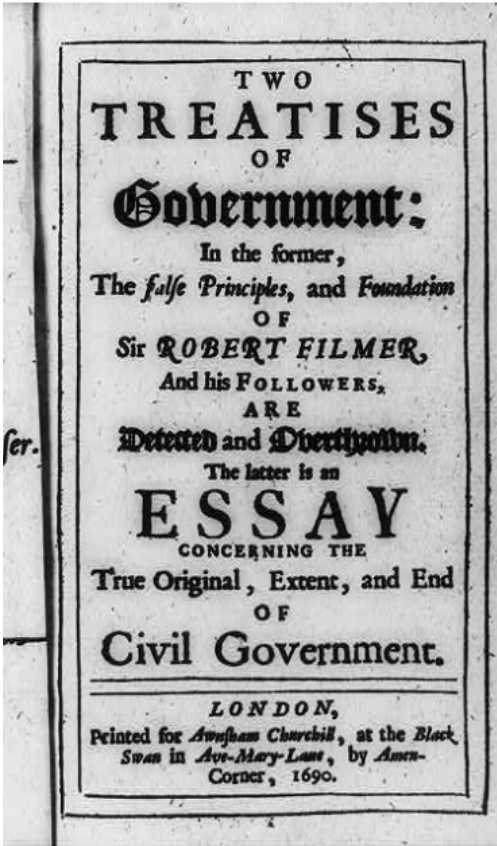


Locke and the Declaration of Independence

- I can develop an argument using evidence from primary sources.
- I can explain the major ideas of John Locke’s political philosophy.
- I can identify ways that Locke’s *Second Treatise* influenced the philosophies of Founders such as Thomas Jefferson.
- I can compare John Locke’s *Second Treatise of Government* with the *Declaration of Independence*.

Primary source: John Locke’s Second Treatise of Government, 1689

Building Context: John Locke was an English political philosopher during the Enlightenment whose work was widely read by the Founders. Locke lived during a time of political upheaval in England. Locke fled England when his writings were considered a threat to the king’s power. Locke returned to England in 1689, after the Glorious Revolution had forced the British monarchs to respect the authority of Parliament and accept a bill of rights limiting their power. In his *Second Treatise of Government*, Locke explored what type of government was best and the foundation for its authority in protecting the natural rights of the people.



John Locke's *Two Treatises of Government*

Text	In My Own Words
Sec. 22. The natural liberty of man is to be free from any superior power on earth, and not to be under the will or legislative authority of man, but to have only the law of nature for his rule. The liberty of man, in society, is to be under no other legislative power, but that established, by consent, in the commonwealth; nor under the dominion (power) of any will, or restraint of any law, but what that legislative shall enact. . . .	Humans are free and equal by nature. Because we are all equal and free, we must consent or agree to form a government.

Text	In My Own Words
<p>Sec. 87. Man being born, as has been proved, with a title to perfect freedom, and an uncontrolled enjoyment of all the rights and privileges of the law of nature, equally with any other man, or number of men in the world, hath by nature a power, not only to preserve his property, that is, his life, liberty and estate ... But because no political society can be, nor subsist (exist), without having in itself the power to preserve the property, and in order thereunto, punish the offences of all those of that society; there, and there only is political society. . . . Those who are united into one body, and have a common established law and judicature (court) to appeal to, with authority to decide controversies between them, and punish offenders, are in civil society one with another. . .</p>	
<p>Sec. 222. [W]hensoever the legislators endeavor (try) to take away, and destroy the property of the people, or to reduce them to slavery under arbitrary (unjustified) power, they put themselves into a state of war with the people, who are thereupon absolved (released) from any farther obedience...</p>	

Comprehension and Analysis Questions:

