



Ideas Behind the



Constitution

Chapter 8 / Lesson 3

First Things First...

Ancient Greece
defined

democracy

as “government
by the people.”

The Lessons of Rome's Republic

Create a **republic**, a government in which citizens rule themselves through elected representatives.

Follow the **Roman Republic** example—emphasize the virtues of **independence** and **public service**.

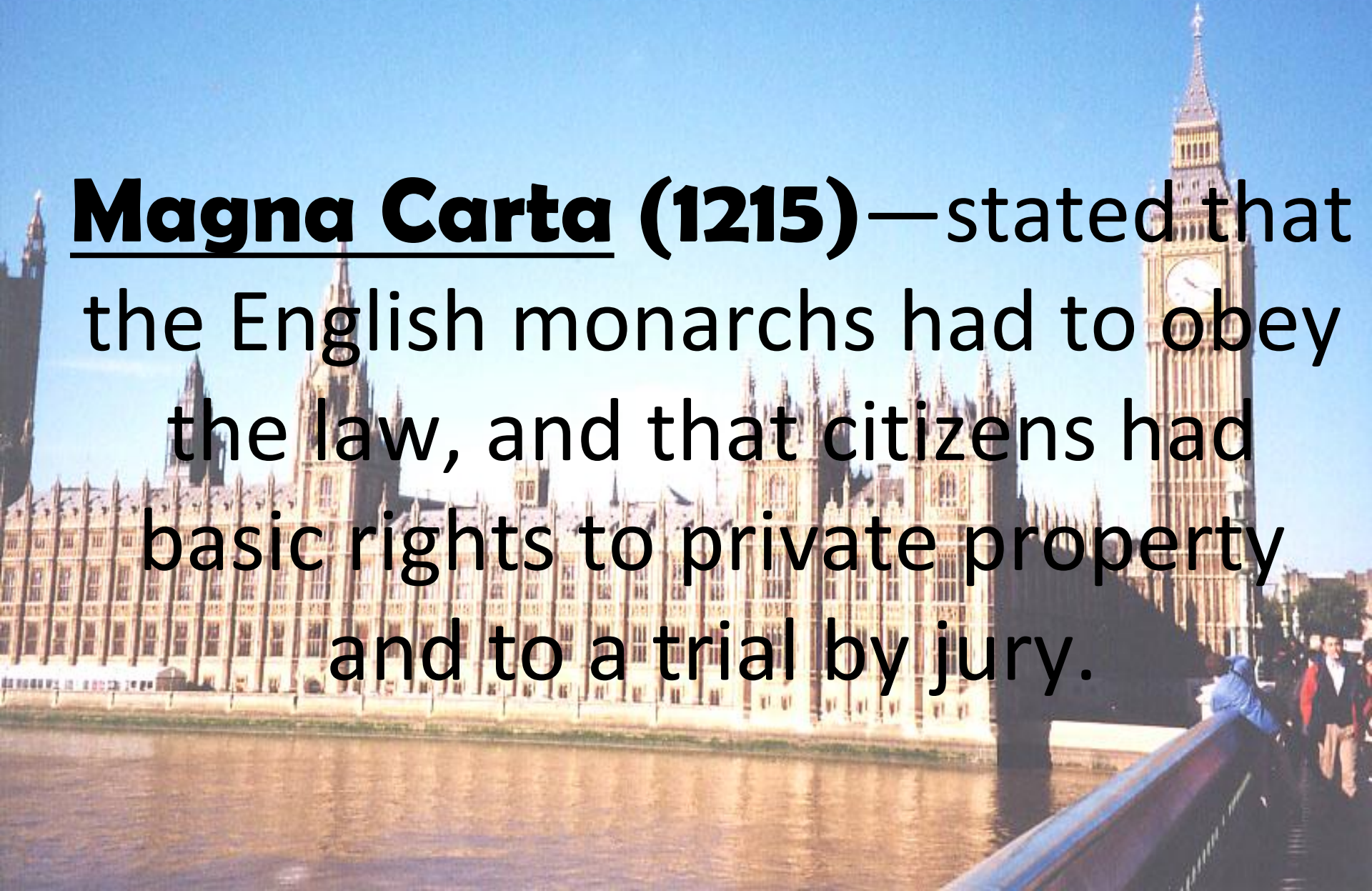


The **WARNINGS** of Rome's Empire

Heed the warning from the fall of the Roman Empire—produce educated and dedicated citizens who honor independence and public service.

