

The background of the slide is a stylized, slightly faded illustration of the United States flag, showing the stars and stripes waving. The colors are muted, with a light blue field for the stars and soft red and white stripes.

Why Do We NEED Government?

And Who's John Locke!?

Lesson Purpose

- Our form of ***government*** is based on a set of ideas and ideals.
- These ideas establish what the purpose of gov should be and what kind of gov is best.

→ This lesson introduces you to some of the basic ideas that were of great importance to the ***Founders***.

? What are natural rights?

When we finish....

You should be able to...

1. *Explain* what the **Founders** believed to the ***natural rights*** of human beings
2. Explain why the founders believed that people need a gov and how people create gov.

John Locke- He's a BIG Deal

- MANY of the founder's ideas about government were based on Locke's philosophy.
- John Locke was a well- known English philosopher, he published a book called Two Treaties of Government
- He is best known for is his ideas about state of nature, natural rights, and social contract



State of Nature - This does NOT mean in the woods, it means a place with no laws!

- John Locke saw *State of Nature* as a condition where NO governments or laws existed AT ALL!
- Locke asked himself how people would behave in a state of nature to determine the ideal government - we will come back to this!
- The ideas of Locke were used in the Declaration of Independence to explain *WHY* Americans were unhappy with British rule.
- After #winning! the Revolutionary War (= war for America to govern itself!) the Founders used most of the same ideas to write the state constitutions.

Natural Rights - These are the rights that humans have **EVEN** in a State of Nature.

- Locke believed that through reasoning we can determine what rights people have in a state of nature.
- Locke reasoned that in a state of nature people seek to have the following **3** rights:

The background of the image is a stylized, wavy American flag. The top portion shows the blue canton with white stars, while the rest of the image is filled with the red and white stripes. The flag appears to be waving in the wind, with soft shadows and highlights on the fabric.

Liberty

Life

Property

hmm....sound similar?

Life →

People want to ***SURVIVE***.

People want to be safe as possible from threats to their lives.

Liberty →

People want to be as ***FREE*** as possible.

People want to be able to make their OWN decisions and to live as they please!

Property →

People want to ***OWN THINGS NESSESARY TO SURVIVE***.

People want to own things like food, water, shelter, land. People want the *freedom* to gain *economic benefits*=earn money/ power!

