

## Module 2: The American Revolution - 1750s to the 1780s


### Topic 2 Content: Influence of John Locke Notes

#### Introduction

#### Influence of John Locke

Natural Rights  
 Social Contract  
 Right to Change

#### Introduction



John Locke's writings and ideas helped to stir the colonists' desire for independence. Influenced by Locke, colonists were ready to fight for their freedom and declare independence from the British. In this interactivity, click **NEXT** to explore Locke's ideas about people and their government.

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#### Natural Rights

**Influence of John Locke**

- Natural Rights
- Social Contract
- Right to Change

**Natural Rights**

*"Man...hath by nature a power...to preserve...his life, liberty, and estate..."*

Locke believed that all individuals are free and equal, and possess the natural rights to live, to be free, and to own property. Rulers should not be able to remove these rights from people.

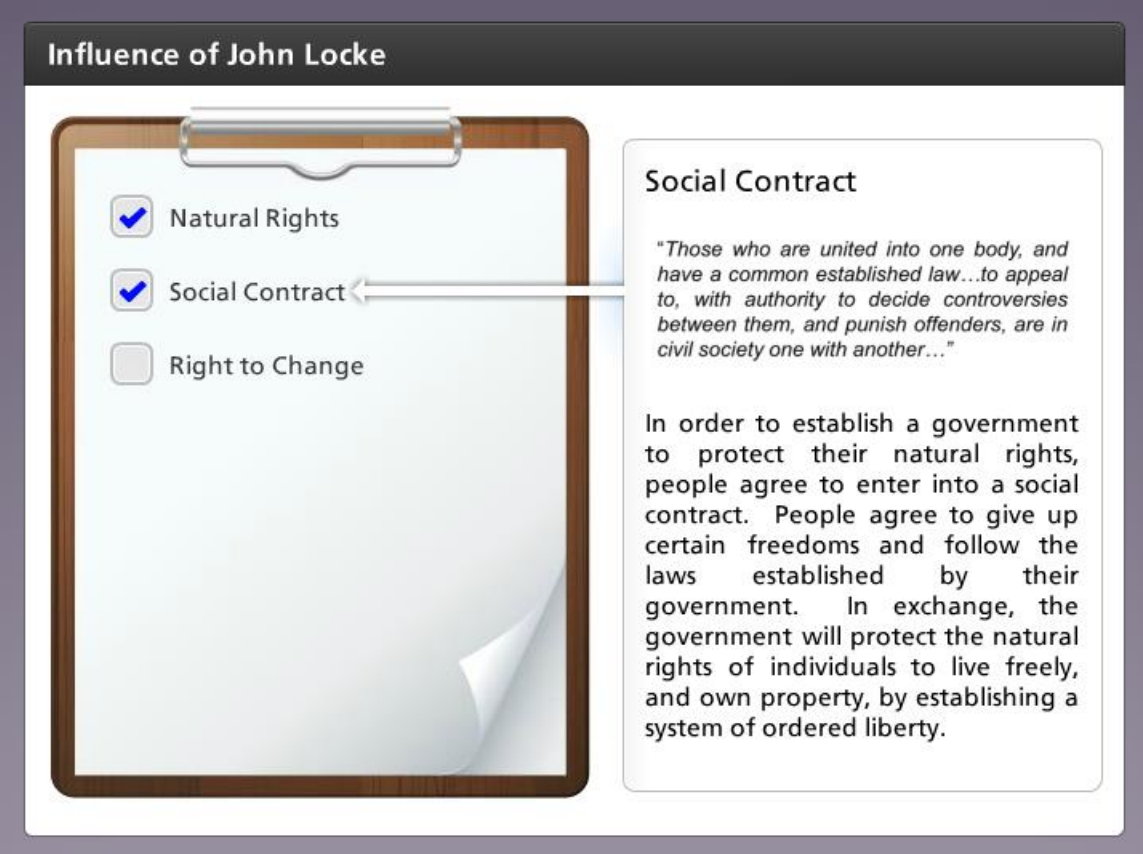
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#### Social Contract



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**Social Contract**

*"Those who are united into one body, and have a common established law...to appeal to, with authority to decide controversies between them, and punish offenders, are in civil society one with another..."*

In order to establish a government to protect their natural rights, people agree to enter into a social contract. People agree to give up certain freedoms and follow the laws established by their government. In exchange, the government will protect the natural rights of individuals to live freely, and own property, by establishing a system of ordered liberty.

