

Montesquieu - The Spirit of the Laws, 1748

	Main idea/argument in ten or fewer words	How does this threaten tradition authority? Explain both how and which form.
<p>A</p> <p>. . .Constant experience shows us that every man invested with power is apt to abuse it, and to carry his authority as far as it will go. . . .</p> <p>To prevent this abuse, it is necessary from the very nature of things that power should be a check to power. A government may be so constituted, as no man shall be compelled to do things to which the law does not oblige him, nor forced to abstain from things which the law permits.</p>		
<p>B</p> <p>In every government there are three sorts of power: the legislative; the executive . . . ; and the . . . [judicial]</p> <p>. . .</p> <p>When the legislative and executive powers are united in the same person, or in the same body of magistrates, there can be no liberty; because apprehensions may arise, lest the same monarch or senate should enact tyrannical laws, to execute them in a tyrannical manner.</p>		
<p>C</p> <p>Again, there is no liberty, if the judiciary power be not separated from the legislative and executive. Were it joined with the legislative, the life and liberty of the subject would be exposed to arbitrary control; for the judge would be then the legislator. Were it joined to the executive power, the judge might behave with violence and oppression.</p>		
<p>D</p> <p>There would be an end of everything, were the same man or the same body, whether of the nobles or of the people, to exercise those three powers, that of enacting laws, that of executing the public resolutions, and of trying the causes of individuals.</p>		

Which value(s) of democracy are most reflected in this document? Explain in 25 words.