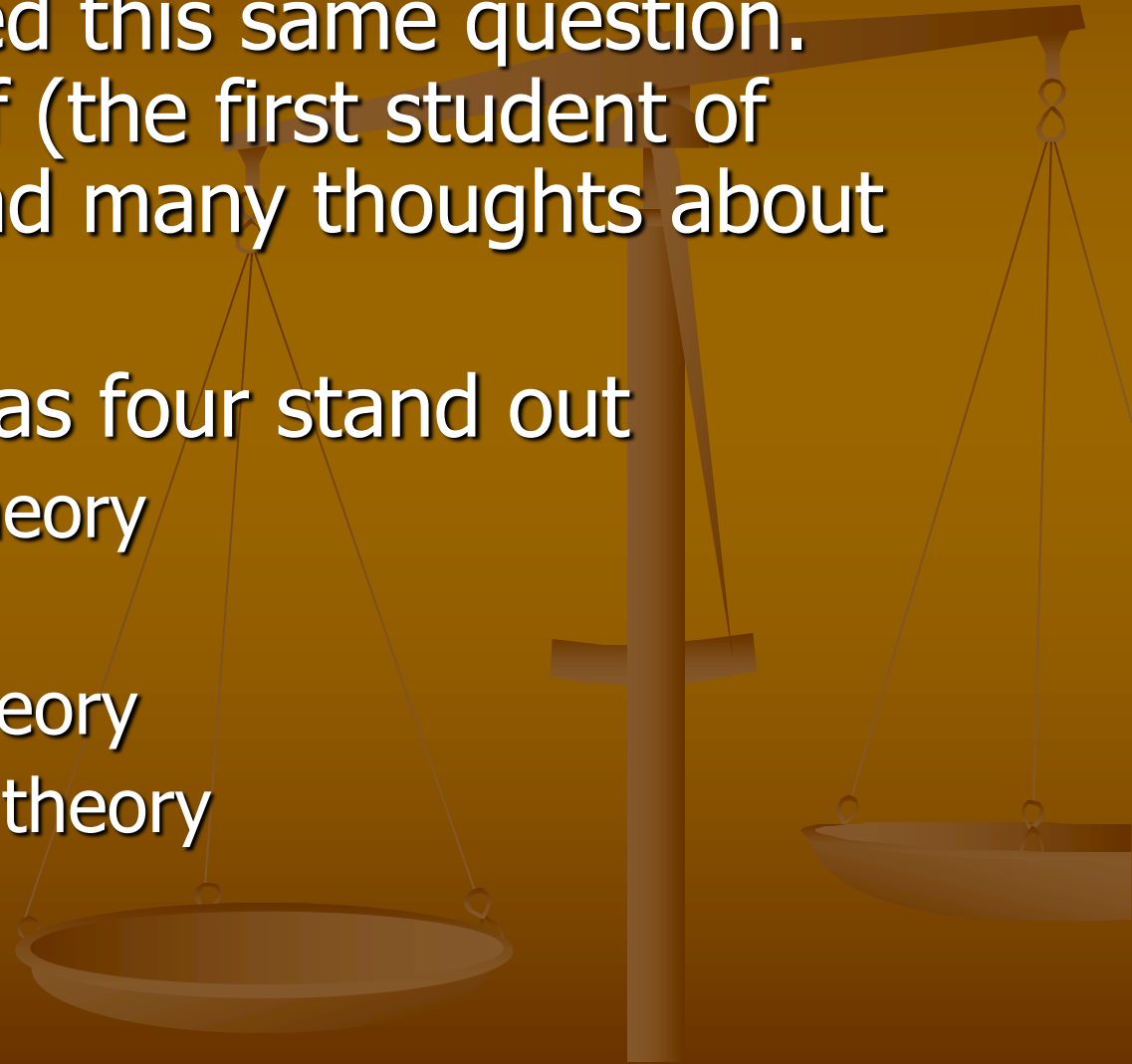


Origins of Government

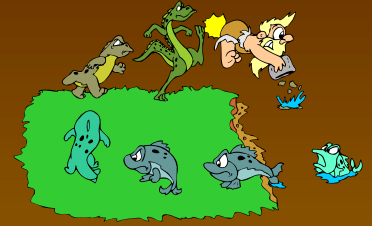
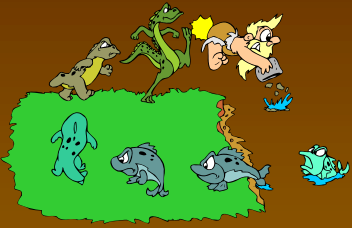


Where Did Politics Come From?

