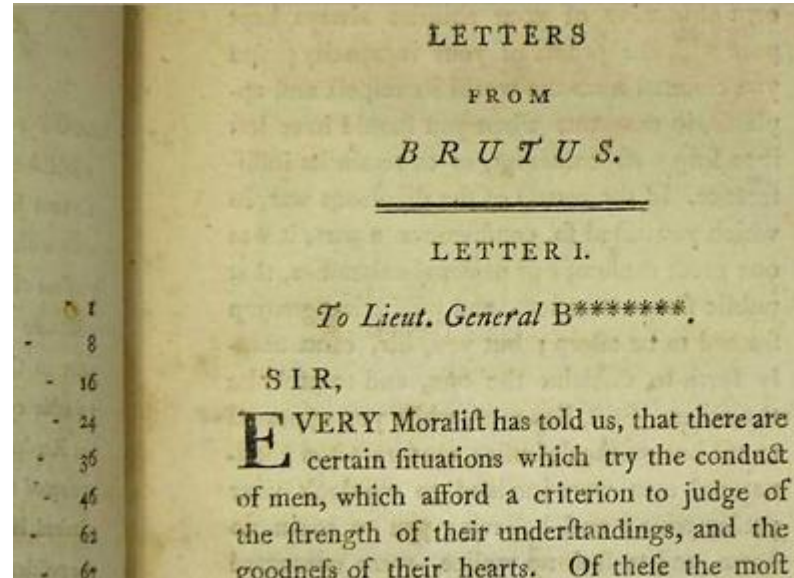
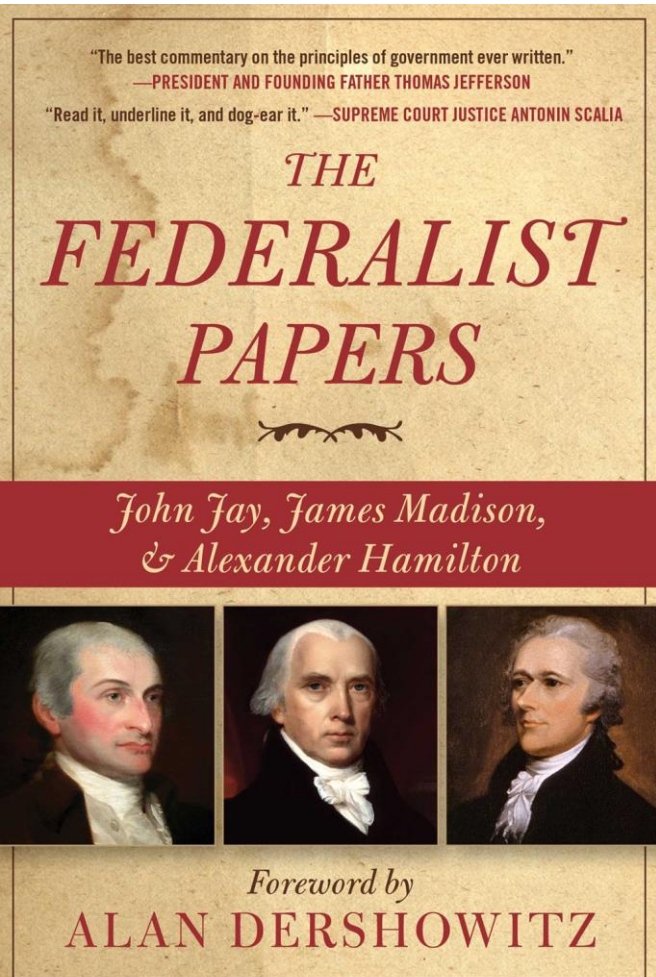
- Ex. of participatory democracy: initiative, referendums

- Ex. of pluralist democracy: NRA, NAACP, AFL-CIO,

- Ex. of elitism in Government?

  - when was this significantly weakened?

# WHAT ARE THESE TWO THINGS AND WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT?



# III. GOVERNMENT POWER AND INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS

## EXPLAIN HOW FEDERALIST AND ANTI-FEDERALIST VIEWS ON CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND DEMOCRACY ARE REFLECTED IN THE FOUNDATIONAL DOCUMENTS

- Federalists: James Madison, James Madison, John Jay
  - Pro strong national government
  - Importance of qualified representatives
  - Danger in unchecked factions (What factions?)
- Anti-Federalists: Robert Yates, William Lansing, Patrick Henry, George Mason
  - Pro states rights
  - Bill of rights needed to guard individual rights

