

## Part One, American Government and U.S. Constitution

### Lesson 12: Principles 10 & 11 -Sovereignty of the People; Who Can Alter the Government

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Part II: The Founders' Basic Principles – 28 great Ideas that Changed the World

Lesson 12 Time: 34:22:

The 5000 Year Leap: 10th Principle: & 11th Principle *Reading Assignment:*

### **Sovereignty of the People** (pages 141-45);

### **Who Can Alter the Government?**(pages 147-51)

**Lesson objectives** (combined 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> this lesson):

As a result of this lesson, the student should be able to discuss the following questions/topics:

1. Why was Algernon Sidney beheaded? (Pages 141-42)

**Algernon Sidney**

o “no divine right of kings”

o **beheaded in 1683**

2. According to John Locke, what two standards must be met in order for an office holder to have proper authority to act? (142-43)

**John Locke**

o **said the same in 1690 from Holland**

o **unless people consent, ruler has no right to be obeyed (quote)**

3. Describe the concept of "sovereign authority of the people" among the Anglo-Saxons. (143)

**Founders View**

o **Rulers are servants of the people**

o **Anglo-Saxon law:**

- **King from *cyning* or chief among equals**

- **Duty to protect, ended when crisis ends**

**“We The People...”**

- **Constitution approved by the people not states**

4. According to Alexander Hamilton and James Madison, why should the people never have to fear the federal government? (143-45)

- **Alexander Hamilton (quote)**

**“in every government, a supreme, sovereign, absolute and uncontrollable power...resides always in THE BODY OF THE PEOPLE ”**  
**[the Creator has never given this to a single man or set of men]**

- **James Madison (quote) “ultimate authority resides in the people alone”**

5. At what point are the people justified in altering or abolishing their government?  
(147-48) (11th)

### **What To Do When Things Go Wrong In Government?**

o Declaration of Independence quote:

- not changed for “light and transient causes”

- “while evils are sufferable...”

- “duty to throw off such government”

(> for long oppressive acts of despotism)

### **Rulers vs. People**

o legislators destroy property or liberty of the people –

- state of war

- people absolved from obedience

- rulers forfeit the power from the people

### **Who Can Change the Government?**

o Established by majority (quote) (Only 1 majority, many minorities)

o must only be changed by the majority

o no right of revolt in a minority

-many minorities - would cause confusion

- only one majority - one voice

[ quote not in the text- “the majority rules, majority vote”-Jefferson]

- majority vote is sacred (treat as unanimous)

(doctrine of civil disobedience is wrong way to change government because it would be ‘minority’ as above!)