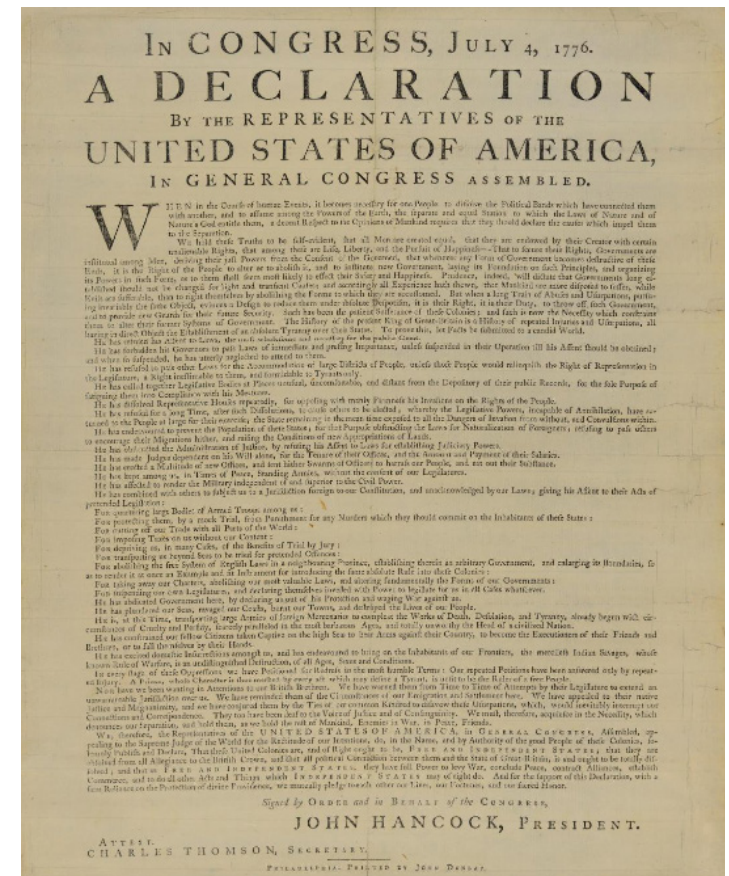
1. What state are humans naturally in, according to John Locke?
2. What is the only legitimate form of government? Why do humans agree to this government?
3. Why must laws and taxes passed by representatives in legislatures be based upon consent?
4. What happens for a government to be “at war with every man”? What is the appropriate response by the people if this happens?
5. How is John Locke’s influence evident in the *Declaration of Independence*?

Primary Sources: Locke and the *Declaration of Independence*.

- I can develop an argument using evidence from primary sources.
- I can identify ways John Locke's *Second Treatise of Government* influenced the philosophies of Founders such as Thomas Jefferson.
- I can compare John Locke's *Second Treatise of Government* with the *Declaration of Independence*.

Primary source: The Declaration of Independence as approved by the Continental Congress, 1776

Building Context: During the 1760s and 1770s, American colonists called for “no taxation without representation” because they wanted government by consent of the governed. After the war erupted at Lexington and Concord, the colonists began to deliberate about separating from Great Britain. The Second Continental Congress adopted Thomas Jefferson's *Declaration of Independence* on July 4, 1776. It provided the reasons for independence, the assertion of natural rights, and the purpose of government. As you read, highlight or underline specific phrases in the *Declaration of Independence* that reflect the influence of Enlightenment philosopher John Locke.



Declaration of Independence

Text	In My Own Words
<p>The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,</p> <p>When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve (break) the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel (force) them to the separation.</p>	

Text	In My Own Words
<p>We hold these truths to be self-evident, (obvious) that all men are created equal, that they are endowed (given) by their Creator with certain unalienable (unable to be taken away) Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted (established) among Men, deriving (receiving) their just powers from the consent of the governed,</p>	
<p>That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish (get rid of) it, and to institute (set up) new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to affect their Safety and Happiness. . . .</p>	

Comprehension and Analysis Questions:

1. Why was the *Declaration of Independence* written?
2. What four ideas does the document list as being “self-evident” in the second section?
3. What was the purpose of government according to the Declaration? What happens when a government becomes destructive of natural rights?
4. How does the Declaration show the influence of John Locke?