

Governments are made by men and they have power only because these men allow them to.
- Declaration of Independence

NAME	YEARS LIVED	BELIEFS
Thomas Hobbes	1588–1679	People agree to be ruled because their ruler pledges to protect their rights.
John Locke	1632–1704	People have rights to life, liberty, and property that the government must protect for the common good.
Baron de Montesquieu	1689–1755	Separate the parts of government so no one part can become too powerful.
Voltaire	1694–1778	People have the right to speak freely, and this right should be defended by everyone.
Jean-Jacques Rousseau	1712–1778	The legislative power belongs to the people.

All men have certain rights, such as life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
- Declaration of Independence

A system of checks and balances was set up in the **Constitution** by establishing three branches of government.

Freedom of speech is an important part of the first amendment in the **Bill of Rights**.

The **U.S. Congress** is made up of representatives elected by the people.