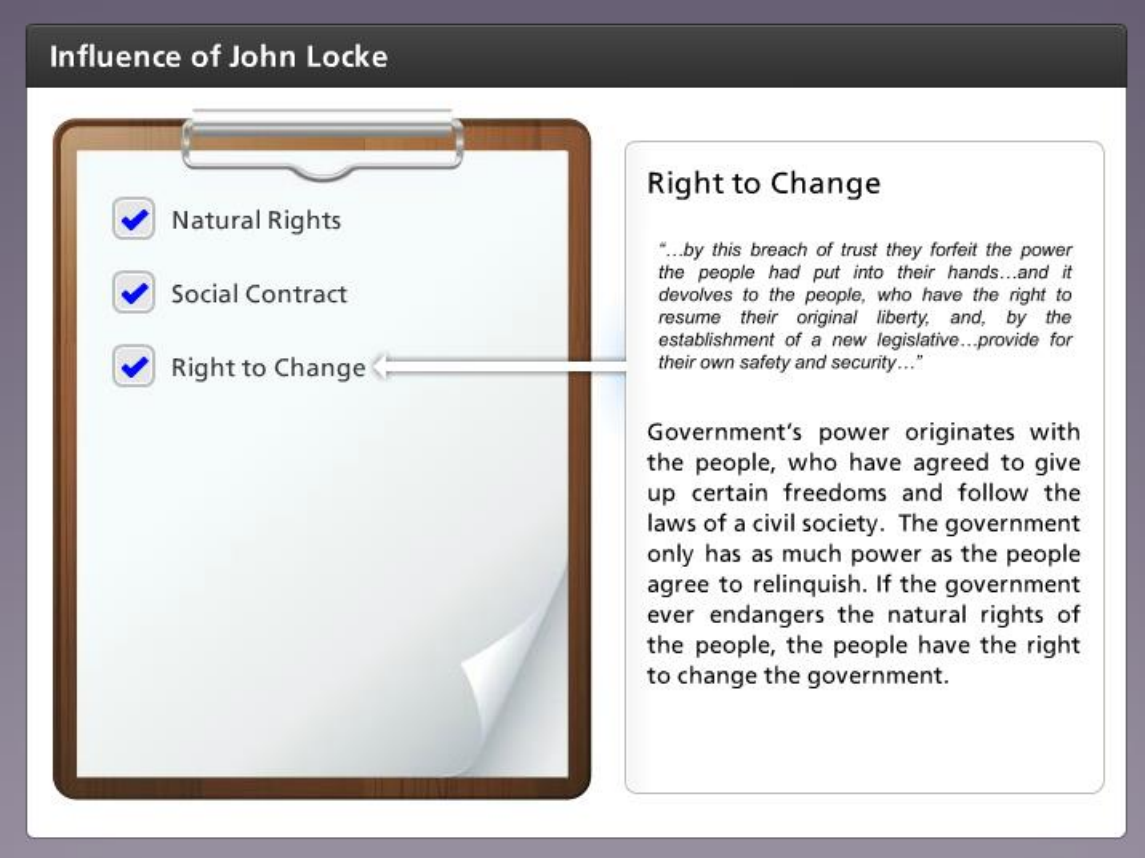
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#### Right to Change



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**Right to Change**

*"...by this breach of trust they forfeit the power the people had put into their hands...and it devolves to the people, who have the right to resume their original liberty, and, by the establishment of a new legislative...provide for their own safety and security..."*

Government's power originates with the people, who have agreed to give up certain freedoms and follow the laws of a civil society. The government only has as much power as the people agree to relinquish. If the government ever endangers the natural rights of the people, the people have the right to change the government.

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