

Attachment A: Political Theory through the Ages

Ancient Contributions:

What elements of the United States constitutional system evolved from Athens and Rome?



Democratic elements of the United States constitutional system borrowed from Athens and Rome:

Athens: direct democracy

Rome: indirect democracy/republic



English Contributions:

What elements of the United States Constitution are derived from the *Magna Carta*, the *English Petition of Rights*, and the *English Bill of Rights*?

Magna Carta

1. limited power of the government
2. fundamental rights
 - trial by jury
 - due process of law

English Petition of Rights

1. early document supporting idea that men have rights and established concept of rule of law
2. included basic rights
 - a) guarantee of trial by jury
 - b) protection against marshal law
 - c) protection against quartering of troops
 - d) protection of private property

English Bill of Rights

1. limited power of the monarch
 - no standing army in peacetime
 - free elections
 - rights of petition
 - parliamentary checks on power



European Political Thinkers' Contributions:

What were the fundamental principles of American government and law developed by leading European political thinkers?

Limited government:

John Locke, Thomas Hobbes

Examples: Virginia Constitution, United States Constitution, Declaration of Independence

Government's authority coming only from the consent of the governed:

John Locke

Examples: Declaration of Independence, United States Constitution

Separation of powers:

Montesquieu

Constitution

Examples: United States Constitution, Virginia



Charters of the Virginia Company of London Contributions:

Why are charters of the Virginia Company of London significant?



The basic rights of Englishmen were guaranteed to the colonists by the charters of the Virginia Company of London.



Natural Rights Philosophy Contributions:

How are the natural rights philosophies, expressed by John Locke and Jean-Jacques Rousseau, reflected in the *Declaration of Independence*?



Natural rights philosophy of John Locke and Jean-Jacques Rousseau expressed in the *Declaration of Independence*:

Rousseau: Believed that all men are equal

Locke: Believed that government is based on an agreement between people and their rulers ("social contract"). He felt that people have the right to life, liberty, and property.