Britain's Traditions of Freedoms

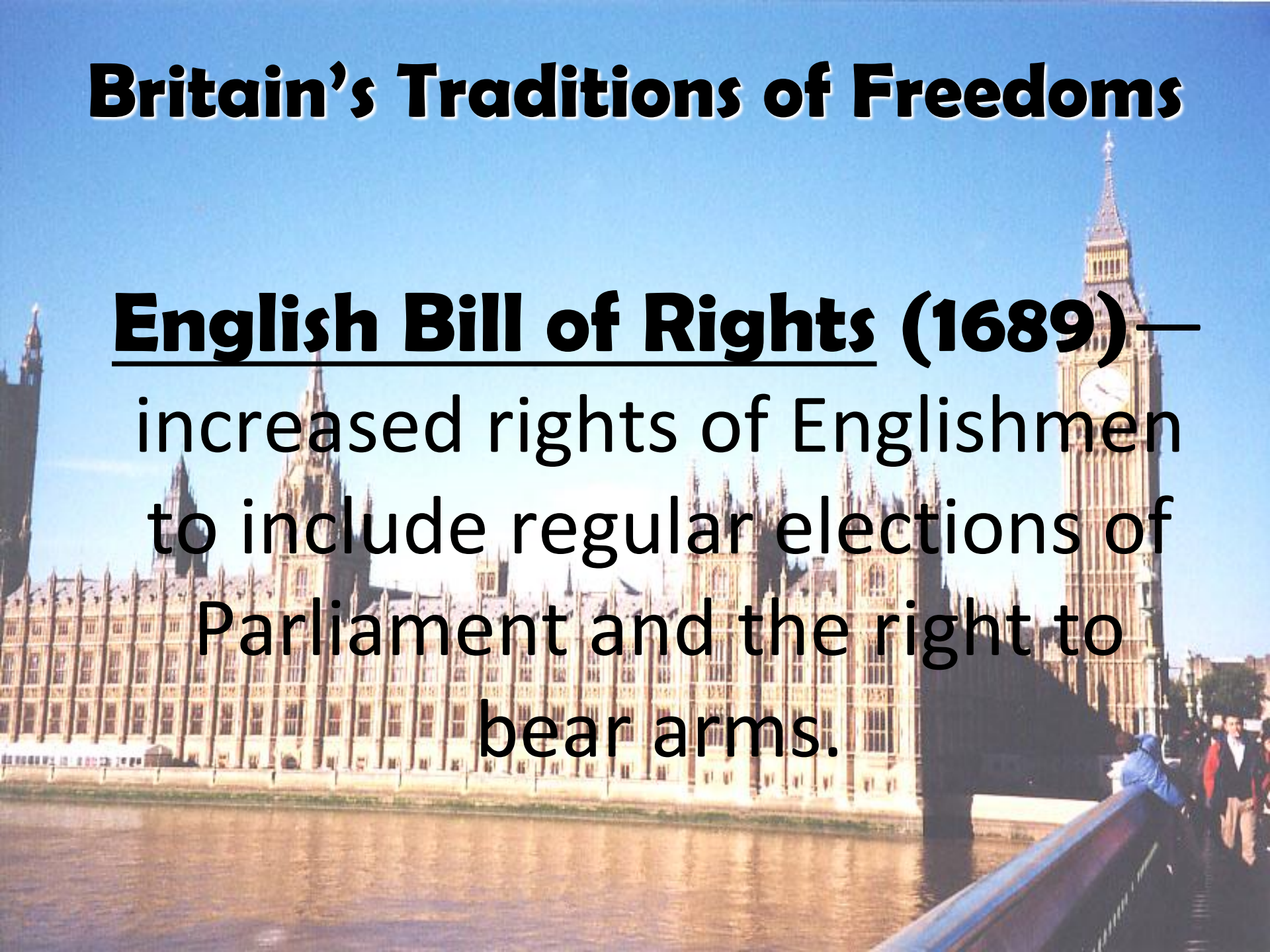
Magna Carta (1215)—stated that the English monarchs had to obey the law, and that citizens had basic rights to private property and to a trial by jury.