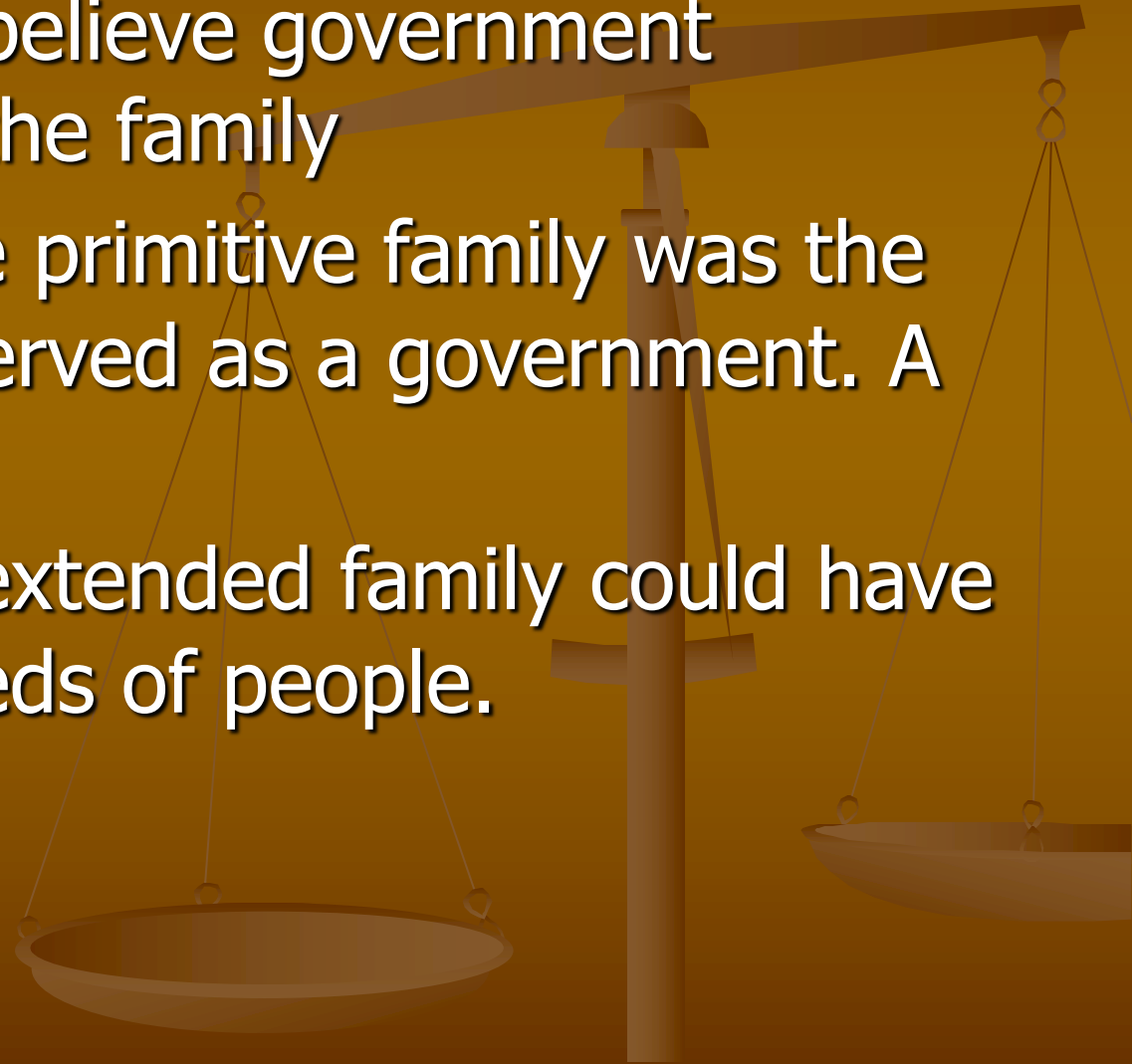
- Many have asked this same question. Aristotle himself (the first student of government) had many thoughts about this.
- Of all of the ideas four stand out
 - Evolutionary Theory
 - Force Theory
 - Divine Right Theory
 - Social Contract theory



Evolutionary Theory



- Some scholars believe government evolved out of the family
- The head of the primitive family was the authority and served as a government. A King if you will
- From there an extended family could have included hundreds of people.





