


Origins of U.S. Government

Chapter 2

CA Standards: 12.1.3, 12.1.4, 12.1.5



I. Early Influences

- What were some of the early influences for limited government?

A. English Heritage

- Roots in Britain & British tradition
- No written constitution
- 1215 Magna Carta establishes rule of law

- What is the structure of both the British Parliament & the US Congress?

- Rep. gov't older than limited gov't
- Evolved from religious & local gov't into the **bicameral** Parliament
- House of Lords & House of Commons
- Petition of Right (tax)
- Eng. Bill of Rights (rule)

- What was a charter & what did it do?

B. Colonial Development

- Jamestown, VA – 1607
- Established by **charter**
- Gave right to establish a colony, elect officers & make laws
- 3 types: royal, proprietary, corporate
- Different type / dif. Gov't

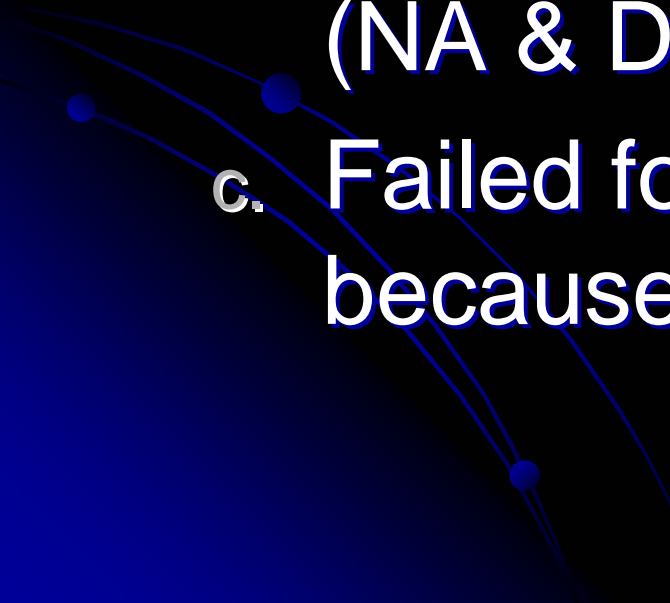
II. Independence

A. Search for Unity

1. Difficult to unite 13 colonies
 - a. Different backgrounds
 - i. Religious freedom in RI
 - ii. Non-Puritans persecuted in MA
 - iii. Convicts & debtors in GA
 - b. Different needs
 - i. North colonies – fish, crafts
 - ii. South colonies - plantations

B. Attempts at unity

1. **New England Confederation 1643-48**

- a. First colonial attempt at unity (MA, NH, CT, RI)
 - b. Established for common defense (NA & Dutch colonies)
 - c. Failed for lack of cooperation & because danger eased
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2. Albany Plan of Union

- a. Proposed by Ben Franklin in 1754
- b. Provide for common defense w/ the Iroquois Nation in case of attack by French & Indian allies
- c. Would regulate trade & levy taxes to pay for the war
- d. Rejected by England & some colonies

3. Oceans Apart

1. Colonies come together / relationship w/ England strained
 - a. Political Distance
 - i. Needs of England & colonies are different
 - ii. Lack of understanding of others
POV
 - iii. Governors paid by colonial gov't
 - iv. British loses control of colonies

b. British Policies

- i. 1754 – French & Indian War begins
- ii. 1760 – Mad King George III assumes the throne
- iii. Several taxes levied upon the colonies to pay for war & protect British business from colonial competition.
- iv. **Stamp Act** taxes paper & other goods.

4. Colonial Reaction

- a. Colonists protest the King's **tyranny**
- b. Sent a Declaration of Rights to London
- c. Called for a **boycott** of certain goods
- d. Stamp Act repealed but replaced by other taxes
- e. Tensions ignite & lead to Boston Massacre in 1770
- f. Boston Tea Party 1773

4. Colonial Reaction (continued)
 - g. First Continental Congress meets in 1774 to protest British policies & attempt to resolve problems
 - h. British pass stricter measures
 - i. Shots fired at Lexington & Concord in April 1775 – Revolution begins
 - j. Second Continental Congress names Washington head of army & calls for a Dec. of Independence

