

Name:

Foundational concepts of American Democracy. Notes from PowerPoint, content of which was taken from text, pages 38-42.

Foundational concept	Origin-where did it come from	Definition/example
Natural Law	Aquinas - Christian philosopher	God is good - we are like gods - we want good things (reproduce, gain knowledge)
Direct Democracy	Ancient Greece	people voting directly on issues
Republic (indirect democracy)	Ancient Rome	people vote on a rep. to vote for them
Magna Carta (1215)	GB - King John	1st Document limiting power of King, sets up rule of Law - everyone is held to
Petition of Right (17something)	GB - Charles I	showed limited govt by affirming that the Kings power was not absolute.
English Bill of Rights	GB - William + Mary forced to sign	gave power to Parliament ideas in our const: trial by jury, right to petition govt, bear arms cruel + unusual punishment

Natural Rights

John Locke

Rights to life, liberty, +  
property

Govt is necessary for social contract, but can be removed if it is bad

Social Contract Theory

Thomas Hobbes

Social contract - people agree to give up freedom in return for protection + law + order.

- Govt is formed by consent of the people

Separation of Powers

Montesquieu

Separation of powers - govts are organized to prevent any one group from dominating others.

Popular Sovereignty

Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Popular sovereignty - Govt should be based on the will of the people - (elections)

Other contributing ideas:

Mayflower Compact: 1st written down Govt - agree to live in a civil body politic + obey just and equal laws

Battles of Lexington and Concord:

Revealed tensions so high that armed conflict w/ GB was ~~not~~ inevitable

1776, Declaration of Independence

Called for a final break w/ GB

Judicial Independence:

(ASK WILTON if you want to do it)

- From Montesquieu's separation of powers, but not until After Articles of Confederation

Name:

*Wilton*

Constitutional Principles Chart

Principle

Definition of principle

Examples of principle at work in our government

Consent of the Governed

People have to approve of the govt's actions

- creates a republic govt
- Recall election (removing a corrupt official)
- People can change the govt through regularly timed elections
- Referendum elections

Popular Sovereignty

A govt's power is derived from its people

- people elect state + national govt
- opinion polls change govt policy

Limited Government

A govt only has power that has been given to it.

- States are the source of the fed govt's power
- Although federal govt's power is limited, it's scope has increased
- Limited by the Constitution

Rule of Law

Principle that society is governed by laws, not people, + even the govt must follow the law (no one above the law).

- Constitution protects us all equally
- Govt officials are held to the Constitution
- ways to recall bad officials

\* show video

Federalism

System of dividing govt  
bet National level (D.C.),

State level (NE), + local level (La Vista,  
Papillion).

(9th + 10th Amendment)

Nat govt can regulate  
gain land, go to war,  
give \$(grants)  
State govt.

\* video

Separation  
of Power

Separating power  
among the three  
branches

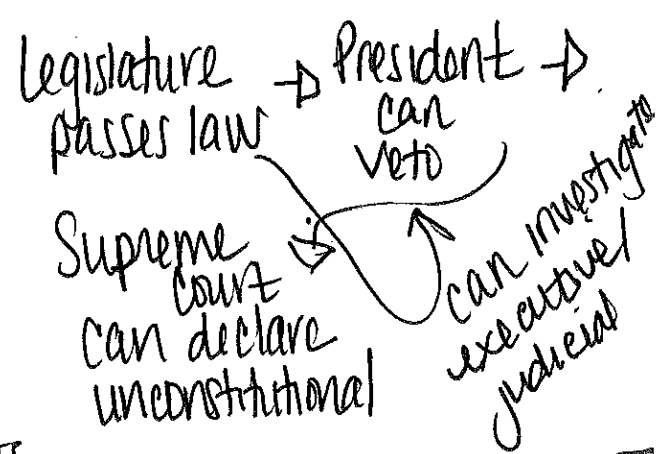
Legislative branch -  
makes laws

Executive branch -  
enforces (comes out)  
laws

Judicial branch -  
interprets laws

Checks and  
Balances

Each branch has  
the ability to restrain  
certain actions of the other  
branches



Judicial Review - Power of Supreme  
Court to interpret  
the constitution -

- Brown vs Board of Education (1954)  
overturned Plessy vs Ferguson (1896)

- Anytime they rule - unconst-  
stitutional/stitutional