

Chapter 7 Section 3

I. Enlightenment

A. The framers took ideas about people and government from European writers of the Enlightenment. The Enlightenment promoted knowledge, reason, and science as the way to improve society.

1. Ideas of John Locke, an English philosopher, included the belief that all people have natural rights, including life, liberty, and property and that government is an agreement, or contract, between the people and the ruler.

2. The Constitution was a contract between the American people and their government, and it protected the people's natural rights by limiting the power of the government.
3. The French writer Baron de Montesquieu believed that a separation and balance of powers should exist. Also, the powers of government should be clearly defined and limited.
4. The framers provided for a specification and a division of powers. They also provided for a system of checks and balances to make

sure that no part would gain too much power.