Do Now… Translate the passage below into modern English

Whenever the legislators endeavour to take away, and destroy the property of the people, or to reduce them to slavery under arbitrary power, they put themselves into a state of war with the people, who are thereupon absolved from any farther obedience…

Whensoever therefore the legislative shall transgress this fundamental rule of society… by this breach of trust they forfeit the power the people had put into their hands… and it devolves to the people, who have a right to resume their original liberty, and, by the establishment of a new legislative, (such as they shall think fit) provide for their own safety and security…
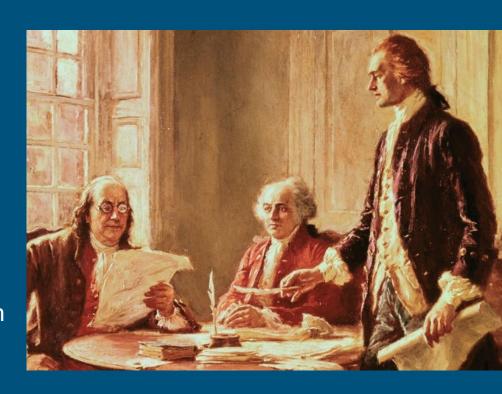
The Enlightenment

A movement of scientific advancement and philosophical thought, based in Europe (~1700's)

- Emphasis upon "**the rational**--" what could be measured and proven.

- New generation of political theorists and philosophers who challenged "the old ways."
  - Applied the **skepticism** of the **Scientific Method** to wide variety of topics
  - Critical of absolute monarchy and the Catholic Church
  - Emphasized **liberty, progress, and tolerance**.

The Enlightenment in America

- Enlightenment thought very influential in Colonial America.

- Redefined the way people thought of themselves and the government.
  - Philosophical societies
  - Political pamphlets in wide circulation.
  - This political thought gave them ammunition to criticize the British Government.
  - Thomas Paine & John Locke

John Locke

"Two Treatises of Government" read widely throughout the colonies.

- Man in his "natural state" is one of absolute freedom.
- **Social Contract Theory-** People agree to give up some freedoms to form a government. A government is only valid if it has **the consent of the governed**.
- The objective of a government is to **protect** freedoms: **life, liberty, and property.**
- If a government doesn't protect these freedoms, it is tyrannical and ought to be overthrown.