

Lesson One – Intro to Political Liberalism

Checking for understanding

Read through these questions – can you answer them quickly? If you can, then you understand the key concepts in this video. If not, go back and watch it again. Don't forget to check your answers with the answer key (don't peek – the whole point of this is to see if YOU understand the key ideas).

1. What are some of the political ideas of the Enlightenment philosophers?
2. Why is the Haudenosaunee Confederation a good example of democracy in action?
3. Summarize the key points of the American Revolution.
4. Summarize the key points of the French Revolution.
5. Who is Edmund Burke?

Textbook Pages

30-1 (Perspectives) – pages 100 – 110, 114 - 118

30-2 (Understandings) – pages 45 – 53, 95 -100

1. Mill - Everyone should have a say in democracy, including women & working poor

Locke - Gov. should protect the individual, if there was to be one leader then it should have a Constitution behind said leader.

2. The leaders didn't have too much power, & it was a decentralized command. Small issues dealt at ground level, while big issues were dealt @ the top range of Government.

3. Colonists were not treated fairly, unfair taxes being a large point. They ended up working together to remove the British from the 13 Colonies.

4. Huge disparity of money Royals had lots while farmers starved. The rebels made a new liberal society. Then Napoleon came and took over as dictator (Non-Democratic).

5. He pointed out the flaws of liberalism from the French Revolution. Also the problems w/ individualistic liberalism.

Answer Key He preferred the values before enlightenment.

1. What are some of the political ideas of the Enlightenment philosophers?
Locke – role of gov, to protect individual liberty, okay with constitutional monarchy; Rousseau – general will; okay with benevolent dictator; Montesquieu – enforcing individualism through three branches of gov.; Mill – democracy with franchise for women
2. Why is the Haudenosaunee Confederation a good example of democracy in action? Because it set up a system where local issues were dealt with by a local authority but major issues were dealt with by coming to a consensus by all groups. Also, the leader was a servant, not a master.
3. Summarize the key points of the American Revolution. Colonists were not treated equally to British citizens, for example “taxation without representation” – using the ideas of the Enlightenment to create their new nation-state, they rebel and kick the British out of the Thirteen Colonies.
4. Summarize the key points of the French Revolution. Economic crisis and long-term inequality lead the people to adopt Enlightenment ideas and create a new government. Early on they build a truly liberal society – but it all falls apart during the Reign of Terror and eventually Napoleon sets up a society that is not democratic – but at least liberal political ideas were now introduced into European society
5. Who is Edmund Burke? He is the Enlightenment philosopher who rejected the ideas of liberalism because he looked at the events of the French Revolution and pointed out all of the problems that can come with individualism. He is a classical conservative, as he wants to conserve the values of society before the Enlightenment.