



**CALIFORNIA CONTENT  
STANDARD 10.2.1**

## *The Enlightenment and Democratic Revolution*

**Specific Objective:** Compare the major ideas of philosophers and their effects on the democratic revolutions in England, the United States, France, and Latin America.

**Read the summary to answer the questions on the next page.**

The **Enlightenment**, an intellectual movement that spread from Europe to America in the 1700s, helped inspire democratic revolutions in Europe, the United States, and Latin America. Key enlightenment writers included **Locke**, **Montesquieu**, and **Rousseau**.

### **John Locke (England)**

- People have **natural rights** to life, liberty, and the ownership of property.
- People form **governments to protect these rights**. Therefore, a government gets its **authority from the people** and should reflect their will.

**Influence:** Locke’s ideas influenced **Thomas Jefferson**, the main author of the **Declaration of Independence**, the basis of the American Revolution. It stated that people have natural “unalienable rights” and that a government derives its power from the people.

### **Charles-Louis Montesquieu (France)**

- Government should be kept under control though **separation of powers**—a division into independent parts so that no part has too much power.
- A way to guarantee balance is to have **three branches of government**:
  - a **legislative branch** to make laws;
  - an **executive branch** to carry out and enforce laws;
  - a **judicial branch** to interpret laws.

**Influence:** Montesquieu’s ideas influenced **James Madison**, sometimes called the father of the **U.S. Constitution** because of his many contributions at the 1787 Constitutional Convention. The constitution separates government powers into three branches.

### **Jean-Jacques Rousseau (France)**

- A **social contract** exists between citizens and their government. In this contract, citizens accept certain rights and responsibilities, and grant the government the power to uphold those rights and responsibilities.

**Influence:** The ideas of Locke and Rousseau influenced Latin-American revolutionary leader **Simón Bolívar**. Bolívar fought to liberate his country, present-day **Venezuela**, from Spanish rule. He also led movements for **independence and democracy** in what are now the nations of **Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, and Peru**.

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Directions: Choose the letter of the *best* answer.

- 1 The European intellectual movement that emphasized the responsibility of government to protect people's natural rights was called the**
  - A Glorious Revolution.
  - B Reformation.
  - C Enlightenment.
  - D Great Awakening.
  
- 2 The phrase "natural rights" is original to and central to the writings of which philosopher?**
  - A John Locke
  - B Charles-Louis Montesquieu
  - C Jean-Jacques Rousseau
  - D James Madison
  
- 3 The Declaration of Independence expresses the philosophy that the power of government comes from**
  - A God.
  - B the people.
  - C natural rights.
  - D the Constitution.
  
- 4 Which statement *best* summarizes the role of government in the social contract?**
  - A Its basis is the rights and responsibilities of the people.
  - B It has legislative, executive, and judicial responsibilities.
  - C It guarantees life, liberty, and the ownership of property.
  - D Its main purpose is to interpret laws.
  
- 5 What principle is *directly* reflected in the division of a government into three branches?**
  - A natural laws
  - B separation of powers
  - C the social contract
  - D democracy and independence
  
- 6 The ideas of Locke and Rousseau influenced Simón Bolívar in his commitment to**
  - A maintain the peaceful rule of the Spanish king.
  - B urge the Venezuelan government to separate into three branches.
  - C negotiate a social contract between Spain and Latin America.
  - D fight for democratic revolution in Latin America.