

John Locke
Philosopher of Natural Rights
England, 1689

John Locke was a philosopher who lived through the Glorious Revolution of 1688, which ended with a constitutional monarchy AND the English Bill of Rights!

After the revolution, John Locke wrote a book entitled *Two Treatises of Government* (1689). His book made two major points.

Point 1: Natural Rights

When a person is born, God endows him or her with certain natural rights.
Governments should never take away a person's God-given rights:


Life – The right to defend yourself against an unjust government.

Liberty – The right to free speech, freedom of religion, and more.

Property – The right to own property and have it safeguarded by government.

Point 2: The Social Contract

People create governments to protect their individual rights. There is a contract between citizens and their government. The government agrees to protect the individual's rights, and the citizens agreed to abide by government's laws.



Purpose of Government:
According to Locke, the main purpose of government is to protect the rights of individuals.
Agree or Disagree?


Right of Revolution:
If government deprives people of their rights, the people have the right to overthrow the government.
Agree or Disagree?

PREDICT:

John Locke, the English philosopher, had a big impact on what revolution?

The American Revolution!

“We hold these truths to be self-evident . . .”




That is the first line of the Declaration of Independence, written by Thomas Jefferson in 1776. The Declaration goes on to say: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, 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.”

Thomas Jefferson, 1776

“That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any form of government becomes destructive to these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government . . .”

In other words, the Declaration of Independence is based on John Locke's two ideas – natural rights and the social contract.



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PREDICT AGAIN:

What book do you think Thomas Jefferson read before writing The Declaration of Independence in 1776?

