

# John Locke

Info

Ideas

Impact

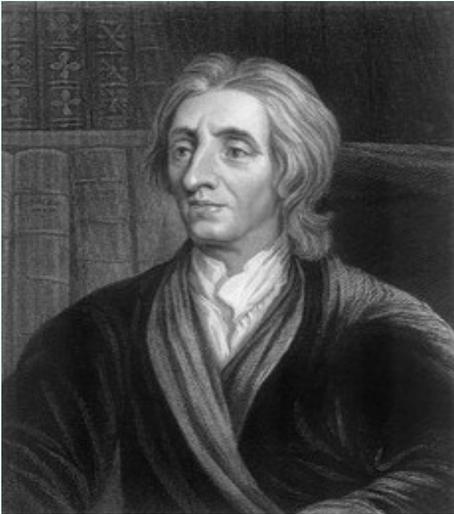


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## Snapshot

DOB: August 1632

DOD: October  
1704

From: England

Networks:

Westminster

School, Christ  
Church, Oxford,



Philosopher



Born August 29, 1632



Studied at Westminster School and  
Christ Church, Oxford



Single



Wrote *Two Treatises of  
Government*



# Ideas



“ ”

Locke had multiple ideas that influenced the Founders:

Natural Rights/Law

Social Contract



First, we need to answer one question...



Individually, answer this question:

**What are natural rights?**

- How would you define it?

**What is natural law?**

- How would you define it?



# Natural Rights



- John Locke believed all humans have **natural rights**, those being:

- **Life**
- **Liberty**
- **Property**



- He believed all people have these rights just because they are human beings.



# Natural Law



- Natural law is...
  - A higher, unchanging set of rules that govern human relations

**Click on the picture below to learn more about natural law and natural/human rights.**



Now think about this question...



Individually, answer this question:

**What is the purpose of  
government?**



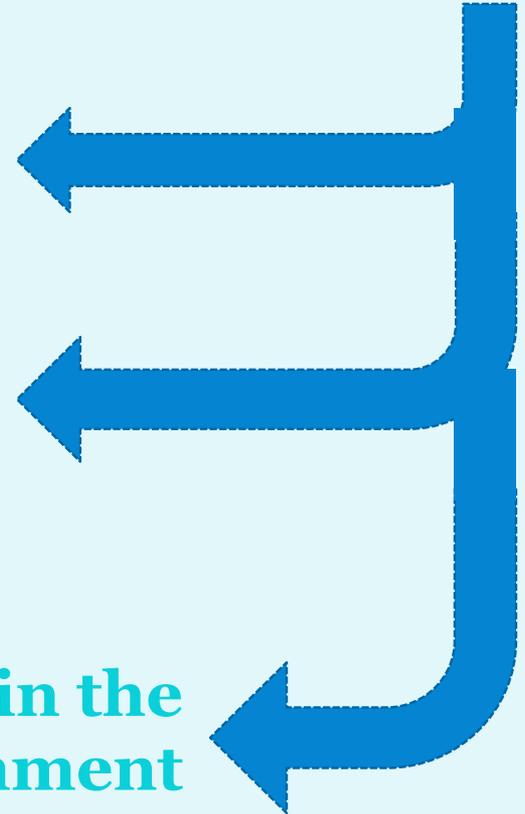
# Social Contract



- Locke proposed that in order to keep our natural rights, the people must engage in a **social contract**



- The people agree to create and live under a government and obey its laws.
- They also must give that government the power to make and enforce laws.
- In return, the people gain the protection of the government

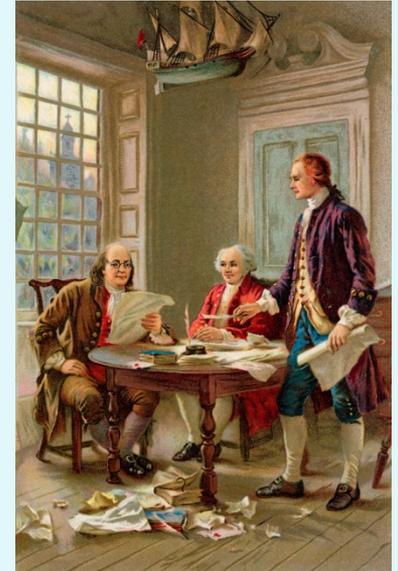


[Go To Natural Rights/Law](#)

# Impact



- According to Locke, the **purpose of government** is to protect the **natural rights** of individuals
- The Founders agreed and included these **natural rights** and **social contract** in the Declaration of Independence.
- The Founders also included the idea of **social contract** in the first three words of the Preamble to the United States Constitution...

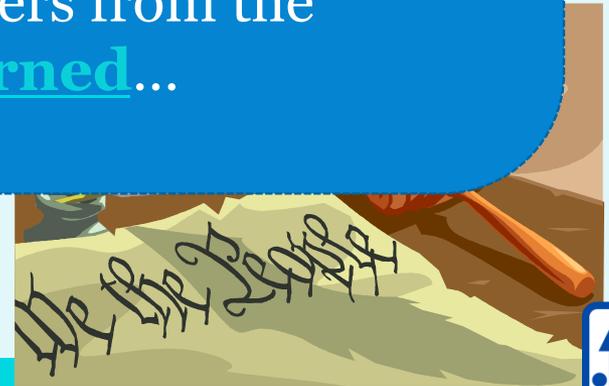


# Impact



- According to Locke, the **purpose of government** is to protect the natural rights of individuals
- The Founders **natural right** Declaration of
- The Founders **contract** in the Preamble to the

...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...



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The Constitution also limits the powers of government to protect the rights of the people.