Force Theory



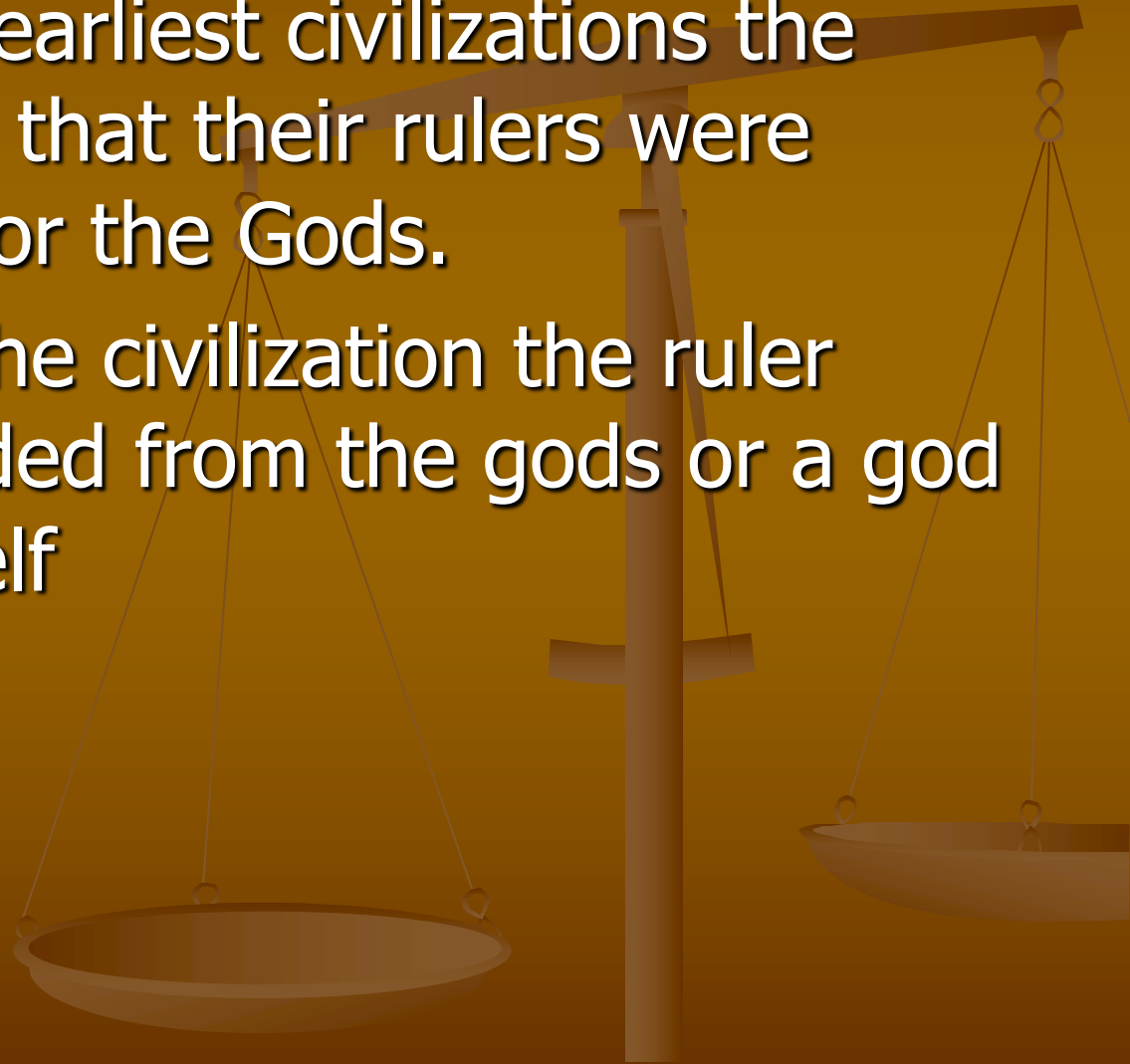
- Most will not admit it, but it seems that it's human nature to fight and control others not like us or for resources we don't have.
- It's through this that some scholars believe that government was born of force
- When all the people of a area were brought under control of one person or group, government was born.



