

# Module 1: Government Foundations

## Topic 1 Content: Development of States

### Introduction

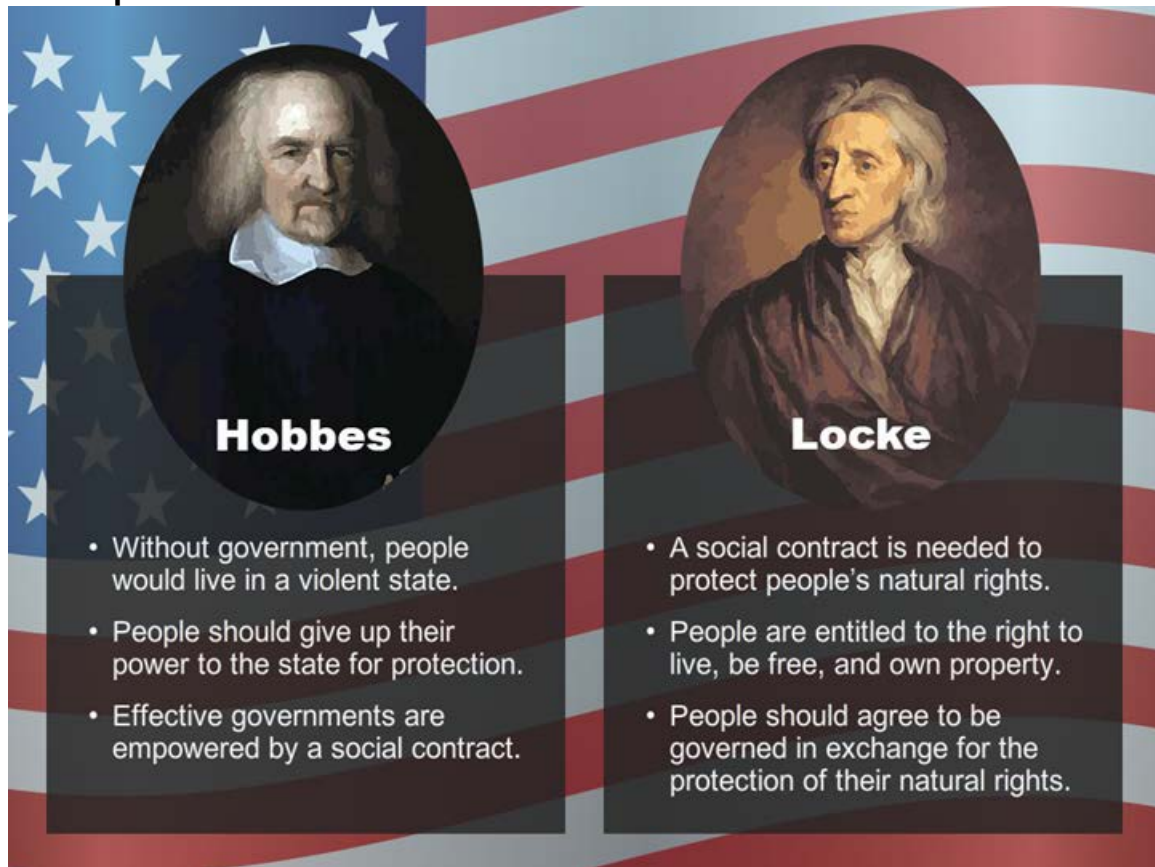


**Glover Mint:** On today's program, our very own Demi Tracy will explore how governments came into existence. Demi, what did you find as you began your investigation into the development of states?

# Module 1: Government Foundations

## Topic 1 Content: Development of States

### Development of States



The infographic features two oval portraits of Thomas Hobbes and John Locke, each with a list of their political theories. The background is a stylized American flag with stars and stripes. The text is presented in white on dark rectangular boxes.

**Hobbes**

- Without government, people would live in a violent state.
- People should give up their power to the state for protection.
- Effective governments are empowered by a social contract.

**Locke**

- A social contract is needed to protect people's natural rights.
- People are entitled to the right to live, be free, and own property.
- People should agree to be governed in exchange for the protection of their natural rights.

