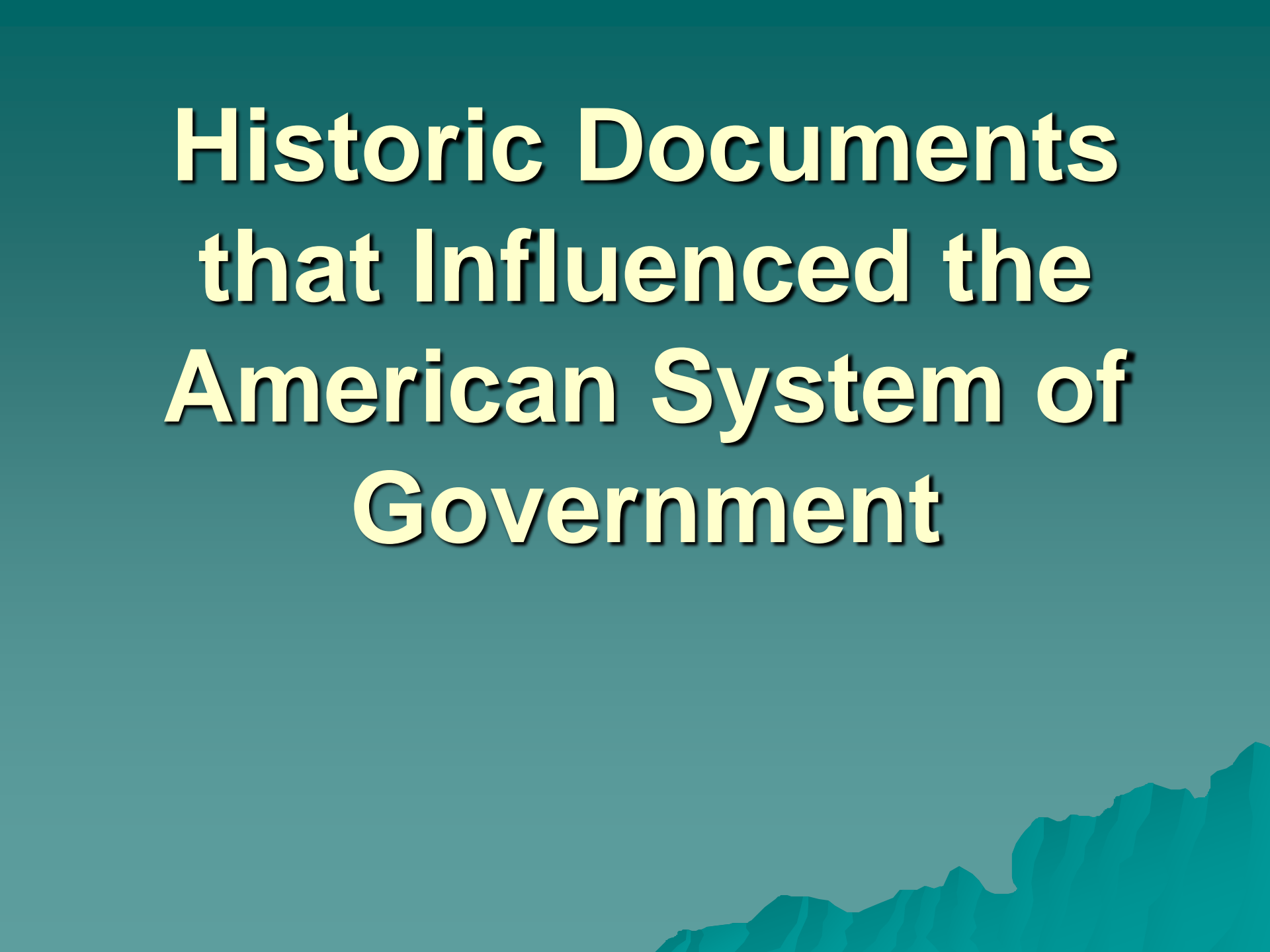


Historic Documents that Influenced the American System of Government



Magna Carta, 1215

- ◆ Limited the power of the king by guaranteeing rights to the people.
- ◆ These rights were:
 - no cruel & unusual punishment
 - the right to a fair and speedy trial by your peers
 - the government must have the peoples approval to levy taxes

The House of Burgesses, 1619

- ◆ Written in Virginia in 1619, the House of Burgesses is the first example of an elected representative assembly in the Americas



The Mayflower Compact, 1620

- ◆ Written by the Pilgrims when they landed near Plymouth. It is a contract of self government where government is organized for the good of the people.



The Fundamental Orders of Connecticut, 1636

- ◆ Considered the first written constitution in the colonies which outlined how government worked and that the community is to work together
- ◆ All other colonies will model their constitutions like it