Divine Right Theory

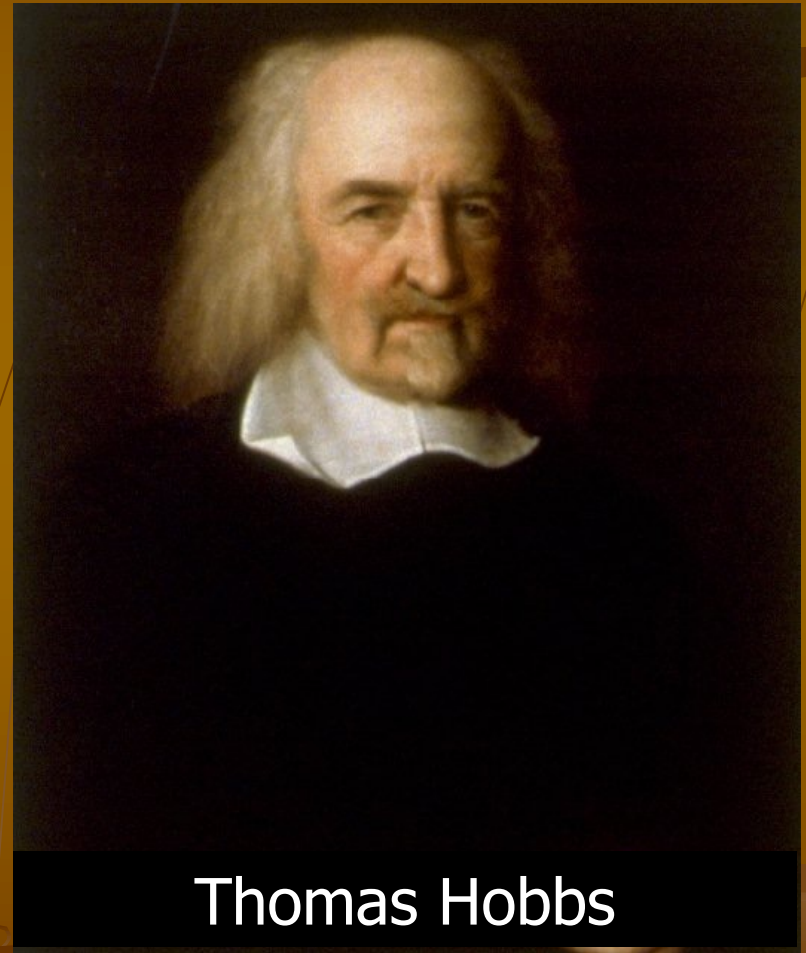


- In many of the earliest civilizations the people believed that their rulers were chosen by God or the Gods.
- Depending on the civilization the ruler may be descended from the gods or a god himself or herself



