



**CALIFORNIA CONTENT
STANDARD 10.2.1**

The Enlightenment and Democratic Revolution

Specific Objective: Compare the major ideas of philosophers and their effects on the democratic revolutions in England, the United States, France, and Latin America.

Read the summary to answer the questions on the next page.

The **Enlightenment**, an intellectual movement that spread from Europe to America in the 1700s, helped inspire democratic revolutions in Europe, the United States, and Latin America. Key enlightenment writers included **Locke**, **Montesquieu**, and **Rousseau**.

John Locke (England)

- People have **natural rights** to life, liberty, and the ownership of property.
- People form **governments to protect these rights**. Therefore, a government gets its **authority from the people** and should reflect their will.

Influence: Locke’s ideas influenced **Thomas Jefferson**, the main author of the **Declaration of Independence**, the basis of the American Revolution. It stated that people have natural “unalienable rights” and that a government derives its power from the people.

Charles-Louis Montesquieu (France)

- Government should be kept under control though **separation of powers**—a division into independent parts so that no part has too much power.
- A way to guarantee balance is to have **three branches of government**:
 - a **legislative branch** to make laws;
 - an **executive branch** to carry out and enforce laws;
 - a **judicial branch** to interpret laws.

Influence: Montesquieu’s ideas influenced **James Madison**, sometimes called the father of the **U.S. Constitution** because of his many contributions at the 1787 Constitutional Convention. The constitution separates government powers into three branches.

Jean-Jacques Rousseau (France)

- A **social contract** exists between citizens and their government. In this contract, citizens accept certain rights and responsibilities, and grant the government the power to uphold those rights and responsibilities.

Influence: The ideas of Locke and Rousseau influenced Latin-American revolutionary leader **Simón Bolívar**. Bolívar fought to liberate his country, present-day **Venezuela**, from Spanish rule. He also led movements for **independence and democracy** in what are now the nations of **Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, and Peru**.



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Directions: Choose the letter of the *best* answer.

- 1 The European intellectual movement that emphasized the responsibility of government to protect people's natural rights was called the**
 - A Glorious Revolution.
 - B Reformation.
 - C Enlightenment.
 - D Great Awakening.

- 2 The phrase "natural rights" is original to and central to the writings of which philosopher?**
 - A John Locke
 - B Charles-Louis Montesquieu
 - C Jean-Jacques Rousseau
 - D James Madison

- 3 The Declaration of Independence expresses the philosophy that the power of government comes from**
 - A God.
 - B the people.
 - C natural rights.
 - D the Constitution.

- 4 Which statement *best* summarizes the role of government in the social contract?**
 - A Its basis is the rights and responsibilities of the people.
 - B It has legislative, executive, and judicial responsibilities.
 - C It guarantees life, liberty, and the ownership of property.
 - D Its main purpose is to interpret laws.

- 5 What principle is *directly* reflected in the division of a government into three branches?**
 - A natural laws
 - B separation of powers
 - C the social contract
 - D democracy and independence

- 6 The ideas of Locke and Rousseau influenced Simón Bolívar in his commitment to**
 - A maintain the peaceful rule of the Spanish king.
 - B urge the Venezuelan government to separate into three branches.
 - C negotiate a social contract between Spain and Latin America.
 - D fight for democratic revolution in Latin America.