Declaration of Independence

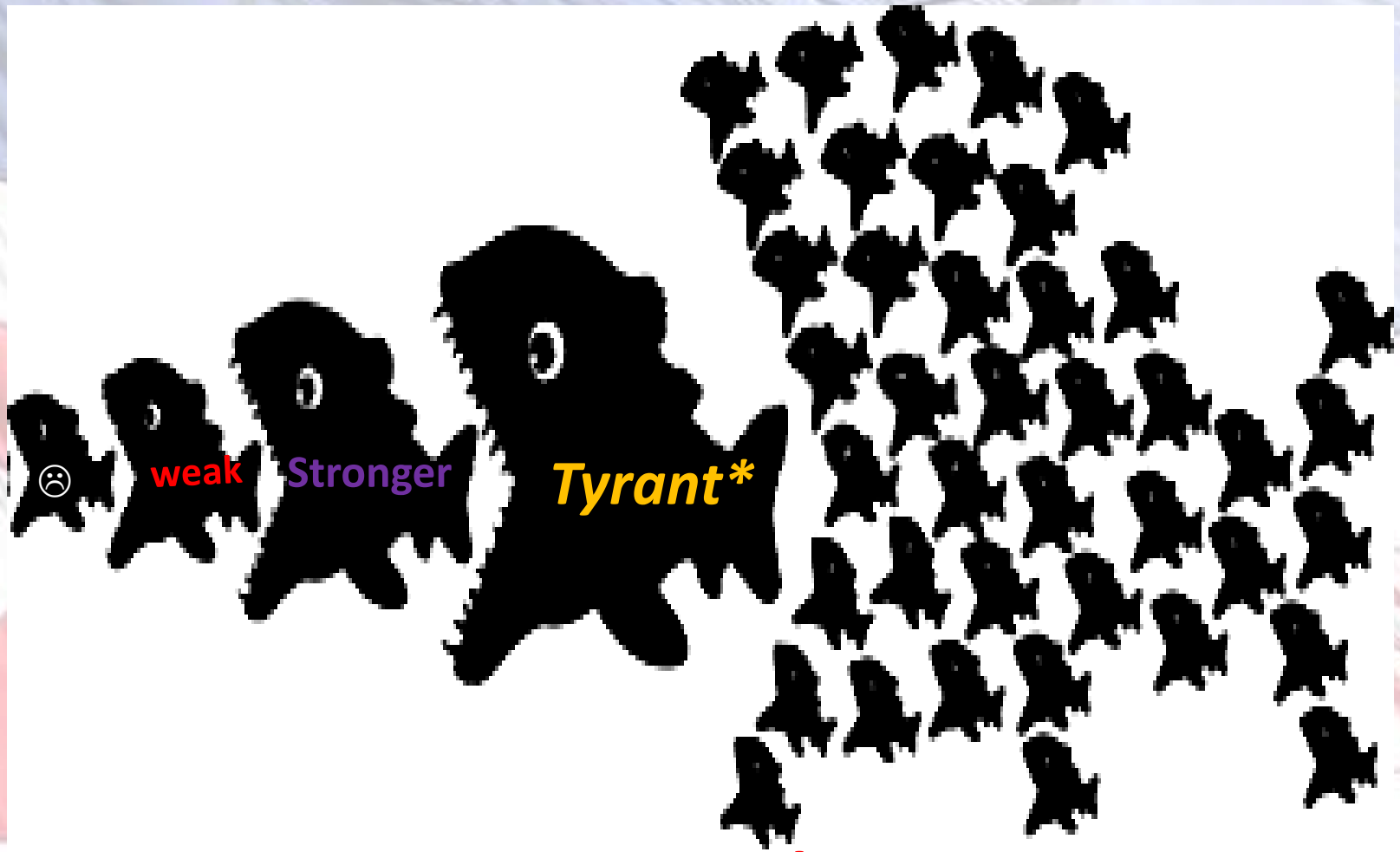
- We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed, by their Creator, with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.

- Locke said that the rights to life, liberty, and property are natural rights - the law of nature!
- ALL people have natural rights JUST because they are human.
- The Founders believed that these rights are not man made, but made by God, therefore NO man nor government may take away these rights.
- These are unalienable rights!!! !

What did Locke Say Might Happen in a State of Nature?

John Locke believed.....

- Most people are good → But...Not everyone is good → People are driven by self interest (money & power) → Sometimes people who are stronger/ smarter take advantage of weaker people
- People would want to protect their ***natural rights*** → Weaker people gang up against the strong people



weak ganging up on tyrant!

• In a *state of nature* people would feel insecure → To protect their *natural rights* (life, liberty, property,) agree to form governments.

***** According to Locke, governments**

DO NOT exist until people

CREATE them***

- In a *state of nature* you cannot and no one can govern you → People must **consent** (allow/agree) to be governed
- The **power of the legitimate government comes from the consent of the PEOPLE.**

