

# John Locke - 1690



- Examined the way men formed governments
- Natural Rights – Human beings have natural rights including *life, liberty, & property*
- These rights are inalienable – can't be taken away. They are from God.
- Did not believe God gave Kings the divine right to rule.
- People form governments to protect their rights
- Right to Revolution – If government violates the rights, people have the right to rebel

# Bacon's Rebellion - 1675

- Wealthy farmers bought all the good farmland in Jamestown
- Nothing left for young or poorer farmers to start farms
- Young or poor had to work as servants for wealthy
- Moved west and wanted to go to war with Natives to secure more land
- Governor won't support because of the fur trade with natives & doesn't want to create competition for wealthy farmers
- Raids begin. Governor declares them rebels.
- Burn Jamestown starting with the House of Burgesses.
- Believe that they have a right to rebel against a government that doesn't care for them.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ueLdYi1AE-Q>

# The Great Awakening (1730-1743)



- Religious focus of the colonies faded
  - Great Awakening revived faith in the colonies
  - Focus was on the consequences of sin
  - Sermons were not read / More of a production to engage the people
- Message was delivered by traveling preachers who went from town to town
  - Caused people to break away from their traditional churches and join new ones
  - Some churches split between
  - Democratic thought and freedom of religious beliefs

# The Navigation Acts - 1733

- Mercantilism – Colonies exist to make the mother country wealthy

- Colonies were a source for raw materials
- Colonies should be a market for goods



- Navigation Acts supported mercantilism

1. Any European country selling goods to the colonies had to stop in England & pay a tax first
2. Only British ships (built & owned) could ship colonial goods
3. The colonies could only sell certain goods like tobacco and sugar to England, no one else

- Colonist felt they could do better if they could buy and sell from who they pleased and use ships of their choice.

- Colonist cheated the system by smuggling, importing / exporting goods illegally

# The Zenger Trial - 1734

- A newspaper publisher John Peter Zenger became upset with the governor of New York. He published a series of articles criticizing the governor
- Criticizing the government was considered a crime
  - His newspapers were burned
  - He was brought to trial
- His lawyer argued that because his criticism was true he couldn't be punished. The jury agreed.
- This supported Freedom of the Press in the colonies

