

Government

citizenship is like a two sided coin, citizens have responsibilities to the citizens

- each person was a judge- no central authority
- people were not completely selfish
- liberty was not license to hurt others
- everything in the state of nature was shared, property obtained through labor so long as there was enough left for others
- state of nature changed when people began to accumulate property-have and have nots
- breaches of peace, people no longer felt safe or secure
- people contracted to form the state-civil government in need of laws to feel safe
- contract does not establish an absolute monarchy- representative government

Definitions

- monarchy: governing authority confined a single individual
ex. king
- oligarchy: governing authority confined in a few people and their descendants- ruling class
- democracy: governing authority on the people through representatives
direct democracy: people rule directly- referendums- initiatives
- referendum- refer to the people
- initiative- people make the law, citizens choose
ex. colorado and legalizing pot
- representative democracy

Locke- the father of American democracy- revolt if government doesn't work/ tyrannical-
American Revolution against the king
-no representation, no taxation

Political culture of the US is based off of Locke's writings

- These include: liberty, self government, equality, individualism- self sufficient, diversity, unity, one person indivisible (Nationalism)
- Nationalism is key. We define ourselves as American, not North or South. Africa describes by tribe, disunity

-The above values conflict because we want both unity and individualism

-Conflicts are resolved through politics

-Harold Lasswell (1938)- defines politics as who gets what, when and how

Who Governs America?

Majoritarianism- majority prevails

pluralism- policies based on power wielded by diverse interests

- everyone gets something in proportion
- each interest will be in direct result of influence

- no one goes home empty handed

elitism- a few people govern the masses

hyperpluralism- too many groups getting too much of what they want, results in contradictory policies