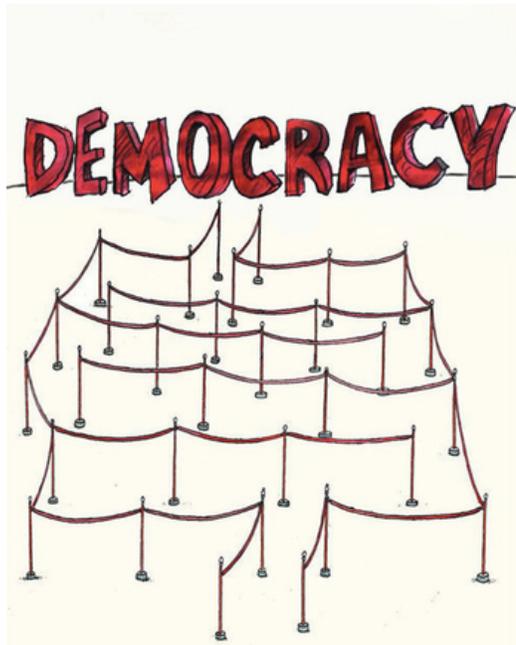


1.1 Ideals of Democracy



**ESSENTIALS**

1. The U.S. government is based on ideas of limited government, including natural rights, popular sovereignty, republicanism, and social contract.
2. The Declaration of Independence, drafted by Jefferson with help from Adams and Franklin, provides a foundation for *popular sovereignty*, while the U.S. Constitution drafted at the Philadelphia Convention and led by George Washington, with important contributions from Madison and Hamilton, and members of the "Grand Committee," provides the blue print for a unique form of political democracy in the U.S.

**What are the challenges when building a democratic government?**

**The U.S. government is based on ideas of limited government, including natural rights, popular sovereignty, republicanism, and social contract.**

Provide a key *example* from American government for each of the following terms:

**Limited government:**

**Natural rights:**

**Popular sovereignty:**

**Republicanism:**

**Social Contract:**

Put into your own words the following *ideals* found in our **Declaration of Independence**:

*Endowed...with certain unalienable rights*

*Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness*

*Consent of the governed*

*Right...to alter or to abolish it*

Using the **U.S. Constitution (1787)**, what you already know and appropriate search engines answer the following questions:

1. The overarching themes of our form of government are: (1) *popular sovereignty*, (2) *separation of powers*, and (3) *civil liberties*. Explain how EACH are specifically exemplified in our Constitution.
2. Taking a casual glance at the Constitution, which branch was intended to be MOST powerful? LEAST?
3. Collectively, the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution are referred to as . . . ?
4. Which amendments are typically classified as “The Civil War amendments”? How did they dramatically change the original document? How has their interpretation changed over time?

## CONCEPT APPLICATION QUESTION

The American intelligentsia of the revolutionary era—Patriot and Tory both—accepted that the constituent power lay with the people. John Adams, for example, encouraged the Continental Congress in the summer of 1775 to recommend that conventions of the people be called to establish governments for the colonies independent of their English charters. Congress, Adams exhorted, “must realize the theories of the wisest writers and invite the People, to erect the whole Building [of government] with their own hands upon the broadest foundation.” This was proper “for the People were the Source of all Authority and of all Power.” Thomas Paine agreed, arguing that “the body of the people ... undoubtedly had, and still have, both the right and the power to place even the whole authority of the Assembly in any body of men they please.” Regardless of whether they truly agreed or felt backed in to a corner, Tories conceded that “the collective body of the people ... have an inherent right to change their form of government.” The Continental Congress explicitly relied on this power in the Declaration of Independence, in which Jefferson proclaimed that, when government becomes tyrannical, “it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute a new government...and to provide new guards for their future security.”

Source: Andrew G.I. Kilberg, *We the People: The Original Meaning of Popular Sovereignty*, Virginia Law Review, September 2014

- A. Describe the revolutionary era concept of popular sovereignty as stated in the scenario.
- B. In the context of the scenario, explain why the partisan divide between Patriot and Tory agreed that constituent power lay with the people.
- C. Explain why the American intelligentsia of the revolutionary era built a republican form of government rather than a direct democracy.