Britain's Traditions of Freedoms

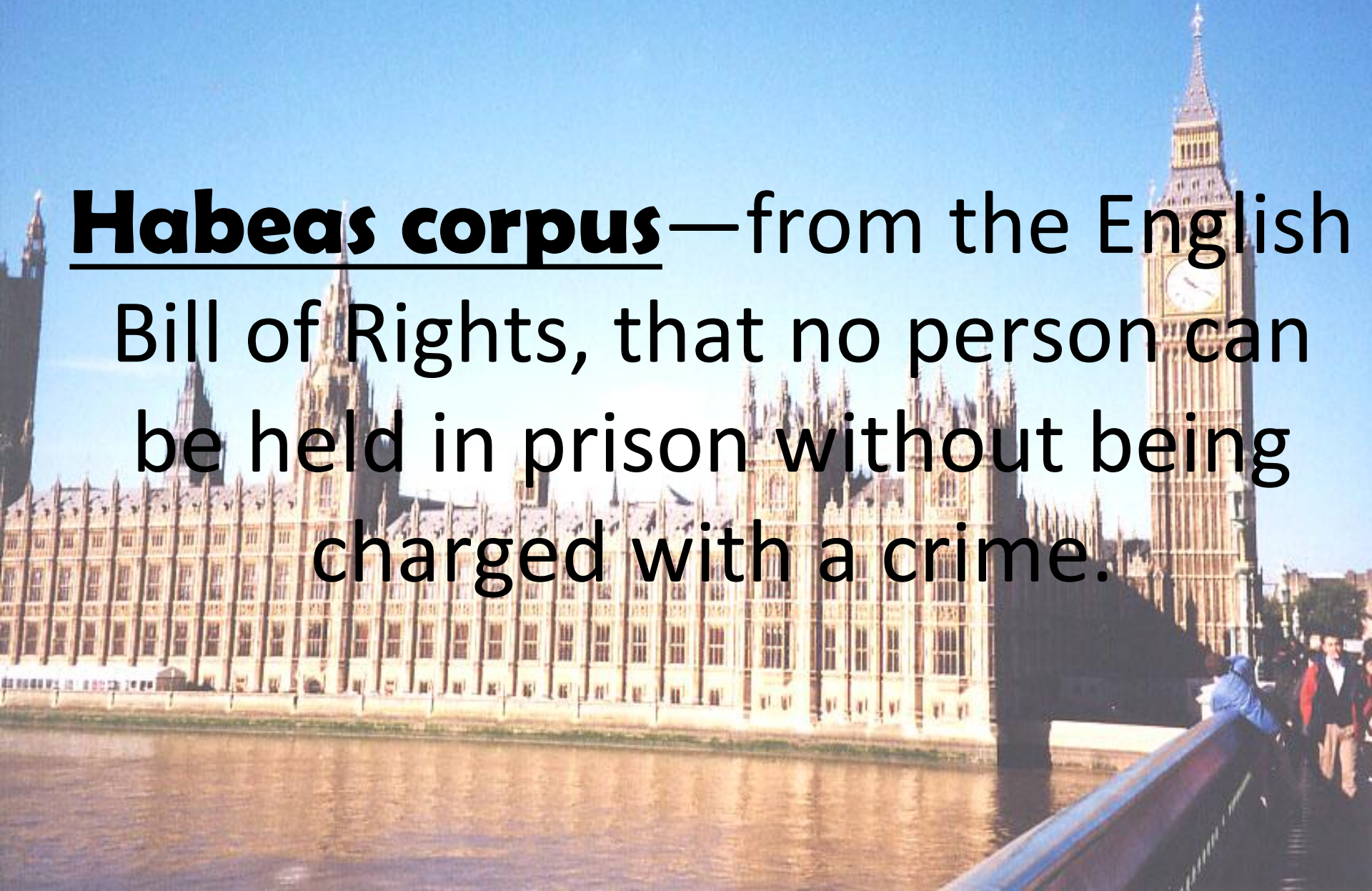
English Bill of Rights (1689)—

increased rights of Englishmen to include regular elections of Parliament and the right to bear arms.