Social Contract

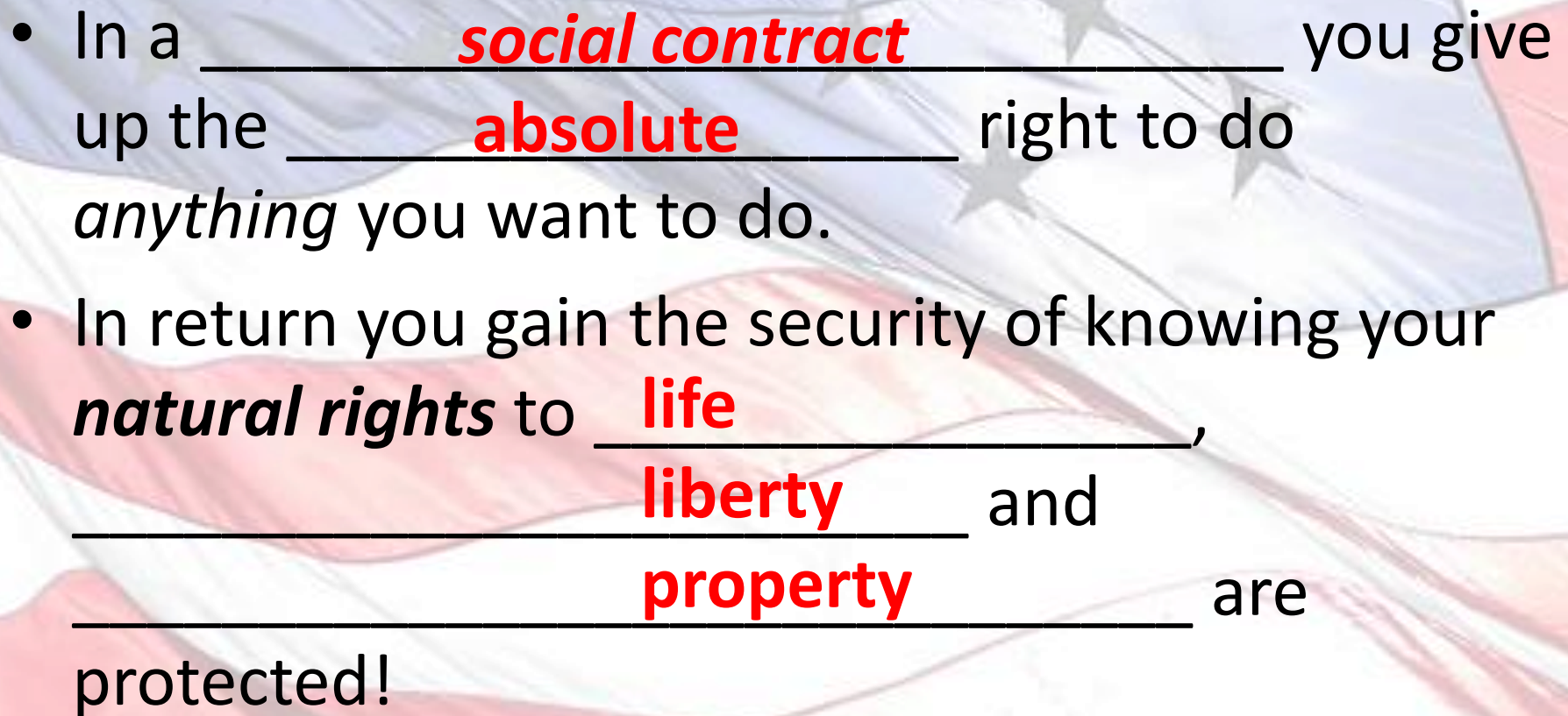
- Big PROBLEMO! So we know that in a *state of nature* there are NO laws, and we know that we ALL have *natural rights* and that in order to have a legitimate government we **MUST consent....**
- We **MUST** find a way to protect each person's *natural rights* since *human nature* goes against *state of nature*.



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THE SOCIAL CONTRACT

- Locke says the BEST way to solve this *conundrum* is for each **individual** to agree with **others** to create and live under a **1 Gov.** this type of agreement is a **social contract**
- The **government** must be given (**consent from the people**) the power to **make** and **enforce** laws.
- In **social contracts** you MUST **give up** something to **gain** something.

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- The background of the slide is a faded, waving American flag with stars and stripes.
- In a social contract you give up the absolute right to do *anything* you want to do.
 - In return you gain the security of knowing your *natural rights* to life,
liberty and
property are protected!

