

Charles-Louis de Secondat, Baron de La Brède et de Montesquieu

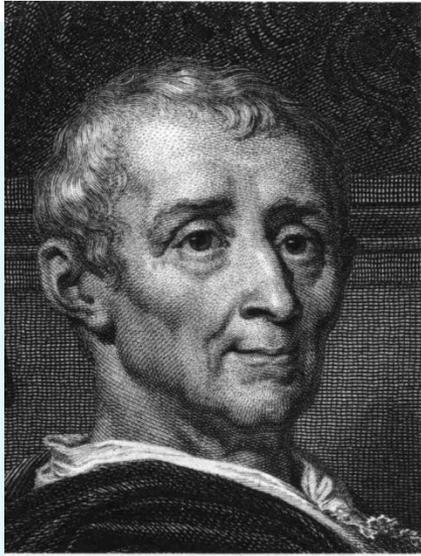


Photo from constitution.org

Snapshot

DOB: January 18, 1689
DOD: 1755
From: Le Brède, France
Networks: University of
Bordeaux, Parlement of
Bordeaux

Information from <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/montesquieu/>

Info

Ideas

Impact



Philosopher and Political Thinker



Born in Le Brède, France January 18,
1689



Studied Law at the University of
Bordeaux



Married



Wrote *On the Spirit of the Laws*



Ideas



“For we can not abuse power, must, by the arrangement of things, power checks power.”

Montesquieu is most famous for his discussions on the need for a “separation of power” in government

What is the “separation of power”?



First things first...



- On your tablet, type an answer to the following questions:

What is the purpose of a government?

How do you think we keep government from becoming too powerful?

What would the government look like if one person or small group held all of the power?

How do we keep government from becoming too powerful?

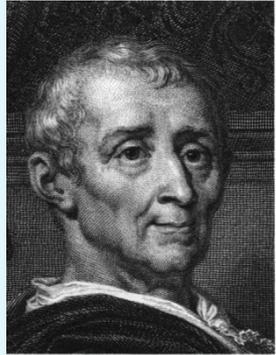
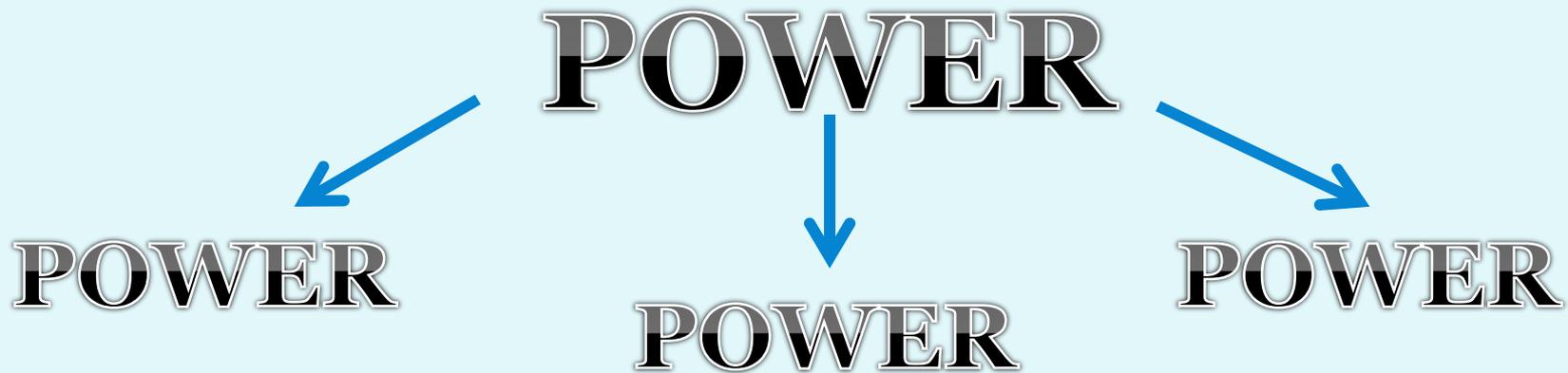


Photo from constitution.org

- Montesquieu argued that in order to keep a government from becoming too powerful:
 4. Power must be separated



How do we keep government from becoming too powerful?