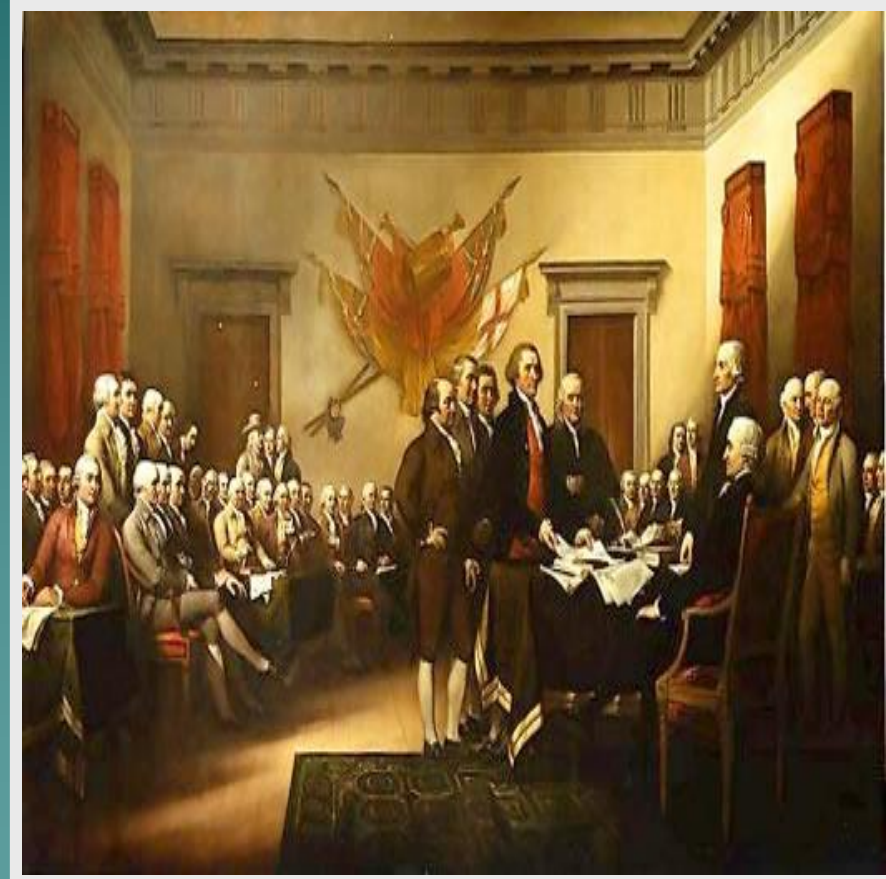
English Bill of Rights, 1689

- ◆ Monarchs William and Mary of Orange agree to allow the parliament (people) power over the monarchy.
- ◆ Additional rights gained:
 - freedom of speech and debate
 - no excessive bails, right to petition government and a right to trial



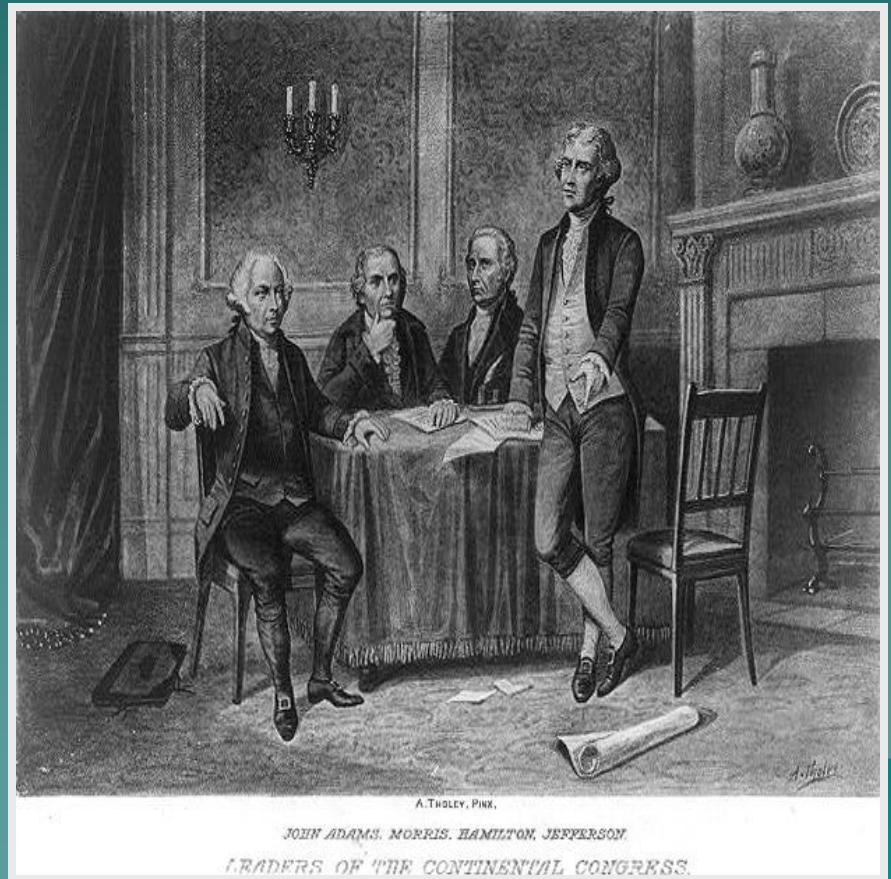
The Declaration of Independence, 1776

- ◆ **Written by Thomas Jefferson it is made of three parts: a statement of human rights, reasons for declaring independence and the declaration.**
- ◆ **It explains: Unalienable rights, government gets its power from the people and people have the right to replace bad governments.**



The Articles of Confederation, 1781

- ◆ Adopted at the 2nd Continental Congress
- ◆ It was a weak national government because power resided in states
- ◆ Could not collect taxes, enforce laws, regulate trade or amend the Articles



United States Constitution, 1787

- ◆ Adopted as a result of the many weaknesses of the Articles
- ◆ Outlines the formation of government, includes a Bill of Rights and presents a the federal system of government



The Signing of the United States Constitution



Representative Government

- ◆ People elect representatives to make laws and govern. Elected representatives have the power to pass laws. This power is deprived from the people's consent (voting representatives who represent the voters desires).

