

## Graphic Organizer Title: *Influences on American Government*

### Section 1: Leading European Thinkers

#### 1. John Locke

- **Key Ideas:** Natural rights (life, liberty, property), social contract, consent of the governed.
- **Influence on American Government:**
  - Declaration of Independence (rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness).
  - Government's role to protect individual rights.

**Prompt:** How does Locke's theory of natural rights appear in the U.S. Constitution and Declaration of Independence?

#### 2. Charles-Louis Montesquieu

- **Key Ideas:** Separation of powers, checks and balances.
- **Influence on American Government:**
  - U.S. Constitution's three branches of government: Executive, Legislative, Judicial.
  - System of checks and balances to prevent any one branch from becoming too powerful.

**Prompt:** How does Montesquieu's concept of separation of powers shape the structure of the U.S. government?

#### 3. Thomas Hobbes

- **Key Ideas:** Social contract, strong central authority, belief in the necessity of an authoritative ruler to prevent chaos.
- **Influence on American Government:**
  - Some influence in Federalist arguments for a strong federal government.
  - Contrast with Locke's emphasis on individual rights.

**Prompt:** How does Hobbes' view of government differ from Locke's, and where can you see traces of Hobbes' influence in early American political thought?

## Section 2: Roots of American Government

### 1. Greek Democracy

- **Key Ideas:** Direct democracy, civic participation.
- **Influence on American Government:**
  - Founding fathers' emphasis on civic duty and participation in governance.
  - Influence on ideas of citizen involvement in a republic.

**Prompt:** What aspects of Greek democracy are reflected in the way American citizens participate in government today?

### 2. Roman Republic

- **Key Ideas:** Representative democracy, rule of law, elected officials.
- **Influence on American Government:**
  - U.S. system of electing representatives (Senate, House of Representatives).
  - Concept of a written legal code (Constitution).

**Prompt:** How did the Roman Republic's system of government inspire the framework of the U.S. government?

### 3. Magna Carta

- **Key Ideas:** Limited government, rule of law, due process.
- **Influence on American Government:**
  - Early example of limiting the power of rulers and establishing individual rights.
  - Influence on the development of the U.S. Constitution's protections for individual rights and due process.

**Prompt:** How did the Magna Carta influence American constitutional protections for individual freedoms?