Montesquieu & Beccaria

Baron de Montesquieu was a French judge and political philosopher born in 1689. Montesquieu is most known for his theory of "separation of powers". **Separation of Powers** means dividing the responsibilities, or powers, of the government into different branches to prevent one branch from becoming too powerful. Separation of powers is written into many constitutions around the world. In the United States, government power is separated into 3 branches. The Legislative branch (lawmakers), Judicial branch (Courts), and the Executive branch (President).

Cesare Beccaria was an Italian politician and philosopher born in 1738. Beccaria focused mainly on the justice system and the problems within it at the time. Beccaria called for the court system to give **speedy and fair trials.** He also wrote that the **punishment should fit the crime.** For example, someone convicted of stealing a candy bar should not go to prison for 30 years. Many of Beccaria's ideas about the justice system are written into the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights.