**Origins of American Government**

1. **The Enlightenment**
   1. **Movement from Europe and America with Great Thinkers**
2. **John Locke**
   1. **People are generally good**
   2. **Natural Rights**
      1. **Life**
      2. **Liberty**
      3. **Property**
   3. **Social Contract: People agree to obey a ruler; ruler agrees to protect people and rights**
      1. **If a ruler does not protect the rights, the people can overthrow the Gov.**
3. **Thomas Hobbes**
   1. **Believed a ruler should be all-powerful**
4. **Baron de Montesquieu**
   1. **Separation of Powers**
5. **Thomas Paine**
   1. **Common Sense: Colonies should govern themselves**

**Historic Documents**

1. **Magna Carta**
   1. **Limits King’s power.**
2. **English Bill of Rights**
   1. **Limits King’s power**
   2. **Guarantee Individual Rights**
3. **Mayflower Compact**
   1. **Self-government**