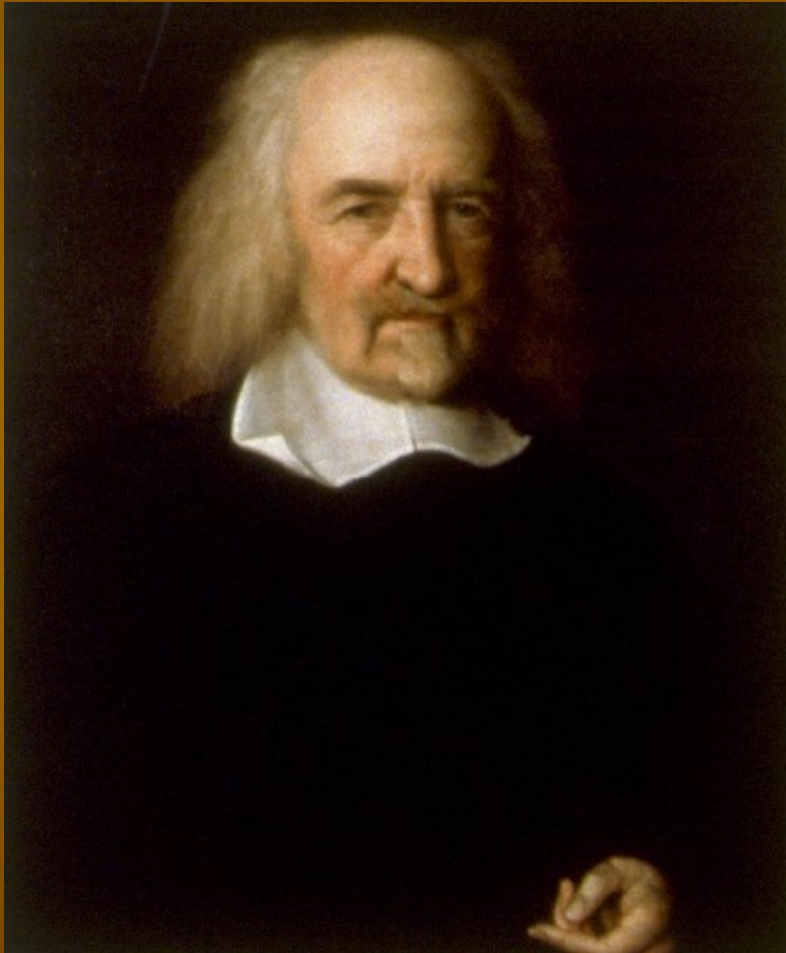
Social Contract Theory

- Originally developed by Thomas Hobbs.
- Wrote “In a state of nature no government existed and without authority to protect people from one another, life was cruel, brutish and short”.



Thomas Hobbs

Social Contract Theory



- Hobbs also wrote that by contract people surrendered to the state the power needed to maintain order.
- The state in turn agreed to protect its citizens
- Hobbs believed that the citizens could not break this contract.

Social Contract Theory

- John Locke took this theory a step farther
- Locke wrote that people had the right to “life, liberty and property.”
- To preserve these rights the people looked to government



John Locke

Social Contract Theory



- Should the government not preserve those rights the people could simply “break the contract”
- About a century later the American colonies declared their independence supported by Locke’s political philosophy.

