

The Enlightenment

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Scientific Revolution paved the way for the Enlightenment

Age of Reason—height in mid-1700s

- **Philosophers saw that scientists were using reason to explain the laws of nature**
- **Began looking for laws governing human behavior—wanted to apply reason to all aspects of society**
- **(government, religion, economics, education)**



Scientific Revolution



England a Model for Enlightenment



Permitted religious toleration



Relative freedom of press & free speech



**Limited authority of monarchy w/
Parliament**



Courts protected citizens



Produced prosperity, stability, & loyal citizens



John Locke

British philosopher—1600s—lived through English Civil War



Believed people can learn from mistakes and improve



Criticized absolute monarchies and favored self-government

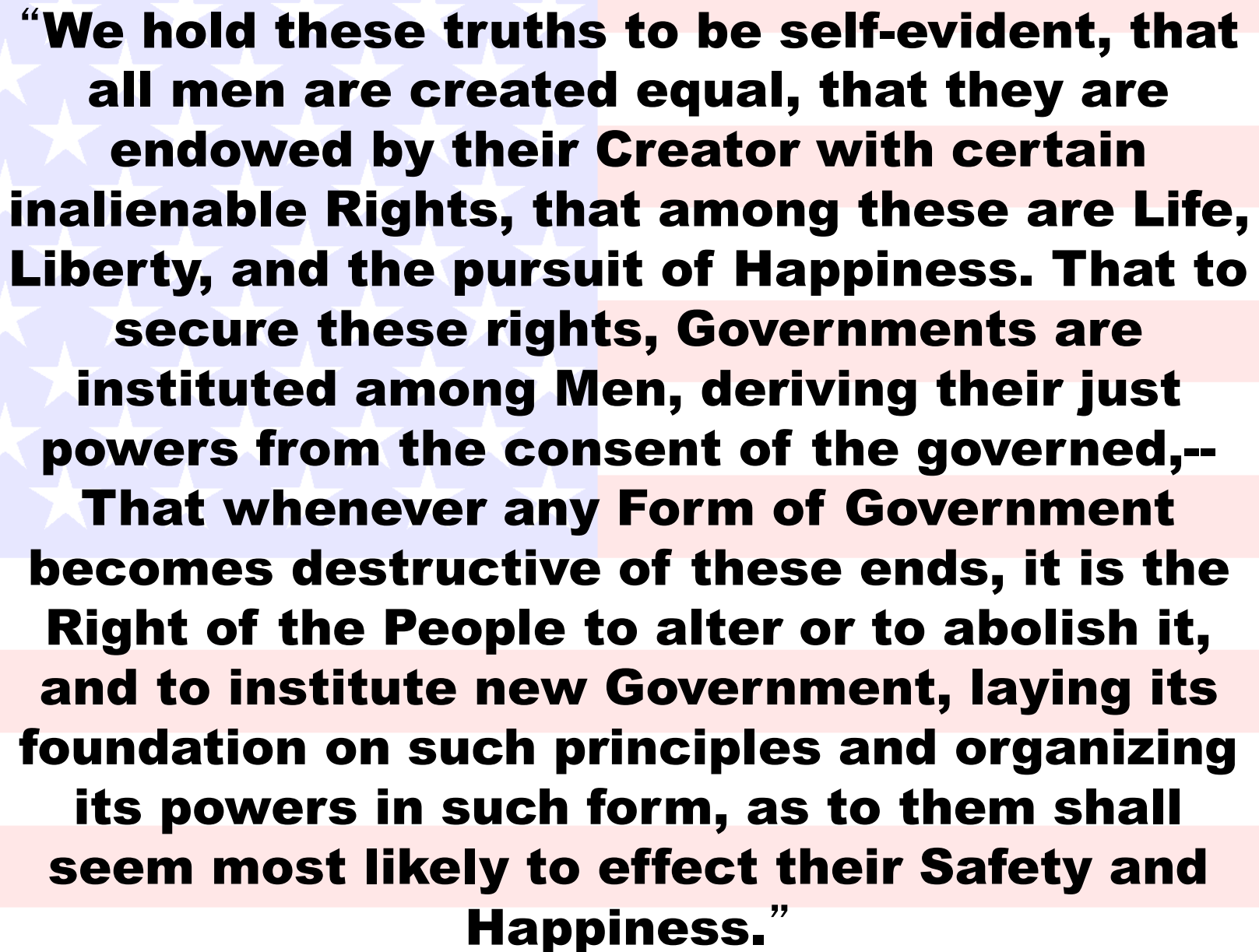


Natural rights = all people were born free and had these three rights: life, liberty, and property



Government's purpose—to protect natural rights

- **If a govern. failed to do so, the people could over throw the govern.**

The background of the image is a stylized American flag, featuring a blue field with white stars on the left and red and white horizontal stripes on the right.

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable 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.”

Paris becomes the center of the Enlightenment in the 1700s.

Based upon what you know about France, why do you think there were so many Enlightened philosophers in France?