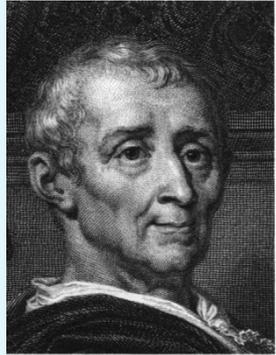
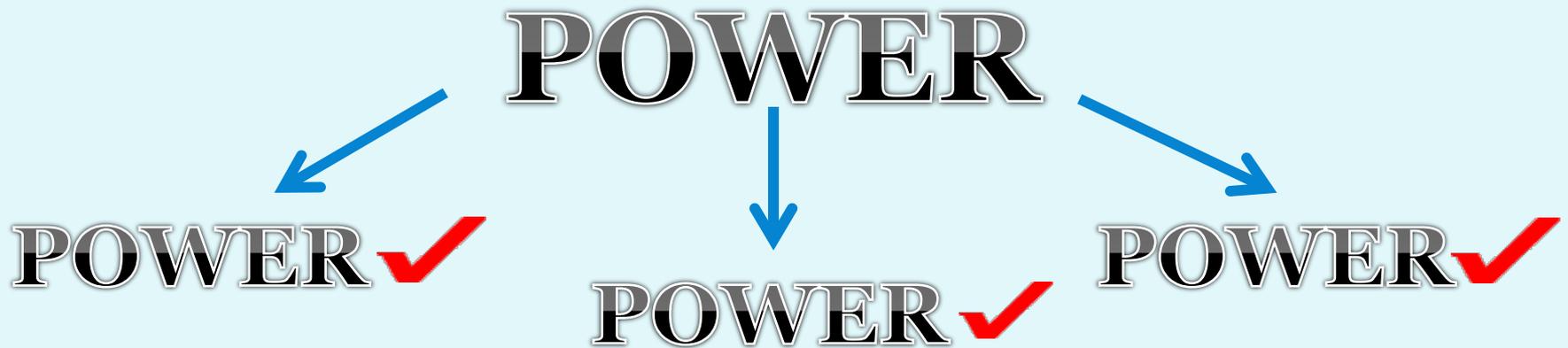


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- Montesquieu argued that in order to keep a government from becoming too powerful:
 5. Power must be checked



How do we keep government from becoming too powerful?

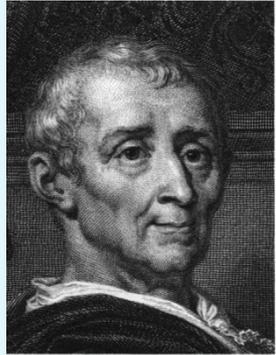
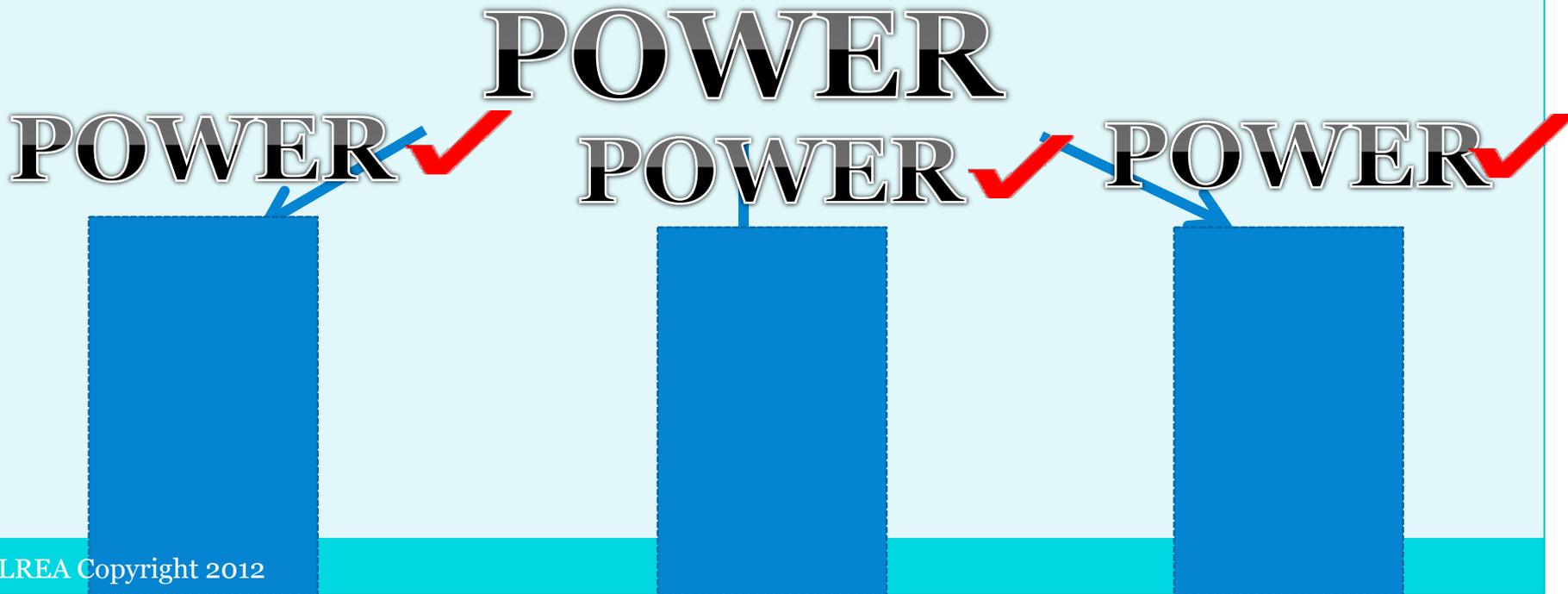


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- Montesquieu argued that in order to keep a government from becoming too powerful:
 6. Power must be balanced



Power must be separated...why?



