

Standard 7-2: Limited and Unlimited Government, the Scientific Revolution, and the Enlightenment Review of Main Ideas

Limited and Unlimited Government

1. *Limited government:* power of the government is limited, usually by a constitution.
 - Citizens have individual rights.
 - Citizens participate in government decisions by voting
 - Separation of powers (judicial, executive, legislative)
 - Democracy – citizens have authority/choice in government
 - Constitution – written rules for government
 - Constitutional monarchy – king/queen who is limited by the law
 - (early examples in England: Magna Carta 1215, English Bill of Rights 1689)
2. *Unlimited government:* power of the government/king is unlimited.
 - Citizens have few, if any rights.
 - Citizens have total obedience to the government
 - Monarchs believe in “**divine right**” – God has given the power and authority.
 - Kings raise taxes, dissolve the legislative body (elected representatives), and use the military to enforce policies.
 - (ex. Authoritarian, totalitarian, absolute monarchs of France and Russia)

Scientific Revolution

The **Scientific Revolution** was a period of advancements in math and science during the 1500’s and 1600’s. Scientists began questioning ancient teachings of the Greeks/Romans and the teachings of the Catholic Church.

- **Geocentric:** earth-centered universe (Ptolemy)
- **Heliocentric:** sun-centered universe (Copernicus)
- **Galileo** proves the heliocentric theory, angers the Catholic Church and is put under house arrest.
- **Isaac Newton** – Laws of Gravity (what goes up must come down)
- The **Scientific Method** – logical procedure for testing theories, including forming a hypothesis, experimentation, and conclusion.

The Catholic Church believes that the Bible is the authority for society, so they resented scientific findings that differed from Church teachings. The Catholic Church felt their power and influence was at risk.

Standard 7-2: Limited and Unlimited Government, the Scientific Revolution, and the Enlightenment Review of Main Ideas Enlightenment

The **Enlightenment** was an intellectual movement of the 17th and 18th centuries which applied “reason” to society in hopes of improving society.

1. John Locke - (England)
 - All humans are born with **natural rights**.
 - **Social contract** - government should protect citizen’s rights, and if not, then government should be removed/replaced.
 - Government gets its approval from the **consent of the people**.
 - Influenced **Thomas Jefferson** and the **Declaration of Independence**.
2. Jean-Jacques Rousseau - (France)
 - Government should protect the “**general will**” of the people
 - **Popular sovereignty** - government gets power from the people
3. Baron de Montesquieu - (France)
 - **Separation of power** (judicial, legislative, executive)
 - **Checks and balances** - keeps one branch of government from becoming too powerful
4. Voltaire - (France)
 - Freedom of **speech**
 - Freedom of **religion**
 - Separation of church and state

English Civil War and the Glorious Revolution

The **English Civil War** was a struggle between **Parliament** (representing the power of the people) and the monarch, **King Charles I**. Parliament wants to help make laws/decisions for England. The King refuses to allow them to meet. When King Charles orders the arrest of some members of Parliament, fighting breaks out. **Oliver Cromwell** led the supporters of Parliament (Roundheads) against King Charles’ supporters (Royalists). King Charles I is captured, put on trial for abusing his power, and he is **beheaded**.

After the King’s death, there are several leaders of England, including Oliver Cromwell, King Charles II, and James II.

The **Glorious Revolution** is when **William** of Orange and **Mary** (James’ daughter) were invited to take the throne. It was a peaceful transition of power. They signed the **English Bill of Rights** in 1689 and established a **constitutional monarchy**.

- England is the 1st country to have a limited government in Europe!

Standard 7-2: Limited and Unlimited Government, the Scientific Revolution, and the Enlightenment Review of Main Ideas Constitutions

Enlightenment ideas influence the **American Revolution** and later the **French Revolution**. It inspires Thomas Jefferson and the writing of the Declaration of Independence, the writers of the Constitution, and individuals like Ben Franklin.

- **Constitution** (law) - establishes the structure and operation (rules) for the government.
 1. establishes the roles of each branch of government
 2. establishes roles and relationship of federal government vs. state government
- **Bill of Rights** - outlines the individual rights of ordinary citizens.
- **Written constitution** (ex. U.S. Constitution) - single written document
- **Unwritten constitution** (ex. England) - collection of traditions, precedents, legal rulings, and documents
- **Positive constitution** - roles and responsibilities that a government is to perform
- **Negative constitution** - focuses on limitations placed upon the government (ex. U.S. Constitution)