

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



CALIFORNIA CONTENT  
STANDARD 10.2.1

## *The Enlightenment and Democratic Revolution*

**Specific Objective:** Compare the major ideas of philosophers and their effects on the democratic revolutions in England, the United States, France, and Latin America.

The **Enlightenment**, an intellectual movement that spread from Europe to America in the 1700s, helped inspire democratic revolutions in Europe, the United States, and Latin America. Key enlightenment writers included **Locke**, **Montesquieu**, and **Rousseau**.

### **John Locke (England)**

\_\_\_ People have **natural rights** to life, liberty, and the ownership of property.

\_\_\_ People form **governments to protect these rights**. Therefore, a government gets its **authority from the people** and should reflect their will.

**Influence:** Locke's ideas influenced **Thomas Jefferson**, the main author of the **Declaration of Independence**, the basis of the American Revolution. It stated that people have natural "unalienable rights" and that a government derives its power from the people.

### **Charles-Louis Montesquieu (France)**

\_\_\_ Government should be kept under control through **separation of powers**—a division into independent parts so that no part has too much power.

\_\_\_ A way to guarantee balance is to have **three branches of government**:  
a **legislative branch** to make laws;  
an **executive branch** to carry out and enforce laws;  
a **judicial branch** to interpret laws.

**Influence:** Montesquieu's ideas influenced **James Madison**, sometimes called the father of the **U.S. Constitution** because of his many contributions at the 1787 Constitutional Convention. The constitution separates government powers into three branches.

### **Jean-Jacques Rousseau (France)**

\_\_\_ A **social contract** exists between citizens and their government. In this contract, citizens accept certain rights and responsibilities, and grant the government the power to uphold those rights and responsibilities.

**Influence:** The ideas of Locke and Rousseau influenced Latin-American revolutionary leader **Simón Bolívar**. Bolívar fought to liberate his country, present-day **Venezuela**, from Spanish rule. He also led movements for **independence and democracy** in what are now the nations of **Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, and Peru**.