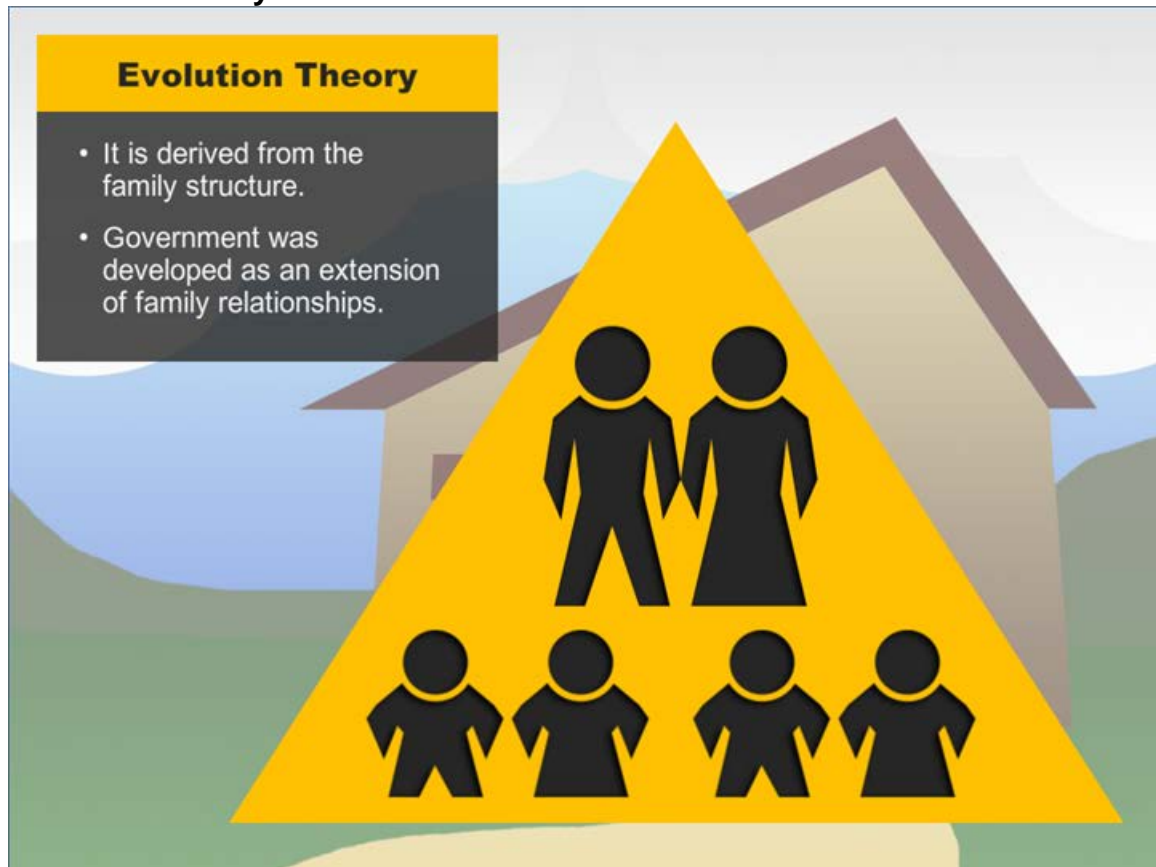
**Demi Tracy:** Thank you, Glover. As groups of people created governments, communities developed into states, or entities with the power to create and enforce laws over a population. Often in America, the term state is used to refer to one of the 50 states in the U.S. However, in this case, the meaning of state is closer to a nation-state or country.

Not all states have the same form of government. Four popular theories have led to the development of many forms of government.

