

## Unit 2- Foundations of American Government

**SS.7.C.1.1- Recognize how Enlightenment ideas including Montesquieu's view of separation of power and John Locke's theories related to natural law and how Locke's social contract influenced the Founding Fathers.**

### Vocabulary

Word/Term	Part of Speech	Definition
<b>checks and balances</b>	phrase	a principle of the federal government, according to the U.S. Constitution, that allows each branch of government to limit the power of the other branches
<b>consent of the governed</b>	noun	an agreement made by the people to establish a government and abide by its laws
<b>Enlightenment</b>	proper noun	a period in European history when many educated people stressed the importance of learning and reasoning; education was considered the key to understanding and solving society's problems
<b>individual liberty</b>	noun	a person's ability to be free and independent
<b>influence</b>	verb	having an effect or impact on the actions, behavior, opinions, etc., of another or others
<b>natural law</b>	noun	laws passed by government to protect natural rights
<b>natural rights</b>	noun	the belief that individuals are born with basic rights that cannot be taken away by governments; life, liberty, and property
<b>separation of powers</b>	noun	the structure of the federal government, according to the U.S. Constitution, that sets up three branches with their own distinct powers and responsibilities
<b>social contract</b>	noun	an implied agreement among the people of an organized society that defines the rights, duties, and limitations of the governed and the government