

CHAPTER
22

BUILDING VOCABULARY *Enlightenment and Revolution*

A. Matching Match the description in the second column with the term or name in the first column. Write the appropriate letter next to the word.

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| ___ 1. Galileo Galilei | a. English philosopher who proposed that a government's power comes from the consent of the citizens and that citizens have the right to rebel against unjust rulers |
| ___ 2. Isaac Newton | b. Russian empress who was considered an enlightened despot |
| ___ 3. Enlightenment | c. Italian scientist who made astronomical observations that supported the theories of Copernicus |
| ___ 4. Catherine the Great | d. early proponent of women's rights |
| ___ 5. John Locke | e. English scientist who discovered the law of gravity |
| ___ 6. Montesquieu | f. French philosophe who promoted freedom of speech |
| ___ 7. Voltaire | g. French writer who proposed the ideas of separation of powers and checks and balances in government |
| ___ 8. Mary Wollstonecraft | h. intellectual movement that stressed reason and thought and the power of individuals to solve problems |

B. Completion Select the term or name that best completes the sentence.

- | | | | |
|--------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| salons | enlightened despot | social contract | Declaration of Independence |
| neoclassical | checks and balances | federal system | Bill of Rights |

- Under the influence of the Enlightenment, the grand, ornate style in European art known as baroque gave way to a simple, elegant style that was based on classical Greek and Roman ideas and was called _____.
- A form of government in which power is divided between national and state governments is a _____.
- The document in which American colonists asserted their independence from Great Britain was the _____.
- The first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution are known as the _____.
- In social gatherings called _____, wealthy hostesses of Paris helped spread the ideas of the Enlightenment to educated Europeans.
- Thomas Hobbes called the agreement by which people create a government the _____.

C. Writing Write a paragraph explaining the following terms and how they are related.

- geocentric theory Scientific Revolution heliocentric theory scientific method

CHAPTER
22

Section 2

PRIMARY SOURCE *from The Social Contract*
by Jean-Jacques Rousseau

In The Social Contract, published in 1762, the philosophe—a writer during the 18th century French Enlightenment—Jean-Jacques Rousseau outlined his ideas about individual freedom and obedience to authority. As you read this excerpt, think about Rousseau's argument against the use of force as a means of governing the people.

**Chapter I—Subject of the
First Book**

Man is born free; and everywhere he is in chains. One thinks himself the master of others, and still remains a greater slave than they. How did this change come about? I do not know. What can make it legitimate? That question I think I can answer.

If I took into account only force, and the effects derived from it, I should say: "As long as a people is compelled to obey, and obeys, it does well; as soon as it can shake off the yoke, and shakes it off, it does still better; for, regaining its liberty by the same right as took it away, either it is justified in resuming it or there was no justification for those who took it away." But the social order is a sacred right which is the basis of all rights. Nevertheless, this right does not come from nature, and must therefore be founded on conventions. Before coming to that, I have to prove what I have just asserted.

**Chapter III—The Right of the
Strongest**

The strongest is never strong enough to be always the master, unless he transforms strength into right, and obedience into duty. Hence the right of the strongest, which, though to all seeming meant ironically, is really laid down as a fundamental principle. But are we never to have an explanation of this phrase? Force is a physical power, and I fail to see what moral effect it can have. To yield to force is an act of necessity, not of will—at the most, an act of prudence. In what sense can it be a duty?

Suppose for a moment that this so-called "right" exists. I maintain that the sole result is a mass of inexplicable nonsense. For, if force creates right, the effect changes with the cause: every force that is greater than the first succeeds to its right. As soon as it is possible to disobey with impunity, dis-

obedience is legitimate; and, the strongest being always in the right, the only thing that matters is to act so as to become the strongest. But what kind of right is that which perishes when force fails? If we must obey perforce, there is no need to obey because we ought; and if we are not forced to obey, we are under no obligation to do so. Clearly, the word "right" adds nothing to force: in this connection, it means absolutely nothing.

Obeys the powers that be. If this means yield to force, it is a good precept, but superfluous: I can answer for its never being violated. All power comes from God, I admit; but so does all sickness: does that mean that we are forbidden to call in the doctor? A brigand [bandit] surprises me at the edge of a wood: must I not merely surrender my purse on compulsion, but, even if I could withhold it, am I in conscience bound to give it up? For certainly the pistol he holds is also a power.

Let us then admit that force does not create right, and that we are obliged to obey only legitimate powers. In that case, my original question recurs.

from Jean-Jacques Rousseau, The Social Contract and Discourses and Other Essays, trans. by G.D.H. Cole (E.P. Dutton & Company, Inc., 1950). Reprinted in Peter Gay, ed., The Enlightenment: A Comprehensive Anthology (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1973), 322–325.

Discussion Questions

Analyzing Issues

1. Which did Rousseau believe was better—a government freely formed by the people or one imposed on a people by force?
2. Did Rousseau believe that it was the right of the strongest to rule?
3. **Making Inferences** How would you compare Locke's ideas about government with Rousseau's?