

Constitutional Convention – LG #7

Study Notes



Why Government?

Nation's Security

Public Safety & Service

Maintaining other institutions

Law & Order

Monarchy

Single person is ruler (king, queen)

Right to rule is handed down within a family
(hereditary)

Generally serves for life

Dictatorship

Absolute power

Unlimited authority

Ignore laws for more power

Democracy

Citizens share in the government

Equality of all citizens

Direct Democracy - Laws and decisions are voted on by all the people

Republic – Citizens elect representatives to make laws & decisions

Baron de Montesquieu

Limited power of government

Divided government

Separation of Powers – limit corruption

Check & Balances – Different branches

John Locke

Born with natural (Inalienable) rights

Life, liberty, property

Social Contract – between government & people

Give up some rights to protect everyone's rights

Mayflower Compact

1st Direct democracy in the Colonies

Self government

Majority rules

Magna Carta

Limited power of monarch 1st time

King shared power with other nobles

English Bill of Rights

King must get approval of Parliament

Basic Rights for all subjects

Articles of Confederation

Our 1st government – formed during the Amer. Revolution

Weak: Only 1 branch of government

Legislative Branch (Congress) had all the power

Federal Government depended on states for money

States had more power than the Federal Government

Positive: able to control new western territories & manage Native American affairs.

Shays' Rebellion

Showed states & congress - the Articles of Confederation was too weak

Unable to protect citizens, protect property and maintain order

Recognized a strong central government was needed