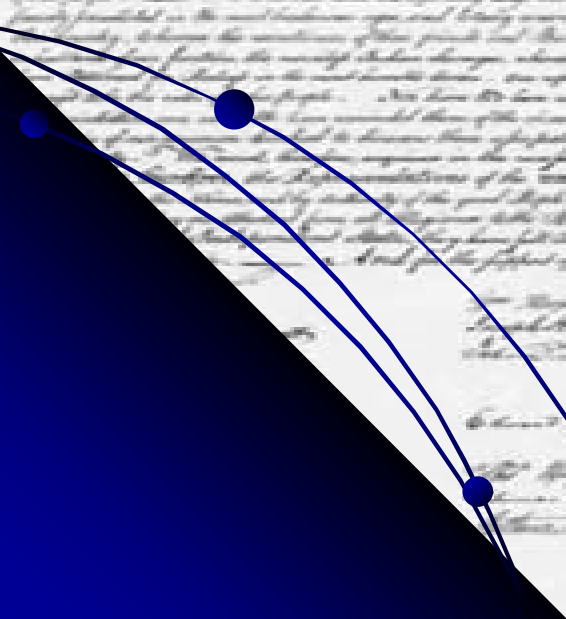
IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,

Chapter 2, Section 2

The Declaration of Independence

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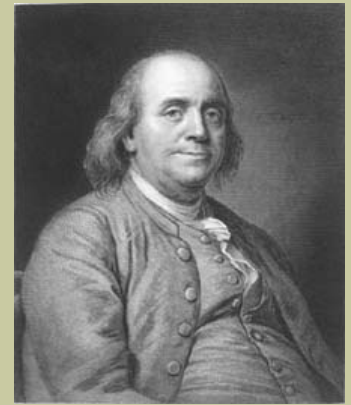


[Handwritten signatures of the signatories at the bottom of the document]

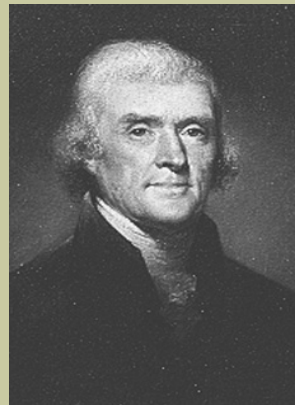
- The Declaration of Independence was written by five men, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Robert Livingston, and Roger Sherman.
- It was signed on July 4, 1776



