

Who Holds Power?

Read how Enlightenment thinkers challenged traditional political authority.

9.9e "The Enlightenment challenged views of political authority and how power and authority were conceptualized."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline sources of political authority. Circle government duties or limits. Label examples H (Hobbes) or L (Locke).

Authority After Conflict

- ① England's civil wars in the 1640s brought fighting, religious conflict, and uncertainty. Charles I was executed in 1649. Hobbes published *Leviathan* in 1651, arguing that people facing insecurity could authorize a powerful sovereign to keep peace. That sovereign could be one ruler or an assembly. Hobbes grounded authority in human agreement and the need for protection, not simply inherited tradition. His argument favored broad sovereign power as a defense against civil conflict.
- ② Locke's *Second Treatise of Government*, published in 1689 with a 1690 title-page date, offered a different account. People possessed natural rights to life, liberty, and property. Legitimate government rested on consent and existed to protect rights. A government that seriously betrayed this trust could be resisted and replaced. Authority was therefore conditional. Neither Locke's political world nor Hobbes's was a modern democracy with equal participation for everyone.
- ③ During the Glorious Revolution, William of Orange invaded England in 1688 and James II fled. Parliament offered the crown to William and Mary in 1689 with constitutional conditions. The Bill of Rights rejected royal suspension of laws and taxation without parliamentary authority. This strengthened Parliament but did not establish universal voting or religious equality. The events and debates challenged claims to unchecked royal power. Hobbes and Locke both explained authority through human agreement, but differed over how best to protect people.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did the experience of the English Civil War help shape Hobbes's view of political authority?

2 According to Locke, what gives a government legitimate power, and what is its main duty?

3 What did the Glorious Revolution and the English Bill of Rights show about a monarch's power?

4 How did Hobbes and Locke agree about the source of authority, and how did they differ about the limits on rulers?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a 3- or 4-sentence statement arguing whether political authority should be broad or limited. State where authority comes from, include one duty or limit of government, and use Hobbes or Locke plus one event from the passage as evidence.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline sources of political authority. Circle government duties or limits. Label examples H (Hobbes) or L (Locke). Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the experience of the English Civil War help shape Hobbes's view of political authority?	The conflict and uncertainty made Hobbes fear disorder. He supported broad sovereign power to provide peace and security.
2	According to Locke, what gives a government legitimate power, and what is its main duty?	Legitimate power comes from the consent of the governed. Government's main duty is to protect people's natural rights.
3	What did the Glorious Revolution and the English Bill of Rights show about a monarch's power?	The crown changed hands and the Bill of Rights strengthened parliamentary limits on royal action, including laws and taxation.
4	How did Hobbes and Locke agree about the source of authority, and how did they differ about the limits on rulers?	Both connected authority to an agreement or choices made by people. Hobbes supported broad sovereign power for security, while Locke argued that rulers had limited power and could be replaced if they violated rights.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Political authority should be limited to protect rights. Locke argued that government rests on consent and must protect life, liberty, and property. The 1689 Bill of Rights placed limits on royal action. These limits show how law could restrain a monarch, even without modern democracy.

Accept a defensible position that identifies a source of authority, a government duty or limit, and accurate evidence from Hobbes, Locke, or the Glorious Revolution. Students may argue for broad authority if they accurately use Hobbes's focus on security and peace.