## Module 1: Government Foundations

### Topic 1 Content: Development of States

#### Evolution Theory

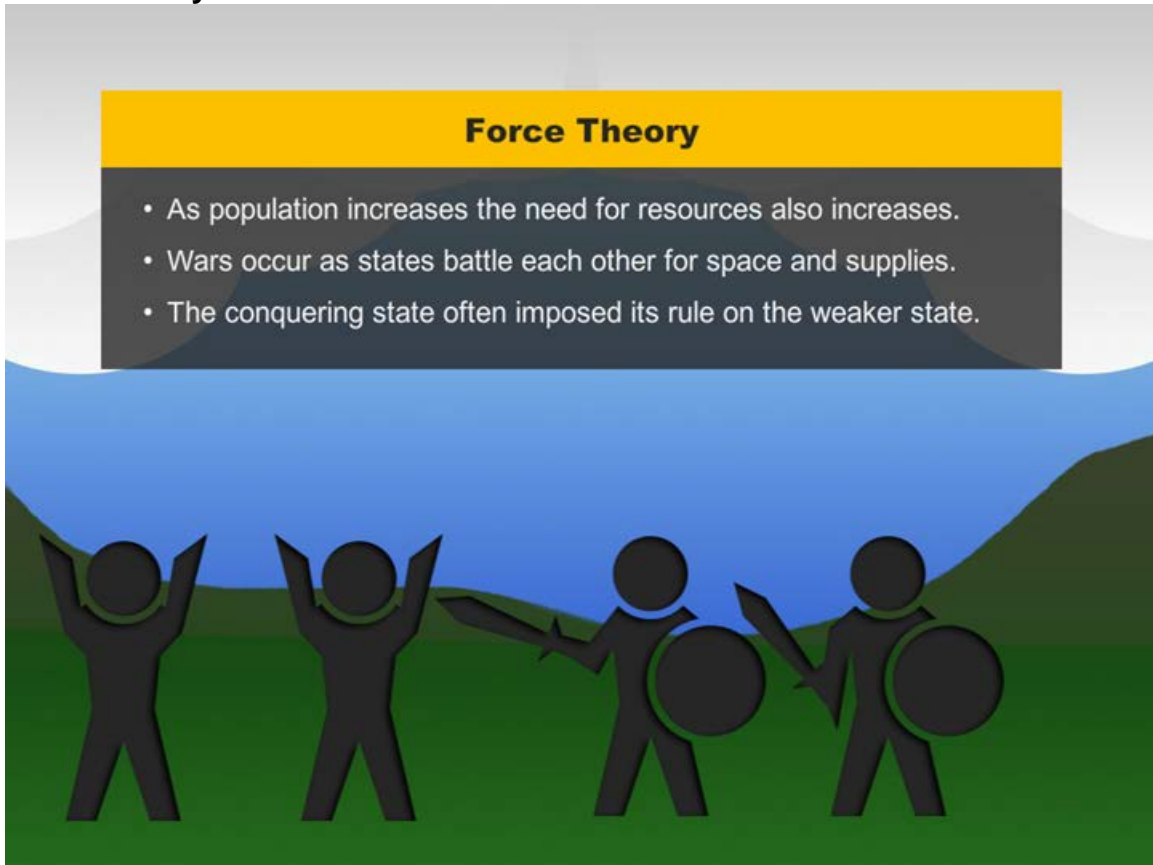


**Demi Tracy:** The evolution theory is derived from the family structure, in which parents are the leaders of the children. In governments based on the evolution theory, the leaders of the families in a state are the leaders of the community. Government was developed as an extension of family relationships.

# Module 1: Government Foundations

## Topic 1 Content: Development of States

### Force Theory



**Demi Tracy:** As the population of states increased, so did their need for land, food, water, and other resources. Wars occurred between states as they battled each other for additional space and supplies. Many times, when one state defeated another in battle, the conquering state imposed its rule on the weaker state. A government that is established by violence is based on the force theory.

# Module 1: Government Foundations

## Topic 1 Content: Development of States

### Divine Right Theory



**Demi Tracy:** Leaders of governments based on the divine right theory believe that God has given them the power to create and enforce laws. During his rule in the early 1600s, King Charles I of England claimed to have ruled by divine right. Many Roman emperors declared themselves gods on earth, with the power to govern the state.