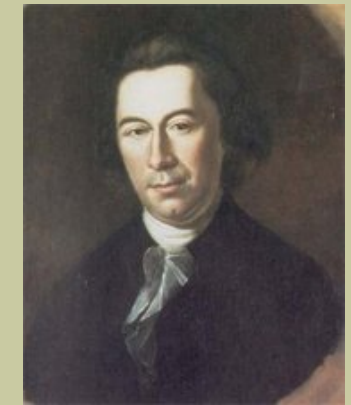
John Adams



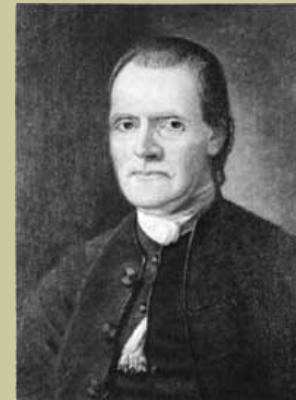
Benjamin Franklin



Thomas Jefferson

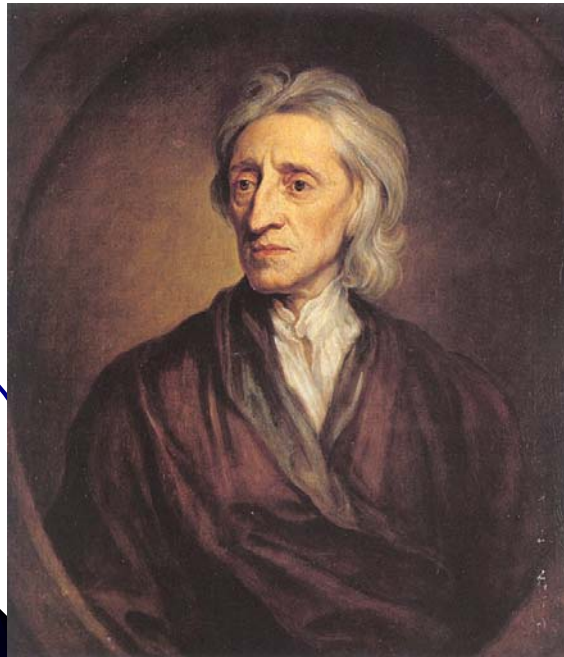


Robert Livingston

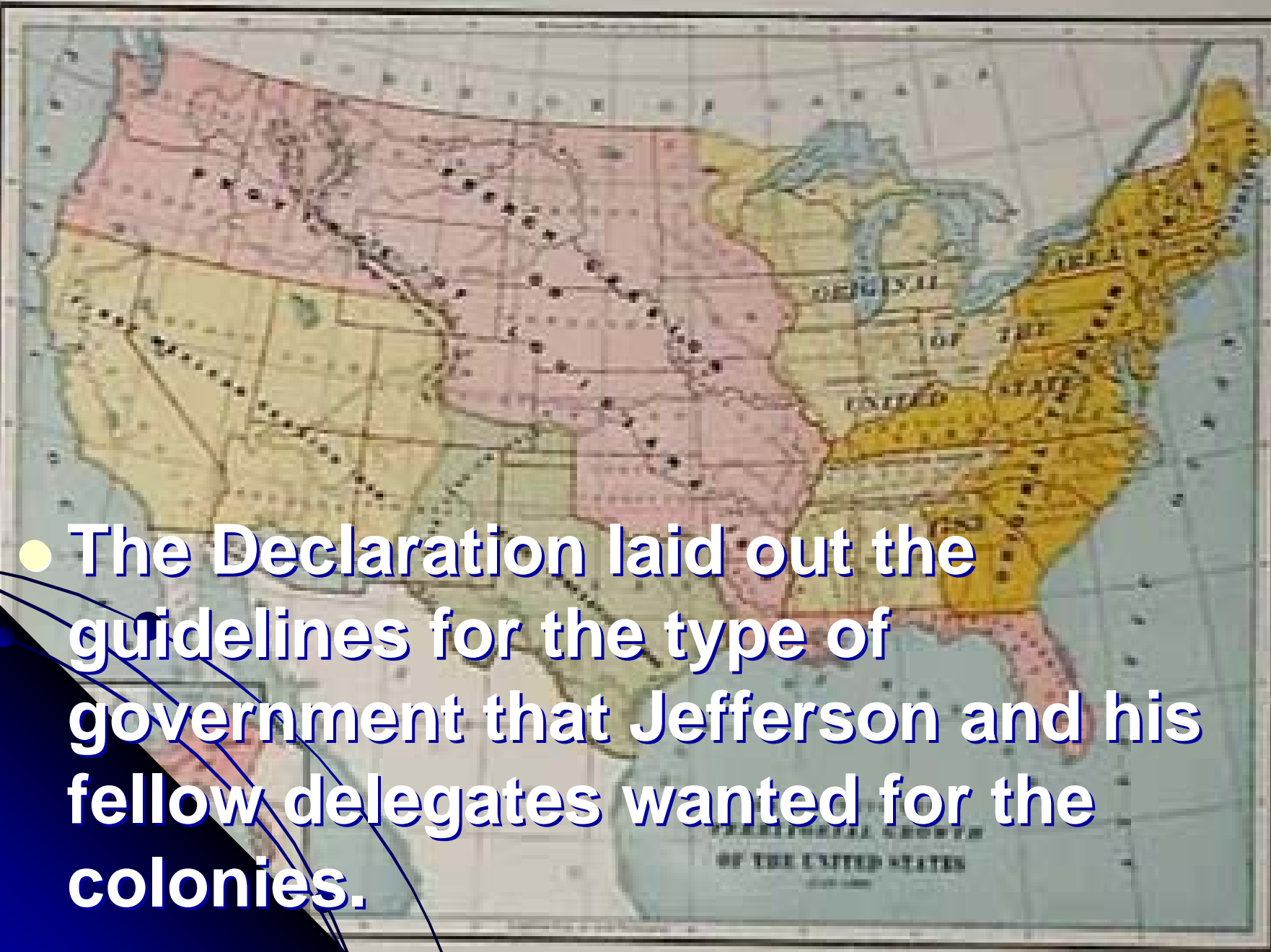


Roger Sherman

- Thomas Jefferson, who wrote most of the Declaration, took many of his ideas from John Locke, an English philosopher. Jefferson talked about certain “unalienable” rights such as life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.



John Locke

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- The Declaration laid out the guidelines for the type of government that Jefferson and his fellow delegates wanted for the colonies.