

The American Philosophy of Government

The Declaration of Independence was written in 1776 & the US Constitution was written in the late 1780's. Below is a table of where the founding fathers quoted from in writing these documents.

	Most cited sources:	
Category:	1770's:	1780's:
Bible	44%	34%
Enlightenment	18%	24%
Whig	20%	19%
Common-Law	4%	9%
Classical	11%	10%
Other	3%	4%
Total	100%	100%

Even the Enlightenment quotes are from the more Christian-based thinkers like Montesquieu, Blackstone, Locke, Puffendorf, etc. with the remainder coming from the more radical thinkers like Voltaire, Rousseau, Diderot, etc.

	Most cited thinkers:	
Name:	1770's:	1780's:
Montesquieu	7%	14%
Blackstone	3%	7%
Locke	7%	1%
Hume	1%	1%
Plutarch	3%	1%
Beccaria	1%	3%
Cato	1%	3%
DeLolme	0%	3%
Puffendorf	0%	1%

Montesquieu was a French attorney & author and a Christian who gave us the “checks & balances” and “separation of powers” concepts (which are based on Jeremiah 17:9 that says that man tends naturally toward corruption) that made it into our constitution.

Blackstone was an English attorney & author and a Christian whose “Commentaries on the Law” was manual for every American law college for over a century. His major contribution was in the preamble of our Declaration....”When in the course of human events....the Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God...” He clearly identified his use of “the Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God” as being the God of the Bible.

While Locke may not have been an evangelical Christian, he drew heavily from the Bible in developing his political theories. In his 1st treatise on government, he cited the Bible 1,349 times.....in his 2nd treatise, he cited it 157 times. Not surprising Locke was a theologian whose two major books were “The Reasonableness of Christianity” (1696) and “A Vindication of the Reasonableness of Christianity” (1697).