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Baron de Montesquieu, also known as Charles Louis De Secondat was one of the greatest political philosophers of the enlightenment. Born into a wealthy noble family, he became a French lawyer & wrote the " Persian Letters" which he became famous for & " The Spirit of Laws".

It had a great influence on how the government should work.

Background French Philosopher Born on January 18th, 1689 in Bordeaux, France. His father was a soldier of long noble ancestry and his mother had a long monetary fortune. Married Jeanne de Lartigue and had one son and two daughters. Praised for the " Persian Letters" and " De l' esprit des Lois" (The Spirit of Laws) Died of a fever in Paris on February 10th, 1755. Ideas on Government/Society Baron De Montesquieu believed that power was never controlled by an individual.

Instead, the power was separated into groups. He even argued that the best government would be in which power was balanced among 3 groups of officials. However, these ideas were radical because France was under absolute rule at the time." We should never create by law what could be accomplished by morality.

" This is a famous quote by the late Baron De Montesquieu. There might be a wide range of things he meant by this. In my opinion, I believe whatever he meant by this is false because though it's optimistic to think that people, knowing what's good & just will then do them it's outrageously unrealistic. Thus, the law is created. Morality is created for the individual because its based on belief systems & ethics, It should not be held responsible to govern a society. For example, anything from Homicide to a simple corner store

robbery can be debated as acceptable and nonacceptable depending on the situation, but according to morality wrong is wrong as right is right.

Therefore we need the law, & judges and court systems because of nothings ever that black and white.

In the end, Montesquieu was one of the few Frenchmen that had a great effect on the Enlightenment politically & mentally. Persian Letters Criticized the lifestyle and liberties of the wealthy French as well as the Church. Del' esprit des Lois (The Spirit of Laws) Explained how government would work best Impact On Society Baron De Montesquieu divided French society into three classes; the monarchy, the aristocracy, and the common. He saw that two power existed which were the sovereign and the administrative. The administration was divided into three classes which are the legislative, executive, and the judicial.

America absorbed these ideas of separation of power and we still use these concepts of laws to this day.