**Enlightenment Thinkers And Other Influential Individuals**

The following dudes were never present in America but from afar, left huge influenced America’s Founding Fathers, which in turn left lasting impacts on American democracy.

**John Locke**

\*From England

\*Believed/wrote on a theory that the purpose of government is to protect NATURAL rights. According to Locke, if a government is failing to protect rights, it should be OVERTHROWN/Revolted against.

\*Influence on America: Colonies revolted against king in American Revolution; declared independence

Baron Charles de Montesquieu

\*From France

\*Believed/wrote on a theory that power should not be concentrated. It should be spread out among entities/people/groups so that no one entity/person/group becomes too powerful.

\*Influence on America: Three branches of government outlined in the Constitution of the United States.

Adam Smith

\*From Scotland

\*Believed/wrote theory on the “invisible hand of supply and demand”, which says supply and demand will determine the market/prices, so government does not need to get involved.

Influence on America: Move from mercantilism (government controlled economy) to free enterprise economy

William Blackstone

\*From England

\*Believed/wrote theory on “God given” rights that can not be extracted/taken away. He further defined Locke’s “natural rights” and also proposed some property rights that should not be violated by the king

\*Influence on America: All current American documents seek to protect rights

OTHERS (WHO WERE INFLUENTIAL WHILE HERE)

William Penn (founder of Pennsylvania)-Due to his Quaker religion, he saw all as equal and treated everyone as such. He called for religious tolerance in the colonies.

Thomas Hooker (founder of Connecticut)- Wrote the first colonial constitution (Fundamental Orders of Connecticut). It served as a foundation and example for future constitutions.