

## Attachment A: Political Theory through the Ages

**Ancient Contributions:**

What elements of the United States constitutional system evolved from Athens and Rome?



Democratic elements of the United States constitutional system borrowed from Athens and Rome:

*Athens:* direct democracy

*Rome:* indirect democracy/republic



**English Contributions:**

What elements of the United States Constitution are derived from the *Magna Carta*, the *English Petition of Rights*, and the *English Bill of Rights*?

*Magna Carta*

1. limited power of the government
2. fundamental rights
  - trial by jury
  - due process of law

*English Petition of Rights*

1. early document supporting idea that men have rights and established concept of rule of law
2. included basic rights
  - a) guarantee of trial by jury
  - b) protection against marshal law
  - c) protection against quartering of troops
  - d) protection of private property

*English Bill of Rights*

1. limited power of the monarch
  - no standing army in peacetime
  - free elections
  - rights of petition
  - parliamentary checks on power



**European Political Thinkers' Contributions:**

What were the fundamental principles of American government and law developed by leading European political thinkers?

*Limited government:*

John Locke, Thomas Hobbes

*Examples:* Virginia Constitution, United States Constitution, Declaration of Independence

*Government's authority coming only from the consent of the governed:*

John Locke

*Examples:* Declaration of Independence, United States Constitution

*Separation of powers:*

Montesquieu

*Examples:* United States Constitution, Virginia Constitution



**Charters of the Virginia Company of London Contributions:**

Why are charters of the Virginia Company of London significant?



The basic rights of Englishmen were guaranteed to the colonists by the charters of the Virginia Company of London.



**Natural Rights Philosophy Contributions:**

How are the natural rights philosophies, expressed by John Locke and Jean-Jacques Rousseau, reflected in the *Declaration of Independence*?



Natural rights philosophy of John Locke and Jean-Jacques Rousseau expressed in the *Declaration of Independence*:

*Rousseau:* Believed that all men are equal

*Locke:* Believed that government is based on an agreement between people and their rulers ("social contract"). He felt that people have the right to life, liberty, and property.