Britain's Traditions of Freedoms

Habeas corpus—from the English Bill of Rights, that no person can be held in prison without being charged with a crime.



The American Experience

A long tradition of **representative government** beginning with the **Virginia House of Burgesses (1619)**, and a **history of written documents** that clearly define the powers and limits of government, including the **Mayflower Compact (1620)** and the written charters (constitutions) of each of the Thirteen Colonies.

The American Experience



Declaration of Independence (1776)

—the written grievances against the English king and to prevent such abuses in the new government.

Familiarity with writing constitutions

—including state constitutions and the

Articles of Confederation (1777).

Follow the Paper Trail...

**Let's see if you can name
each of the following items?**

Follow the Paper Trail...

Magna Carta

1215... King not above the law



Follow the Paper Trail...

House of Burgesses

1619... First representative assembly

Follow the Paper Trail...

Mayflower Compact

1620... First charter of self-government

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.
Follow the Paper Trail...

BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
IN GENERAL CONGRESS ASSEMBLED.

Declaration of Independence

W H E N in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the Political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the Separation.

When these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness, Government is instituted among Men, deriving its just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, whose just Powers are limited to securing these Rights, and that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Manner, as shall seem to them most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Indeed, if all the Governments of the Earth were to be dissolved, the only Government that would be left, would be that of the People, and it is the Duty of the People to provide for their own Safety and Happiness, and to provide new Guards for their future Security. Such has been the patient Sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the Necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The History of the present King of Great-Britain is a History of repeated Injuries and Usurpations, all having in direct Object the Establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid World.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public Good.
He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing Importance, unless suspended in their Operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to assent to Laws for the Relief of large Tracts of our most valuable Lands, which he had by his Warrants granted to the Colonies; and when so assented to, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.
He has refused to assent to Acts for the Extension of the Boundaries of our Colonies; and when so assented to, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to assent to Acts for the Relief of our Debtors; and when so assented to, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.
He has refused to assent to Acts for the Relief of our Prisoners; and when so assented to, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused for a long Time, after most solemn Declarations, to cause others to be elected, whereby the Legislative Powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their Support; the State remaining in the mean Time exposed to all the Dangers of Invasion from without, and Convulsions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the Population of these States; for that Purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their Migrations hither, and raising the Conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.
He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers.
He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the Tenure of their Offices, and the Amount and Payment of their Salaries.

He has erected a Multitude of new Offices, and sent hither Swarms of Officers to harass our People, and eat out their Substance.
He has kept among us, in Times of Peace, Standing Armies, without the Consent of our Legislatures.
He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil Power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a Jurisdiction foreign to our Constitution, and unacknowledged by our Laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:
For quartering large Bodies of Armed Troops among us;
For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from Punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States;
For cutting off our Trade with all Parts of the World;

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent;
For depriving us, in many Cases, of the Benefit of Trial by Jury;
For abolishing the System of Writs, which is the Basis of the Constitution;
For suspending the Habeas Corpus, the great Safeguard of the Liberty of the People;
For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments;

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.
He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.
He has plundered our Seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our Towns, and destroyed the Lives of our People.

He is, at this Time, transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the Works of Death, Desolation, and Tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty and Perfidy, scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous Ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized Nation.
He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the Executioners of their Friends and

1776... Foundation of freedom / world

No. 1. - *Ex: H. S. L.* 25
ARTICLES
U F
Follow the Paper Trail...

Confederation
Articles of
Perpetual Union
CONFEDERATION
STATES
O F

NEW HAMPSHIRE, MASSACHUSETTS BAY, RHODE ISLAND, AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS,
CONNECTICUT, NEW YORK, NEW JERSEY, PENNSYLVANIA, DELAWARE, MARYLAND,
VIRGINIA, NORTH CAROLINA, SOUTH CAROLINA, AND GEORGIA.

1777... First American constitution

W I L L I A M S B U R G:
Printed by ALEXANDER PURDIE.