Philosophes (French for philosophers)

- **Paris** became the place for discussion of politics and ideas
- **Applied reason to all aspects of life**

Five Enlightenment Concepts:

Reason

truth discovered through reason; absence of intolerance, bigotry, or prejudice

Nature

good and reasonable; natural laws of economics & politics

Happiness

if lived by natural laws = happy (medieval thought—should accept misery)

Progress

believe in progress in society; society could be perfected

Liberty

through reason, believed society could be set free

Important Philosophes

1. **Voltaire**—considered the “Literary dictator” of Europe

- Made frequent targets of the clergy, aristocracy, & government
- Exiled from France because of his writings against French court
- **Freedom of thought and expression (religion, speech)**

2. **Montesquieu**

- Devoted to study of political history
- **Separation of Powers** = division of powers among different branches of government
- “Power should be a check to power”—checks and balances

**“It is dangerous to be right when
the government is wrong.”**

**“I may disagree with what you
have to say, but I shall defend to
the death your right to say it.”**

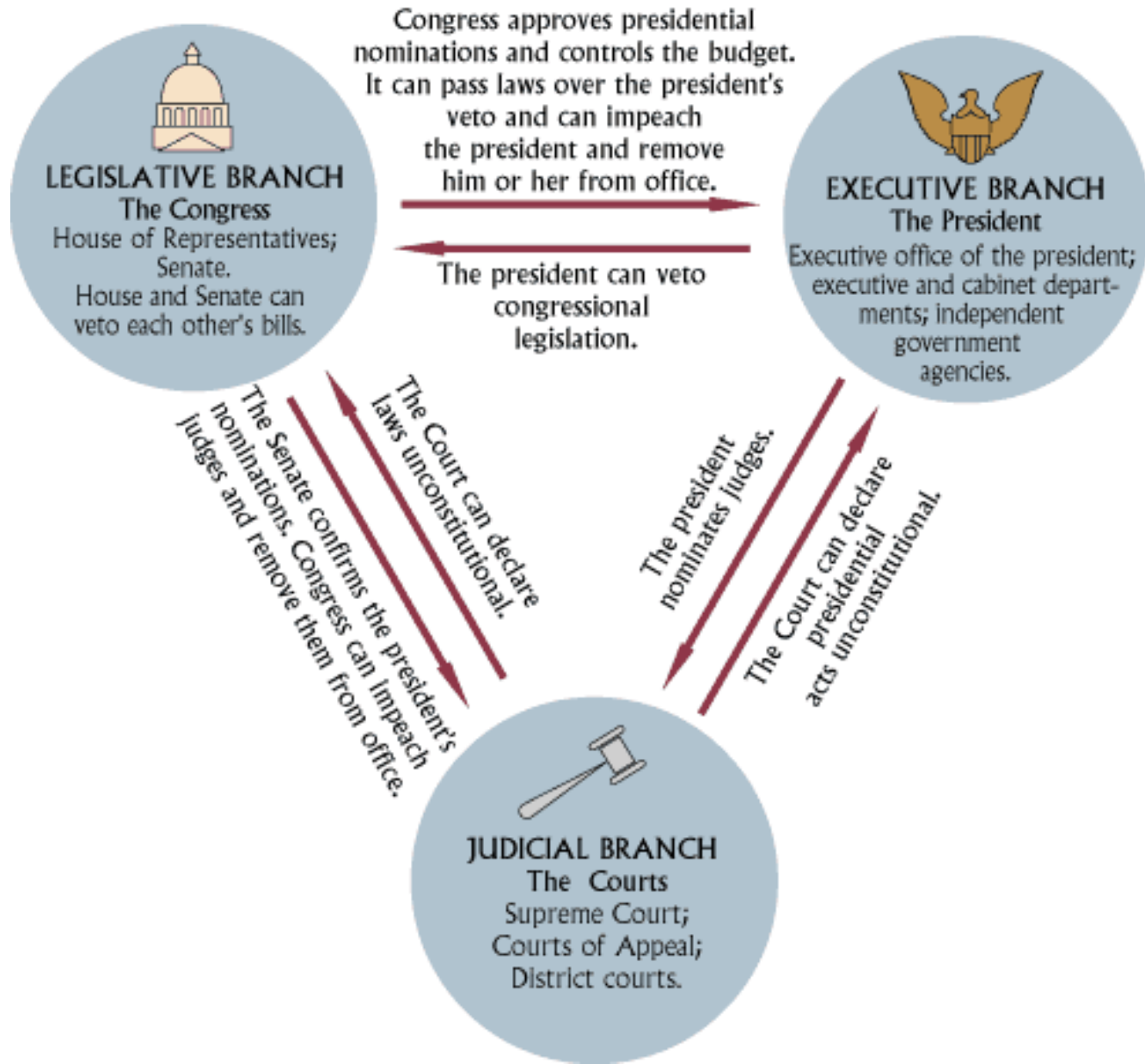


Voltaire

Montesquieu



Checks and Balances



**“Power should be a
check to power.”**

Charles de Montesquieu

3. Denis Diderot—editor of the *Encyclopedia*

- **Considered the “Bible” of the Enlightenment**
- **Persecuted for his writings in France**

Impact of the Enlightenment

- **Challenged: divine right of kings, union of church and state, & unequal social classes**
- **Enlightened Despots (monarchs) inspired by it:**
 - **Catherine II (Russia)**
 - **Frederick II (Prussia)**
- **Inspired the American and French Revolution**
- **Wanted: end to slavery, social equality, & improvements in education**
- **People began to openly question their religious beliefs & the church**

Impact of Scientific Revolution & Enlightenment

	Before	After
Religion		
Technology		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Telescope• Microscope• Thermometer & Barometer• Slide rule• Adding machine• Air pump
Politics/ government		
Society/ Social life		
Education/ learning, science	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ideas of Aristotle, Ptolemy, & other Greek scholars• Relied on church's teachings• Geocentric	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scientific societies created• Popular for aristocracy and upper middle class to attend scientific experiments• Used reason & sc. Method• Improvements in medicine

Changing Idea: Scientific Method

Old Science

Scholars generally relied on ancient authorities, church teachings, common sense, and reasoning to explain the physical world.

New Science

In time, scholars began to use observation, experimentation, and scientific reasoning to gather knowledge and draw conclusions about the physical world.