Name:_____Date:_____Period:_____

Analyzing Primary Sources

Laws Protect Freedom

Both Montesquieu and Rousseau believed firmly that fair and just laws – not monarchs or unrestricted mobs – should govern society. Here, Rousseau argues that laws established by and for the people are the hallmarks of a free socitey

> I… therefore give the name "republic" to every state that is governed by laws, no matter what the form of its administation may be; for only in such a case does the public interest govern, and the *res republica* rank as a reality … Laws are, properly speaking, only the conditions of civil association. The people, being subject to the laws, ought to be their author; the conditions of the socitey ought to be regulated … by those who come together to form it.
>
> **Jean Jacques Rousseau, The Social Contract**

Laws Ensure Security

While laws work to protect citizens from abusive rulers, Montesquieu argues that they also guard against anarchy and mob rule.

> It is true that in democracies the people seem to act as they please; but political liberty does not consist in an unlimited freedom.
>
> … We must have continually present to our minds the difference between independence and liberty. Liberty is a right of doing whatever the laws permit, and if a citizen could do what they {the laws} forbid he would be no longer possessed of libery, because all his fellow citizens would have the same power.
>
> **Baron De Montesquieu, The Spirit of Laws.**

Why should citizens be the authors of society's laws, according to Rousseau?_____

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Why does Montesquieu believe that disobeying laws leads to a loss of liberty?_____

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Video Notes:_____

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