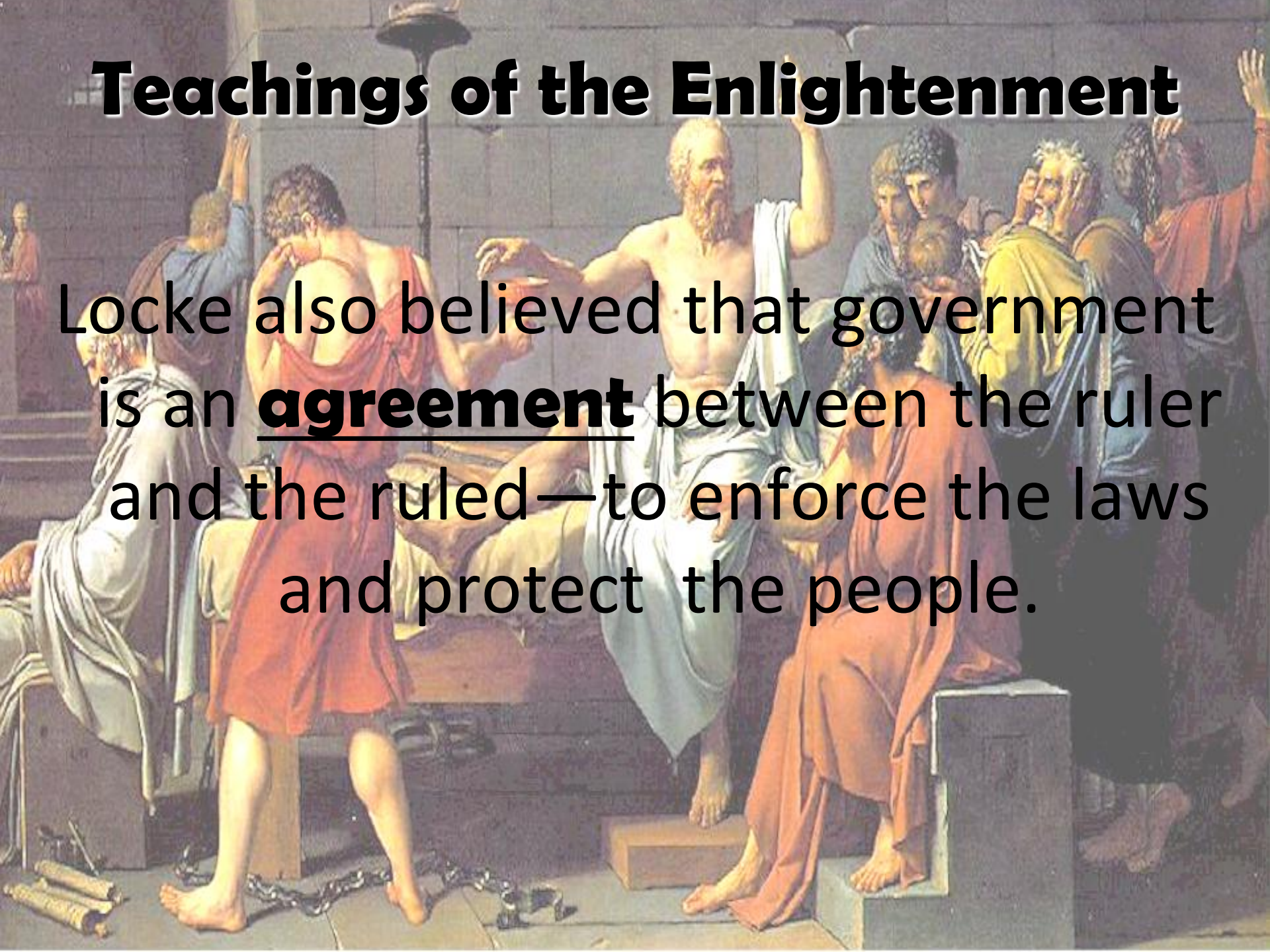
Teachings of the Enlightenment

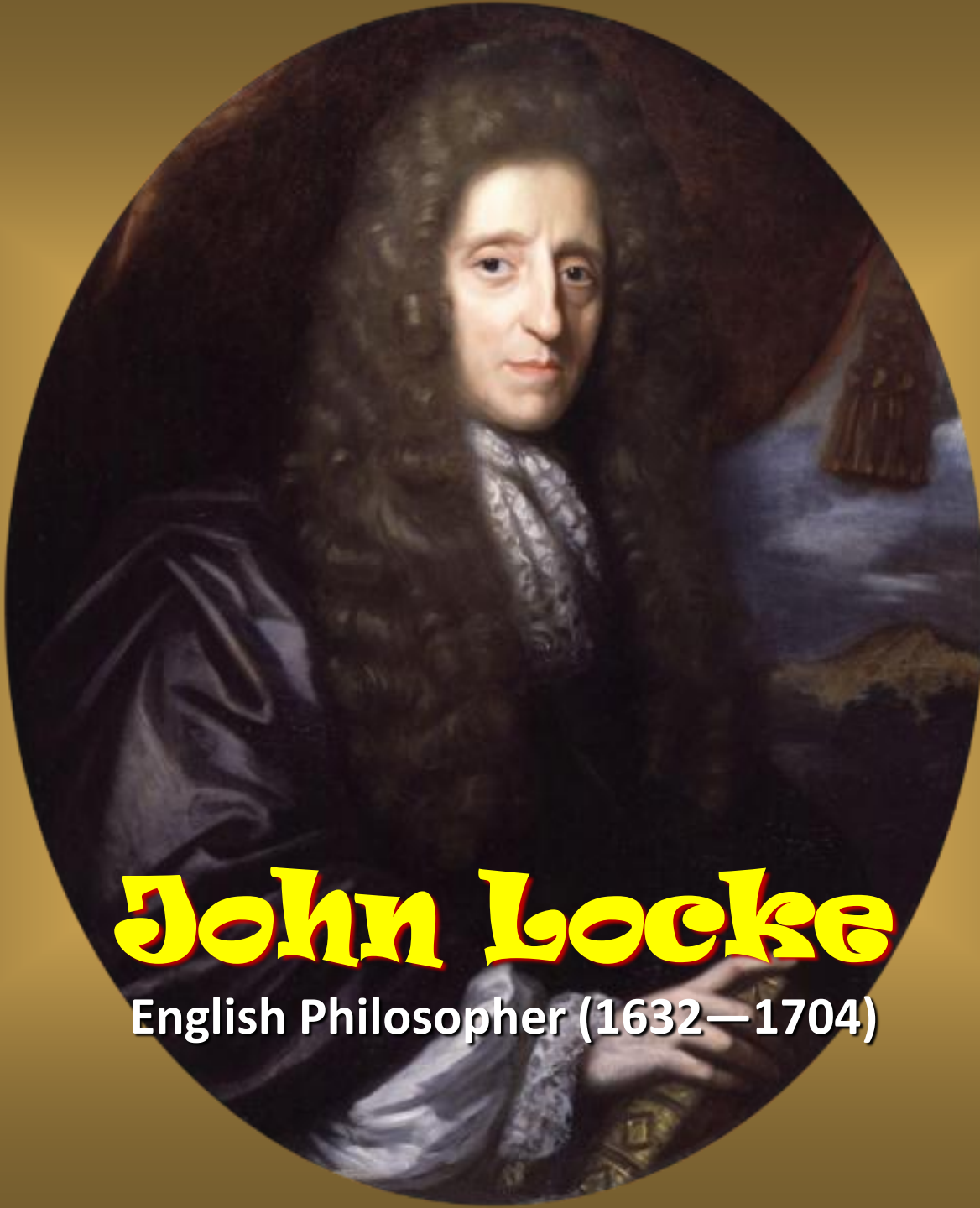


According to John Locke, all people had natural rights to life, liberty, and property. (Property later changed by Jefferson to “pursuit of happiness” in the Declaration of Independence.)

Teachings of the Enlightenment

Locke also believed that government is an agreement between the ruler and the ruled—to enforce the laws and protect the people.





John Locke

English Philosopher (1632—1704)

Teachings of the Enlightenment



Baron de Montesquieu stressed the importance of the **rule of law**—government's powers should be clearly defined and divided up.

Teachings of the Enlightenment



Montesquieu also suggested the separation of powers (found in our three branches of government) to prevent any one person or group from gaining too much power.

A profile portrait of Baron de Montesquieu, a French philosopher. He is shown from the chest up, facing left. He has dark, wavy hair and is wearing a light-colored garment. The background is a dark, solid color.