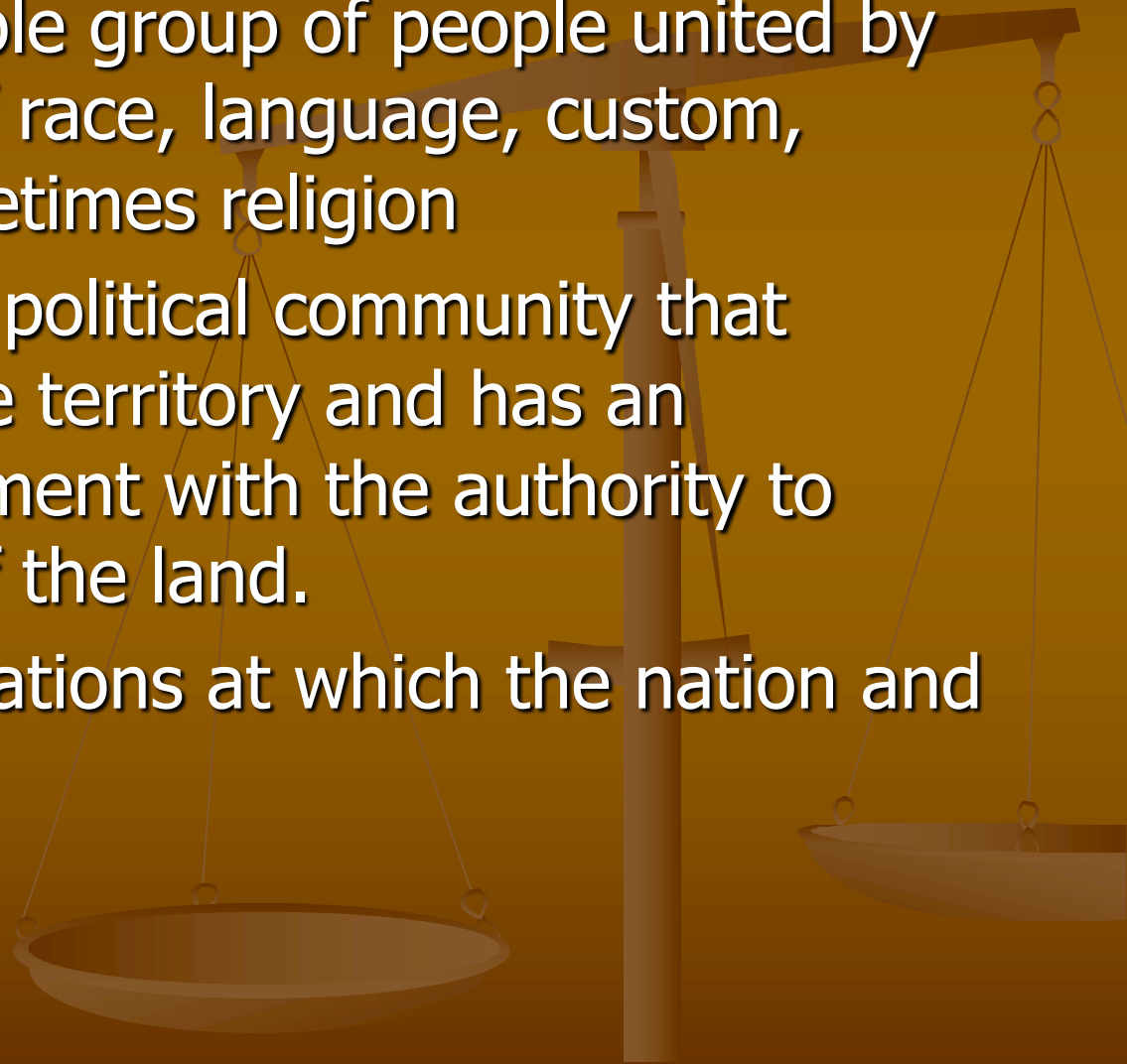
Special Features



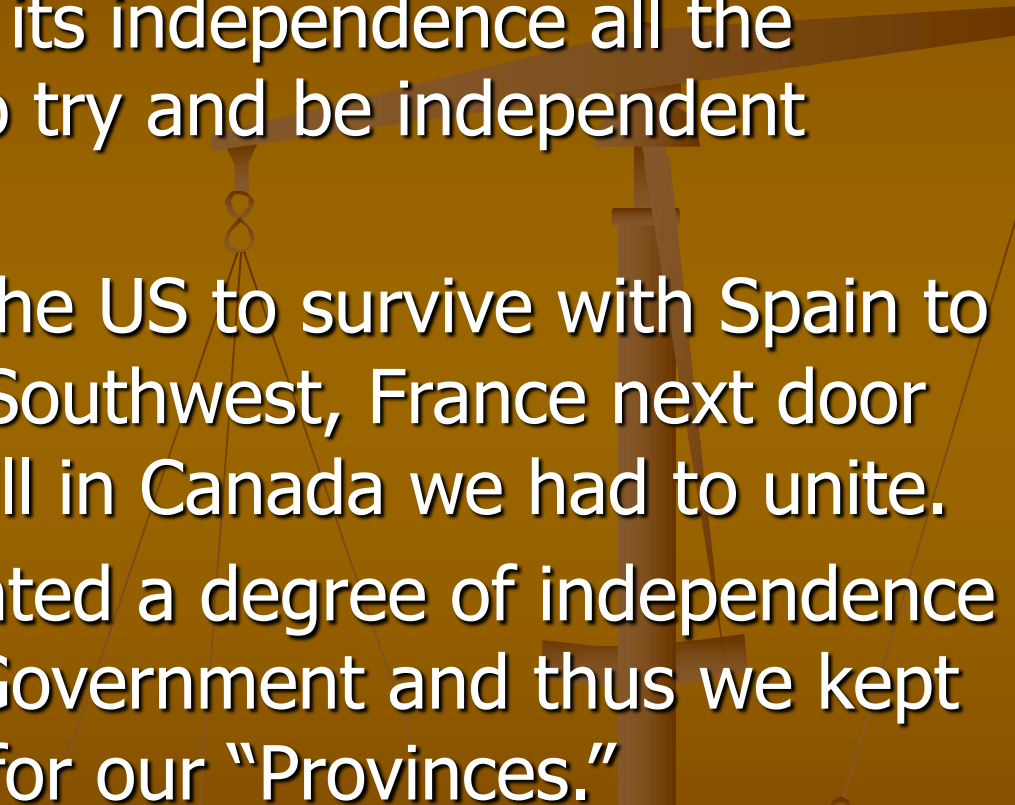
- Every state regardless of where it came from shares four essential features.
 - Population: The state needs people to govern
 - Territory: The has established boundaries that the rest of the world recognizes for the most part.
 - Sovereignty: The state needs a leader of some type, that has absolute authority.
 - Government: Some way to maintain social order and provide public services.

