NAME: _____ Global History III
Enlightenment

Two Views of the Social Contract

In the 1600s, two English thinkers, Thomas Hobbes and John Locke, set forth ideas that were to become key to the Enlightenment. Both men lived through the upheavals that shook England early in the century. Yet they came to very different conclusions about human nature and the purpose and nature of government.

"Nasty, brutish, and short." Thomas Hobbes set out his ideas in a work titled *Leviathan.* Hobbes argued that people were naturally cruel, greedy, and selfish. If not strictly controlled, they would fight, rob, and oppress one another. Life in the "state of nature" without laws or other control - would be "solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short."

To escape that "brutish" life, said Hobbes, people entered into a social contract, an agreement by which they gave up the state of nature for an organized society. Hobbes believed that only a powerful government could ensure an orderly society. Such a government was an absolute monarchy, which could impose order and compel obedience. Not surprisingly, Hobbes had supported the Stuart kings in their struggle against Parliament.

Natural rights. John Locke had a more optimistic view of human nature. People were basically reasonable and moral, he said. Further, they had **natural rights,** or rights that belonged to all humans from birth. These included the right to life, liberty, and property.

In Two Treatises of *Government,* Locke argued that people formed governments to protect their natural rights. The best kind of government, he said, had limited power and was accepted by all citizens. Thus, unlike Hobbes, Locke rejected absolute monarchy and sided with Parliament in its struggle against the Stuarts.

Locke then set out a radical idea. A government, he said, has an obligation to those it governs. If a government fails its obligations or violates people's natural rights, the people have the right to overthrow the government. This right to revolution would echo through Europe, in Britain's North American colonies, and around the world in the centuries that followed.

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HOW DID ENLIGHTENMENT THINKERS DIFFER ON THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT

DIRECTIONS: Using the World History textbook (page 456) , you will read the section entitled "Two View of the Social Contract". Answer the questions below. If statement is false, rewrite it correctly in the space provided.

1. Thomas Hobbes and John Locke were both French scientists. T / F _____
_____

2. Hobbes argued in his book, Leviathan, that people were born cruel ,greedy and evil. T/F
_____
_____

3. "Social contract" means that people give up some of their freedom in exchange for an orderly society to live in. T / F _____
_____

4. Hobbes believed that without a strong government, such as an absolute monarch, people would simply live together peacefully. T / F _____
_____

5. Do you agree with statement #2? Explain why. _____
_____
_____

6. "Most people riot and loot stores during any type of emergency situation (blackouts, natural disasters)." Would Locke agree with this statement? _____ because _____
_____
_____

7. According to John Locke, the government gives citizens their rights to life, property and liberty. T / F _____
_____

8. According to the Two Treatises on Government, the government has no obligation to protect the rights of its citizens. T / F _____
_____

9. The rule of Louis XIV would have been supported by John Locke. T / F _____
_____

10. "When a government fails to protect the rights of its citizens, the people must revolt against that government." T / F _____
_____
_____

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Global History & Geography

How did Enlightenment Ideas Influence the American System of Government?

Document # 1

"People choose a government to make laws that will protect their property and freedom. Whenever the government tries to take away their property and freedom, the government has really declared war on the people. Since the government is no longer protecting the people, the people have the right to disobey the government's laws and to establish a new government that will protect their rights."

John Locke, English Enlightenment writer (1690)

Based on this document, what is the main responsibility of any government? _____
_____
_____
_____

Document #2

"Governments are formed by people to protect their rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Whenever a government attempts to take away rather than protect these rights, the people have a right to abolish or change that government. It is not only their right but their duty to throw off such a government..."

(1776) U.S Declaration of Independence

Based on this document, what responsibility do the people have to their country?
_____
_____
_____
_____

Document #3

"In every government there should be three branches of power: the legislative (to make laws), the executive (to carry out the law) and the judiciary (to interpret the law). Without this separation of powers there would be no liberty."

-Baron Montesquieu, French Enlightenment writer

Based on this document, why should government power be separated into three different parts?_____
_____
_____

Complete the following sentences.
The President of the United States_____ the laws.(Executive Branch)
The Senate and Congress_____the laws. (Legislative Branch)
The Supreme Court _____ the laws (Judicial Branch)

Document #4

"No one- not even a king-has the right to go against the will of the people as a whole. If a ruler was tyrannical and ignored the will of the people, people had the right to demand their freedom."

-Jean Rousseau, French Enlightenment Writer

Based on this document, who ultimately should make all the decisions in any society? _____
_____
_____
Question: Should uneducated and illiterate people be allowed to vote? Explain your answer _____
_____
_____
_____
_____

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LOCKE & JEFFERSON

Vocabulary: justified, overthrow, liberty, property, pursuit

A philosopher by the name of John Locke **JUSTIFIED** the Glorious Revolution. He believed that the English people had the right to **OVERTHROW** James II. Let him tell you about his beliefs.

Good afternoon. My name is John Locke. In 1689 I wrote a book with a strange title called **Two Treatises of Government**. A treatise is like a very long essay. I believe that man has certain natural rights. A natural right is a right given by sod. Since God gives natural rights, nobody, not even a king or a government, can take them away.

You are probably asking, "What natural rights has God given me?" That's easy. Everybody has the right to **"LIFE, LIBERTY and PROPERTY.'** Nobody can take those rights from you! If somebody does try to take away your natural rights, your government must protect them. If your government does not protect your natural rights, you have the right to overthrow your government and put in a government that does protect your rights.

That is what we did in 1688 in the Glorious Revolution. The Stuart Kings were not protecting our natural rights. So we overthrew the government and put in a new government that promised to protect our rights. It's that simple!

87 years later, an American by the name of Thomas Jefferson, wrote the Declaration of Independence. He wrote it to justify the American Revolution against my country, England. Jefferson wrote that when a government does not protect your natural rights (he called them unalienable rights, but it means the same thing), such as "life, liberty and the **PURSUIT** of happiness," people have the right to try to change their government. If that fails, they can overthrow the government. The Americans then got rid of us English and started the United States of America. I wonder where Jefferson got his ideas from?

QUESTIONS:

1. Why did John Locke write Two Treatises of Government?

2. What does Locke mean by "natural rights?" Give two examples

3. Where do you think Thomas Jefferson got his ideas from for the **Declaration of Independence?** Explain your answer.