

## Foundations of Government

What are the 8 Ideas/ Documents that are key to understanding the United States government:

1. Magna Carta
2. Mayflower Compact
3. English Bill of Rights
4. Petition of Right & Parliament
5. Natural Rights Philosophy
6. Colonial Governments
7. Great Awakening
8. Virginia Statue of Religious Freedom

## Mayflower Compact

### Key Ideas:

One of the First Attempts at self gov. in the English colonies.

Agreed to work together for the "general good" of the colony

### Why was it needed?

The Pilgrims drifted off course, and landed in a place where their charter would not apply.

Created their own compact that set up fair laws.

## Magna Carta

### Key Ideas Contained:

The power of the king is limited

Idea that government needs representatives

Government should be based on rule of law- no one is above the law

Government should be based on an agreement between the ruler and the ruled

Certain rights should not be taken away by the government:  
Including freedom from imprisonment without trial

## Colonial Government

### Important concepts from English government that influenced the Colonial Governments

1. **Separation of Powers**- Power is divided between different branches of government- so power is not abused- so no one branch becomes too powerful
2. **Higher Law**- English law is higher than the colonial laws.
3. **Checks and Balances**- each branch of gov. has a check on the other to ensure the balance of power is equal.

## Natural Rights Philosophy

### What are natural rights?

Rights that people are born with and cannot be taken away.

### Who are the natural rights philosophers:

Thomas Hobbes and John Locke

### Three Natural Rights:

Life

Liberty

Property

### Purpose of Gov.-

To protect the natural rights- individual's rights

## English Bill of Rights:

There are many rights- can you name three?

1. Trial by jury  
right to keep to arms for defense only for Protestants
2. Parliaments powers were superior to the king  
No excessive bails
3. Limited cruel and unusual punishments  
Free speech in parliament  
King could not keep army in a time of peace  
Families were not forced to house soldiers

## Petition of Right

1. Right of Habeas Corpus was protected
2. No Quartering of soldiers

Limited the power of the king to tax the citizens without their consent.

## Habeas Corpus

There must be a reason to keep someone in jail.



## Parliament

### 1. What is Parliament?

Representative government in England.

**Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom**

What was the significance of this statute?

**The (First) Great Awakening (1730s-1740s)**

What was the significance of the religious movement?