* Locke thought the

purpose of government

is to protect those

natural rights

that the individual CANNOT protect in a

state of nature,

thus we form

social contracts → GOVERNMENTS

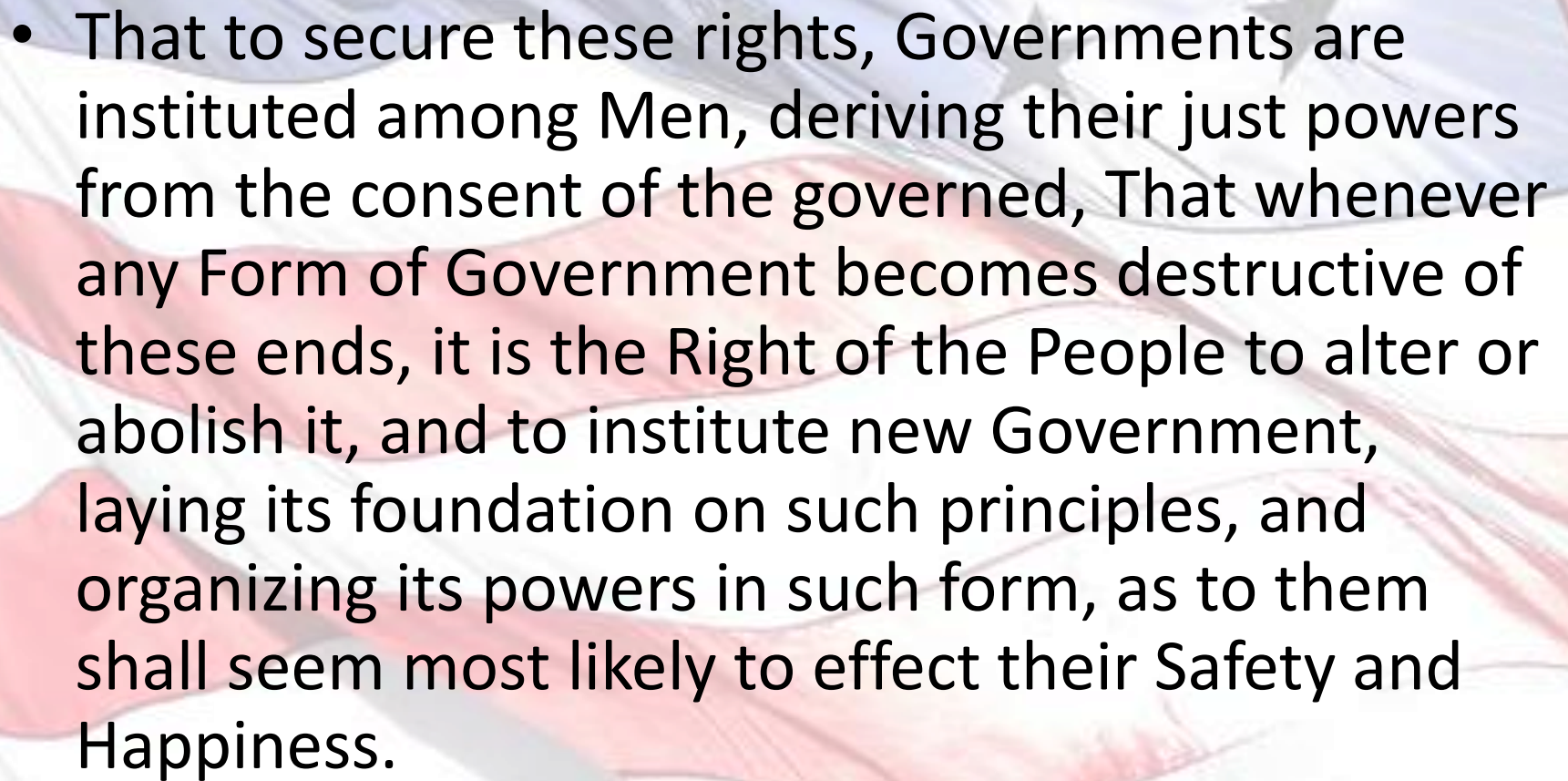
*remember the focus on natural rights

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

When 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. We hold 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. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — 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 form, as to them shall seem best, to secure the Safety and Happiness of the People. And, notwithstanding that Governments are so instituted, still it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, when it becomes destructive of the ends for which it was instituted, — That the History of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct or indirect consequence the Establishment of a tyrannical Government, — That the same has been the Cause of the Declaration of Independence, and that 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 form, as to them shall seem best, to secure the Safety and Happiness of the People. — That the History of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct or indirect consequence the Establishment of a tyrannical Government, — That the same has been the Cause of the Declaration of Independence, and that 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 form, as to them shall seem best, to secure the Safety and Happiness of the People. — That the History of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct or indirect consequence the Establishment of a tyrannical Government, — That the same has been the Cause of the Declaration of Independence, and that 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 form, as to them shall seem best, to secure the Safety and Happiness of the People.

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→ **STOP AND THINK**- How would you protect your rights in a *state of nature*?

