

Government and where it came from...



The four main theories...

- The Force Theory
- The Evolutionary Theory
- The Divine Right Theory
- The Social Contract Theory

The Force Theory

- Many scholars believe that the idea of government came about because of force.
- One person or a small group claimed control over an area and forced all within it to submit to their rule.
- When that rule was established the basic elements of the state; **population, territory, sovereignty,** and **government** were present.



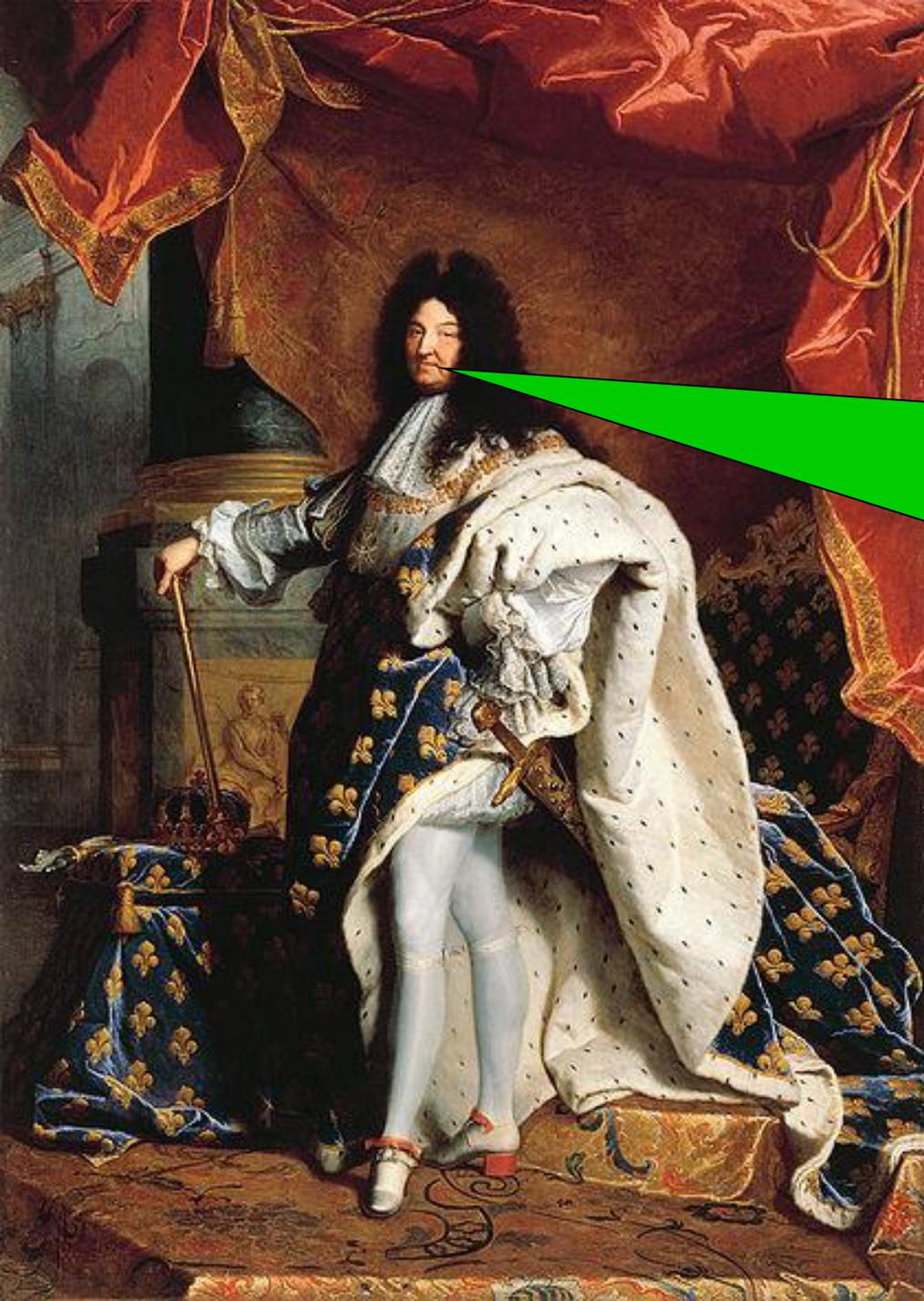
The Evolutionary Theory

- Other scholars argue that the idea of government developed naturally out of the early family.
- Within the primitive family there was one person at the head, in other words the one that governed.
- Over time the one family developed into a network of related families or a clan.
- Eventually the clan became a tribe.
- Eventually the tribe went through the Neolithic Revolution and tied itself to the land- a state was born.



The Divine Right Theory

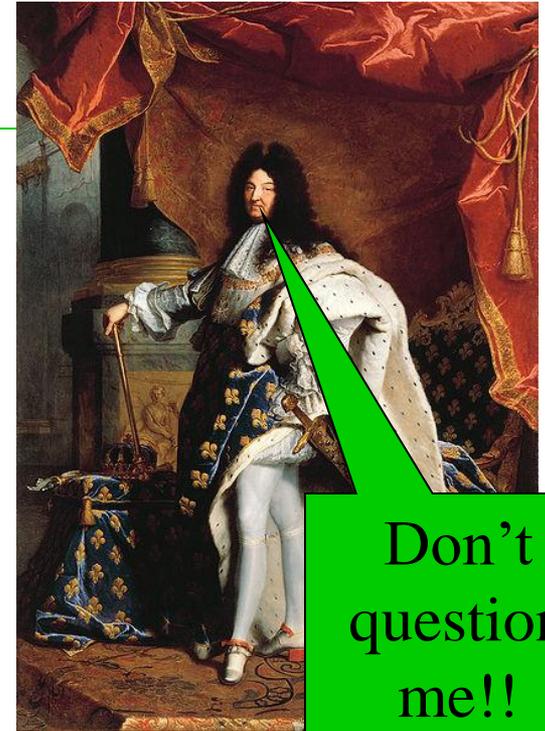
- When you learned about European politics from the 15-18th centuries you learned about **Divine Right**.
- Divine Right stated that God created the state and that God had given those of royal birth a “divine right” to rule.
- The people had to obey their ruler as they would obey God.
- Any who opposed Divine Right were charged with treason and mortal sin.



Hi. My name is King Louis the 14th, and I am a divine ruler (send from God). No, you can't borrow my heels. I am an absolutist ruler who **MUST** be obeyed...because God said so...

Questioning the Divine Right Theory

- Remember that event in European history called the Enlightenment?
- During the Enlightenment many people started to question Divine Right and people eventually began to govern using the present-day democratic government model.



Hi. I'm John Locke. I was born in England in 1632. I question you, Louis the 14th. Even though you are dead, I still think that you are wrong! I believe in something called the "Social Contract Theory"!

But I might want to borrow your heels.



The Social Contract Theory

- Before governments all people were free to do what they pleased. Meaning they could take what they wanted from whoever they wanted...utter chaos right?
- The Social Contract Theory states that people decided to form a government so that they could all be safe.
- All people living in the given area of the state gave up the same amount of freedoms and in return received protection.
- The state exists only to serve the people.



Constitutional Convention

Philadelphia, 1787