Imagine if one person was responsible for making the laws, enforcing the laws, and saying what the laws mean.

What could happen if...?

I could make any law I want....

**7th graders cannot talk during school hours at any time.
Punishment is 4 hours of detention after school.**

...enforce it however I want to...

I'm only going to apply this rule to students with light colored hair.

...And interpret it however I want in every situation...?

Students cannot answer questions, request to go to the restroom, participate in small group conversations, text, or type.



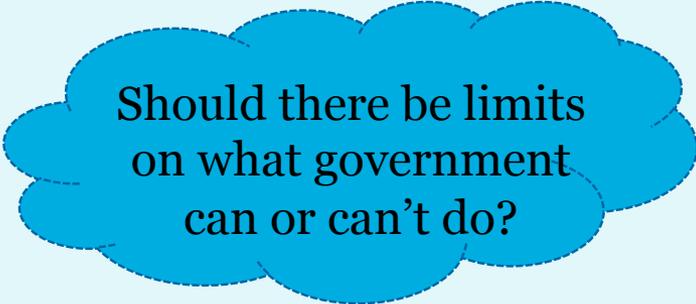
Power must be checked...why?



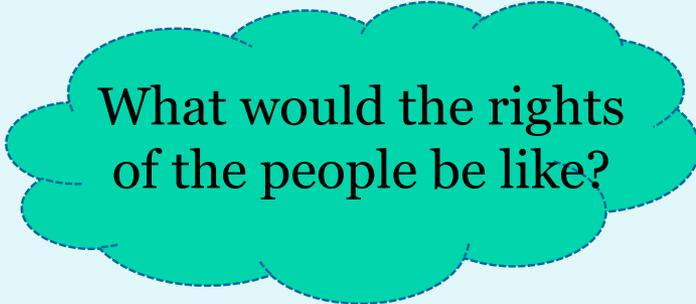
What would a society look like if one person or group had all of the power (no separation of power) and no one could challenge or “check” that power?



Is this a fair society?

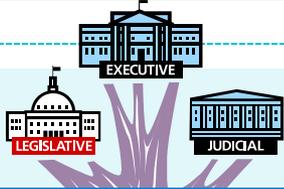


Should there be limits on what government can or can't do?



What would the rights of the people be like?

[Click Here to go back to Montesquieu's Profile](#)

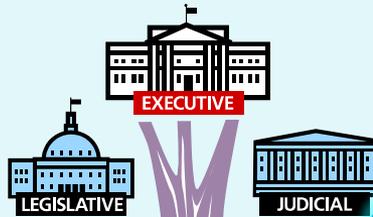


Legislative Branch

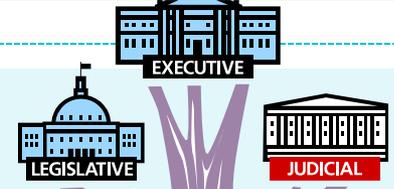
The government proposes and passes a curfew of 10pm for those under the age of 18. Penalty results in fines or arrest.

The student challenges the arrest because they were coming home from work.

Does the law apply to those under 18 who are coming home from work?



Executive Branch



Judicial Branch

The President approves the bill and the City of Smithville's police are instructed to enforce the curfew. Police *arrest* a student for riding their bike home at 10:30pm.



Impact



- The Founders were certain to include the ***separation of power*** in the Constitution when it was written in order to make sure no one was able to become too powerful
 - What were they scared of?

They didn't want to see something resembling a monarchy develop by giving one branch of government too much power.



Impact



- The Founders were certain to include the ***separation of power*** in the Constitution when it was written in order to make sure no one was able to become too powerful

They didn't want to see something resembling a monarchy develop by giving one branch of government too much power.



Thoughts of Our Founders



Below and on your tablet are quotes by 3 Founders. Answer the questions on your tablet individually. Make sure to explain how the quote applies to Montesquieu.

“Give all power to the many, they will oppress the few. Give all power to the few, they will oppress the many.”

Alexander Hamilton

“There are two passions which have a Powerful influence on the affairs of men. These are ambition and [greed]; the love of power and the love of money.”

Benjamin Franklin

“From the nature of man, we may be sure that those who have power in their hands...will always, when they can... increase it.”

George Mason