ORIGIN OF U.S. GOVERNMENT

Two enlightenment thinkers (1600's-1700's)

Thomas Hobbes & John Locke

*Social Contract"

"Natural Rights"

People exchange individual "sovereignty" (power) to Govt. for protection/order.

Govt. job.. to ensure rights Power from consent of people.

Locke: "Whosoever in authority (in govt.), exceeds the power given him by law... may be opposed ... |

Declaration of Independence: "The govt. gets its powers from the consent of the governed. When a govt. fails to protect citizens natural rights, the people have the right to alter or abolish it..."

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that man is granted certain unalienable rights. Among these are life, liberty & the pursuit of happiness."

Constitution: "We the people...do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States."

What functions does government provide in this "Social Contract"?

√Order: Enforce laws to protect & make safe people & property.

✓ Services: Provides services that people can't do on own.

√Resolve Conflict: Brings a compromise over issues dividing people.

√Values: Policies & laws protect beliefs of all various groups.