

## John Locke Excerpts

### Preview the Text

- We will be “Text Coding” the reading for our first read.
  - ★ (Star): Key idea or main point
  - ? (Question Mark): Something you found confusing or want to discuss
  - → (Arrow): Connection to something you have learned before
  - ! (Exclamation Point): Surprising or interesting fact

#### **John Locke (1632-1704)**

John Locke was a famous English Enlightenment philosopher who lived from 1632-1704. The following is an excerpt from his **Second Treatise on Government**. In it, Locke expresses his views on politics and government.

#### **Document 1** Source: John Locke, *“The Second Treatise of Government”* published 1689

All people are naturally born free, equal, and independent, with the right to act as they choose. There is a natural law that governs this **state of freedom**, which requires that no one should harm another's right to life, liberty, or property.

To protect this state of freedom, equality, and independence, people agree to form a community. This community creates a government to ensure peace, safety, and the protection of their natural rights.

Since people form governments to protect their natural rights, if a government tries to take away or destroy their life, liberty, or property, it violates the agreement. In such cases, the people no longer have an obligation to obey that government.

*Published 1689*

**State of freedom:** a condition of being free or unrestrained, or the right to act without interference

**Obligation:** Something by which a person is bound or obliged to do certain things, and which arises out of a sense of duty or results from custom, law, etc

#### **Document 2** Source: Thomas Jefferson, *“Declaration of Independence”* published 1776

We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal, and they are **endowed** by their Creator with certain **unalienable** rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

*Published 1776*

*\*\*The American Revolution and the Declaration of Independence were heavily influenced by Enlightenment ideas, particularly the concepts of individual rights, equality, and the social contract, which inspired the colonies to challenge British rule and advocate for a government based on the consent of the governed.*

**Endowed:** To provide with a quality, ability, or asset.

**Unalienable:** Human rights that cannot be violated.

**Document 3** Source: "Selma Marches" from the United States National Archives page last reviewed December 11, 2023

*The Selma Marches were a vital series of protests during the Civil Rights Movement that led to the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Black citizens of Alabama organized to advocate for their right to vote provided by the Constitution of the United States.*

"The three marches of Selma were a **pivotal** turning point in the civil rights movement. Because of the powerful impact of the marches in Selma, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was presented to Congress on March 17, 1965. President Johnson signed the bill into law on August 6, 1965."

<https://www.archives.gov/research/african-americans/vote/selma-marches#:~:text=The%20three%20marches%20at%20Selma,law%20on%20August%206%2C%201965>

**Pivotal:** Of crucial importance in relation to the development or success of something else.