## Module 1: Government Foundations

### Topic 1 Content: Development of States

#### Social Contract Theory

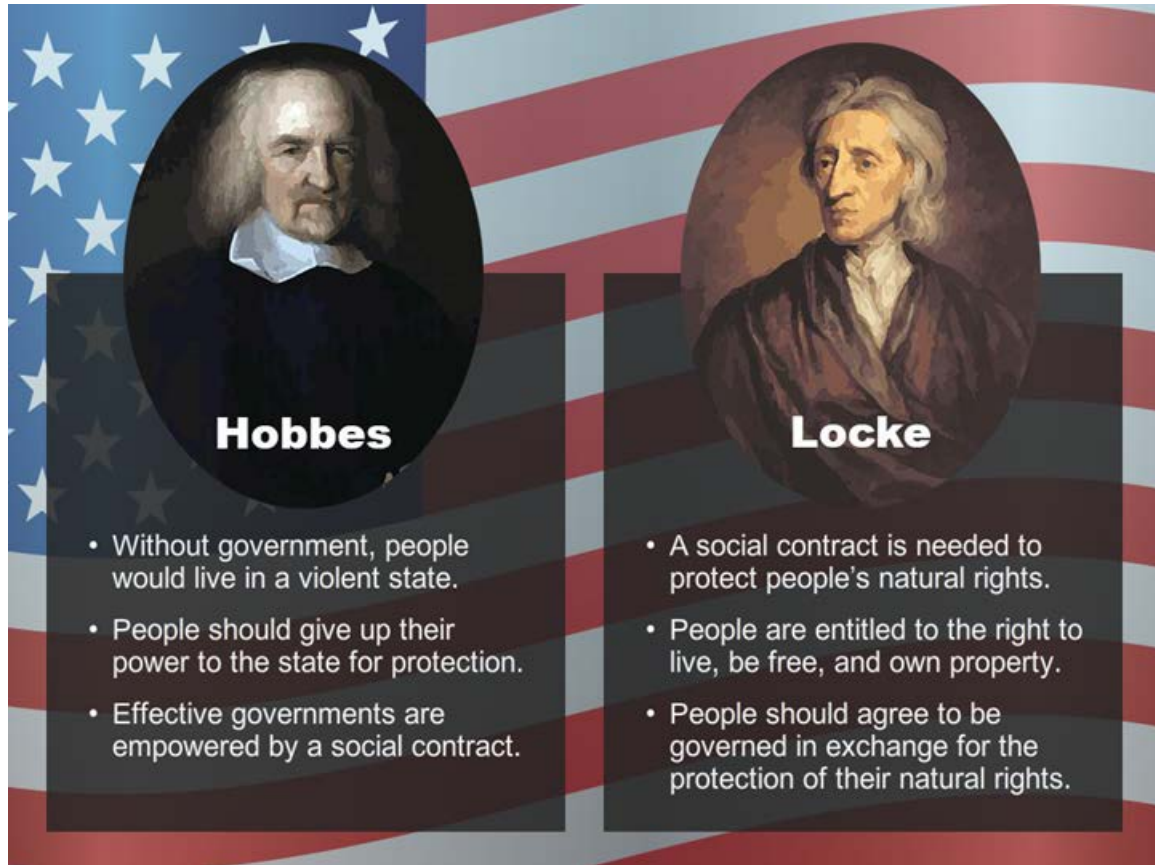


**Demi Tracy:** The belief that government should be created as a result of an agreement between the people and the state is the foundation of the social contract theory. In order to receive protection from the state, the citizens agree to give up certain rights in exchange for protection.

# Module 1: Government Foundations

## Topic 1 Content: Development of States

### Hobbes vs. Locke



The infographic features two oval portraits of Thomas Hobbes and John Locke. Hobbes is on the left, and Locke is on the right. Below each portrait is a dark grey box containing a bulleted list of their political theories. The background is a stylized American flag with stars and stripes.

Philosopher	Key Ideas
<b>Hobbes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Without government, people would live in a violent state.</li><li>• People should give up their power to the state for protection.</li><li>• Effective governments are empowered by a social contract.</li></ul>
<b>Locke</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A social contract is needed to protect people's natural rights.</li><li>• People are entitled to the right to live, be free, and own property.</li><li>• People should agree to be governed in exchange for the protection of their natural rights.</li></ul>

**Demi Tracy:** The social contract theory of government developed in the mid-1600s, as a result of many instrumental European philosophers, including Englishmen Thomas Hobbes and John Locke.

In Hobbes' *Leviathan*, written in 1651, he explained that without government, people would live in a self-centered, violent, warlike state, using their power to battle over land and other resources. Hobbes believed that people should agree to give up their power to the state in exchange for protection, resources, and order. He argued that this agreement was necessary in order to empower the government to create and enforce laws, and to defend its territory.

John Locke also supported the social contract theory of government, although his reasoning differed from Thomas Hobbes'. While Hobbes believed that a social contract was necessary in order to prevent people from living in a violent state, Locke believed that it was needed in order to protect the natural rights of people. Locke reasoned that all people were entitled to natural rights: the right to live, to be free, and to own property. He contended that people should agree to be governed in exchange for protection of their natural rights. If the government should ever violate the natural rights of its people, the people have the right to reclaim their power and change the government.

Many of the philosophies of John Locke and Thomas Hobbes served as the foundation of government in America.

**Module 1: Government Foundations**  
**Topic 1 Content: Development of States**

Ending of Episode



**Glover Mint:** Thank you for that wonderful information, Demi, and thank you for joining us today on WUSG News. This concludes our episode on the development of states.