Nation, State or Both

- Nation: any sizeable group of people united by common bonds of race, language, custom, tradition and sometimes religion
- State: identifies a political community that occupies a definite territory and has an organized government with the authority to enforce the law of the land.
- Nation-State: Situations at which the nation and the state overlap.



Why are our States called “States”?

- When the US won its independence all the colonies wanted to try and be independent nations.
 - The only way for the US to survive with Spain to the Far West and Southwest, France next door and the English still in Canada we had to unite.
 - Each US state wanted a degree of independence from the Federal Government and thus we kept the name “State” for our “Provinces.”
- 

So What does Government do?

- There are four major features

- Maintain social order



- Provide public services



- Provide National Security and a common defense

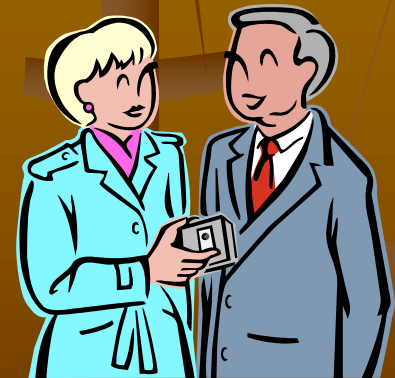
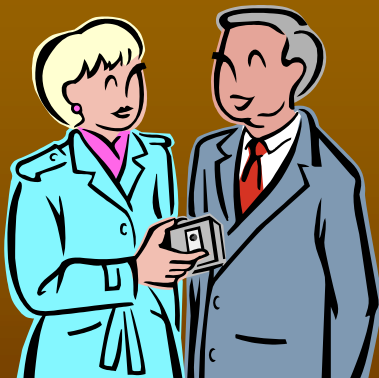


- Make Economic Decisions



Maintain Social Order

- Without government, civilized life would not be possible
- Government controls and contains conflict between people by placing limits on what people can and cannot do (IE Laws).



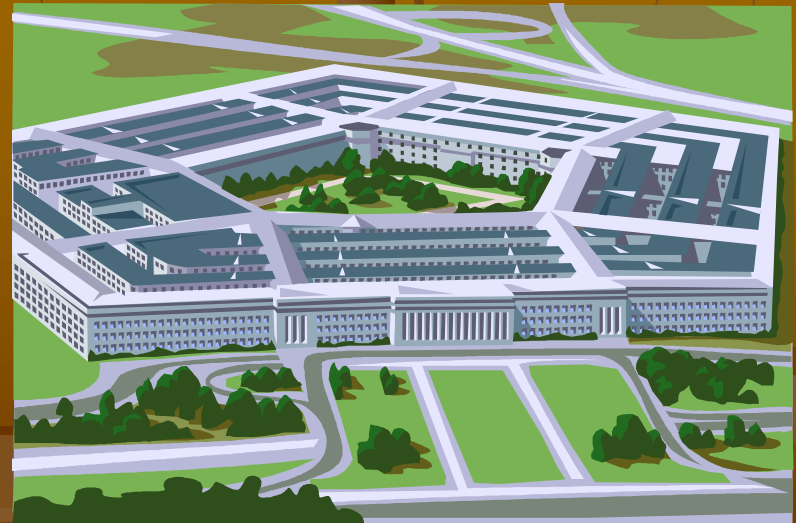
Provide Public Services

- Simply provide service that make community life possible.
- Governments (Local, State and Federal) generally undertake projects such as Road Construction or Sewer Systems
- Governments also enforce building and public safety laws to protect its citizens



Provide National Security

- The government must protect its citizens from internal and external attack.
- The Government also maintains normal relations with other nations.



Make Economic Decisions

- No country provides EVERYTHING its population needs and/or desires.



- They do pass laws that help to shape the economy
 - Minor: Establish a currency
 - Major: Control every individuals economic decisions.

