



The Origins of Liberalism

English, French, and American Inspirations
towards a republic

Pre-Class Discussion

- Take a minute and brainstorm the following question:
“If you could design a government however you wanted, how would it be organized and why?”

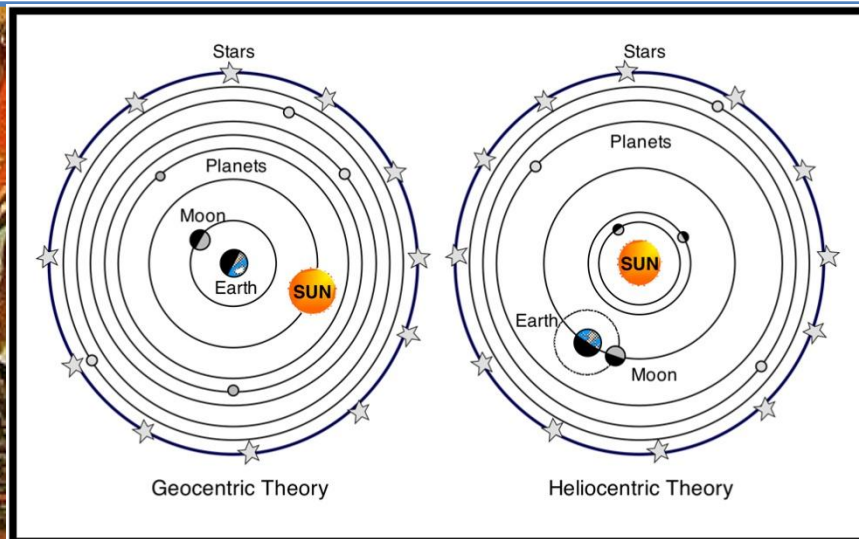
Problems facing the old empires

Liberalism – Government structure in favor of placing power in the hands of the people



Origins of the Enlightenment: The Scientific Revolution

- New ideas on scientific theory and the universe
 - Applied scientific reasoning to create explanations for natural phenomenon
 - Later applied reason to social and political theory



The English Civil War

- Monarchists versus Republicans
 - Republicans upset over absolute rule of King Charles I
- Executed Charles I
 - Established Republic
 - Gave other countries the idea



The Glorious Revolution 1688

- James II takes throne
 - Catholic in control of a protestant nation
- Parliament did not like him
 - Offered crown to William and Mary of the Netherlands
 - Parliament becomes supreme power
 - William gives up most power to Parliament



Impact of the English Civil War and Glorious Revolution

- Other groups of people saw that it was possible to fight against a monarch and actually win
 - Inspired new thoughts on the best form of government
 - Inspired revolutions against kings



The Enlightenment

- The Enlightenment was a time of new thought regarding society, economics and government in Europe.
 - Centered in France
 - Spread to Americas
 - Eventually all over



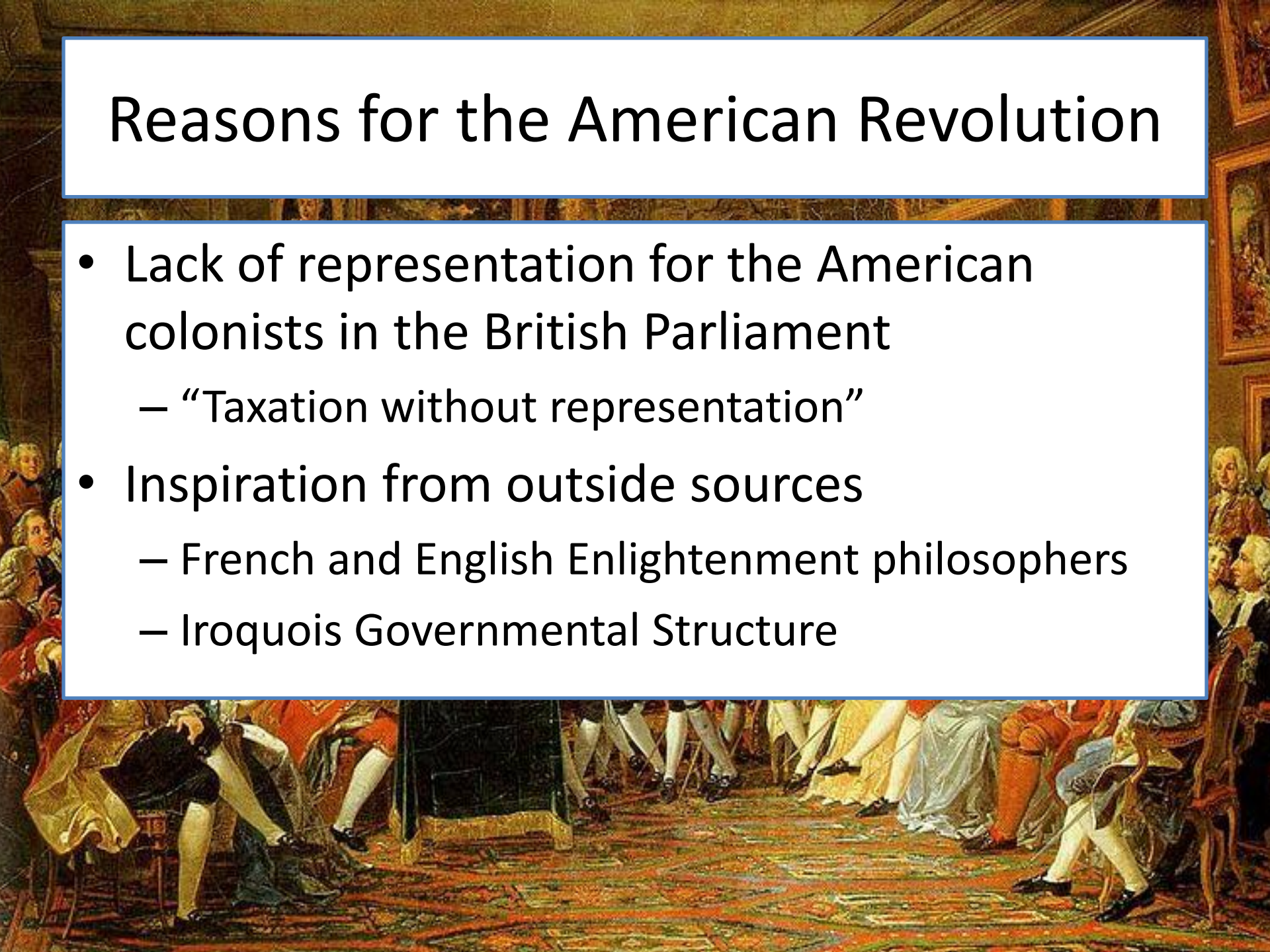
Main ideas of the Enlightenment

- Most philosophers protested against Absolutism
 - Censorship
 - Hereditary rule
- Instead they pushed for citizen involvement
 - Limits on Kings
 - Constitutions
 - Ability to vote
 - Personal Rights



Reasons for the American Revolution

- Lack of representation for the American colonists in the British Parliament
 - “Taxation without representation”
- Inspiration from outside sources
 - French and English Enlightenment philosophers
 - Iroquois Governmental Structure



Foreign Involvement in the American War of Independence

- Baron Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben
 - Prussian born trainer of American army at Valley Forge
- French support
 - Allied with Americans in 1778
 - Supplied weapons, supplies, troops, and naval support



Impact of American Revolution

- French soldiers returned home with ideas of revolution
- Other American colonies (especially Spanish) got ideas of independence
- United States forms a republic
 - European nations desire the same

