

Example Gov. Notebook

(Left Side)

2.1

Origin's of the American Government

I. An English Political Heritage

- A. The English colonists brought with them a heritage of freedom & principles of government that helped shaped the development of the US
- B. The concept of limited government, dating from the Magna Carta in 1215, was an accepted part of the English system
- C. The Petition of Right in 1628 severely limited the power of the English monarch.
- D. The colonists believed in the limits on the ruler's power & the freedoms protected in the English Bill of Rights, passed by Parliament in 1688
- E. The colonists firmly believed in representative government, following the model of parliament.
- F. The ideas of the 17th century English philosopher John Locke deeply influenced the American colonists.

II. Government in the Colonies

- A. The present system of American government evolved largely from colonial governments & their practices
- B. Written plans of government were a key feature of the colonial period.
- C. Representative assemblies elected by the people helped establish the traditions of representative government in America.
- D. The division of government powers among the governor, the colonial legislatures, & colonial courts helped establish the principle of the separation of powers.

Example Gov. Notebook

(Right Side)

The Thirteen Colonies