Baron de Montesquieu

French Philosopher (1689—1755)

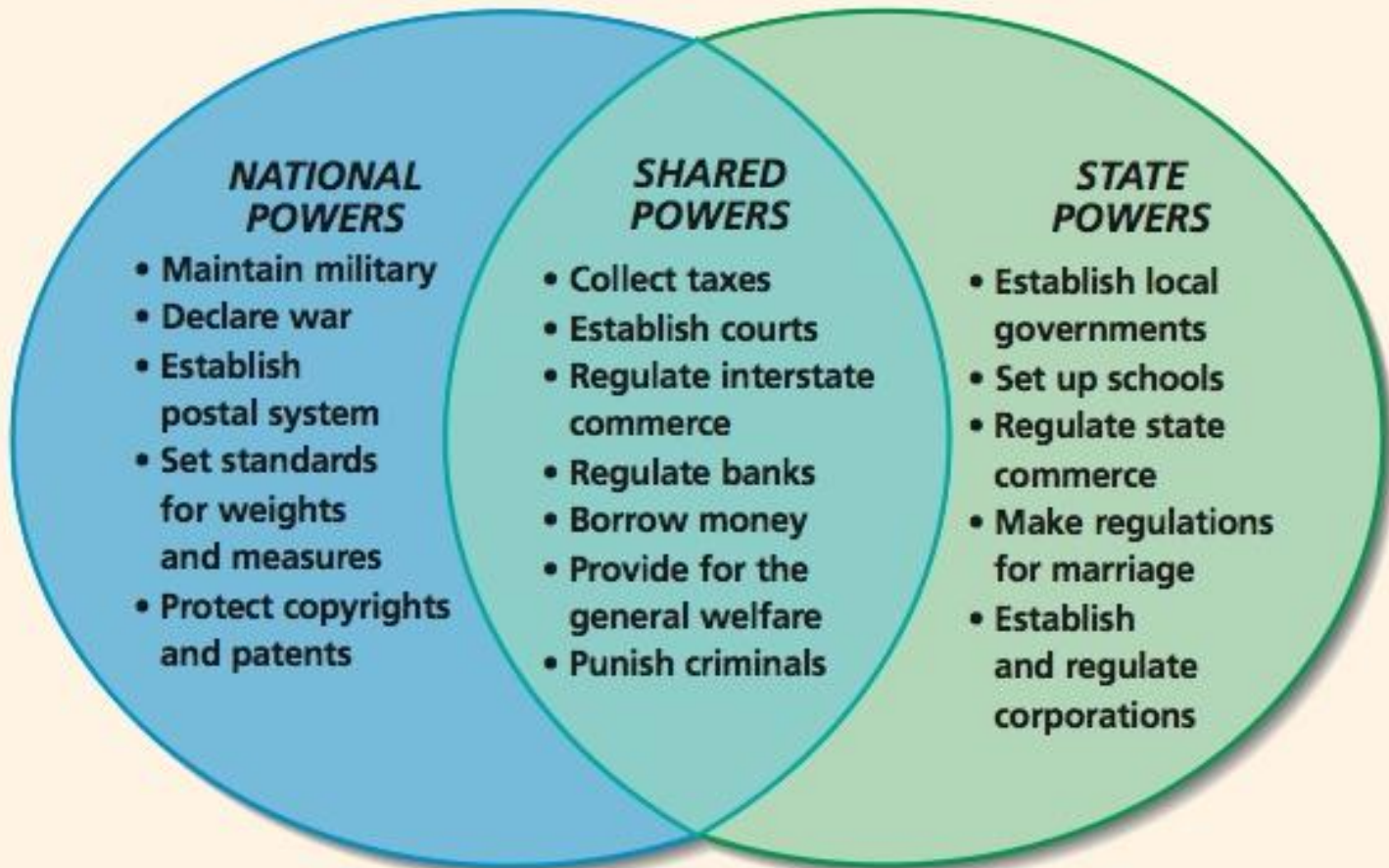
Federalism



**The sharing of power
between the federal
(national) and state
governments**

Federalism

Americans live under both national and state governments.



MERE HISTORY



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