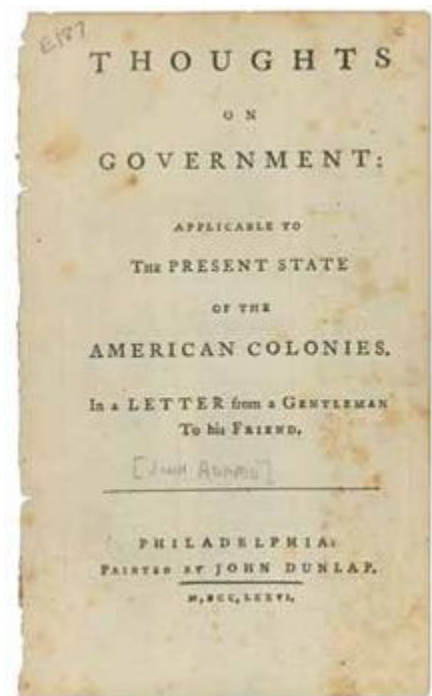


WIKIPEDIA

Thoughts on Government

Thoughts on Government, or in full *Thoughts on Government, Applicable to the Present State of the American Colonies*, was written by John Adams during the spring of 1776 in response to a resolution of the North Carolina Provincial Congress which requested Adams' suggestions on the establishment of a new government and the drafting of a constitution. Adams says that "Politics is the Science of human Happiness -and the Felicity of Societies depends on the Constitutions of Government under which they live." Many of the ideas put forth in Adams' essay were adopted in December 1776 by the framers of North Carolina's first constitution.

The document is notable in that Adams sketches out the three branches of American government: the executive, judicial, and legislative branches, all with a system of checks and balances. Furthermore, in response to *Common Sense* by Thomas Paine, Adams rejects the idea of a single legislative body, fearing it may become tyrannical or self-serving (as in the case of the Netherlands at the time). Thus, Adams also conceived of the idea that two legislative bodies should serve as checks to the power of the other.^[1]



The book *Thoughts on Government* by John Adams (1776)

See also

- Constitutionalism
- Rule according to higher law

References

1. *John Adams* by David McCullough, Simon and Schuster Paperbacks, New York, 2001. Pg 102-103. ISBN 978-0-684-81363-9

External links

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Thoughts_on_Government&oldid=917246409"

This page was last edited on 22 September 2019, at 23:33 (UTC).

Text is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License; additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy. Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization.