

## Viewing Guide for Constitutional Principle Video: Consent of the Governed

**Directions:** Before watching the video, answer the pre-viewing questions. Fill in the blanks on Bill of Rights protections while you watch. After you have watched the video, answer the questions that follow on a separate sheet of paper.

### Before you watch:

1. What do you think of when you hear the term “consent of the governed?” Have you come across this phrase before? Write down some key words and phrases associated with it.
2. What ways can you think of that the U.S. government relies on the consent of the governed? How about your state and local governments?

### While you watch:

1. Monarchs of old claimed that \_\_\_\_\_ (power over others) was granted to them by God.
2. Philosophers including John Locke argued that people come together into communities for the better protection of their \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Popular sovereignty is the idea that government derives its just power from \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The British colonists in North America believed that they had reverted to a state of \_\_\_\_\_ when the King and Parliament repeatedly refused to protect their rights as Englishmen.
5. The right of revolution means that when the government acts in ways outside the purposes for which it was established, it is the right of the people to \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ it.
6. In contrast to the idea that governments grant privileges to the people, principle of popular sovereignty holds that just government protects rights that are \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The final authority on government power is held by \_\_\_\_\_.

**After you watch:**

1. What does the principle of consent of the governed mean?
  2. How would you contrast the idea of popular sovereignty with monarchical sovereignty (or divine right)?
  3. How would you respond to the question posed by Professor Munoz: why shouldn't the wise rule because of their wisdom? Or why shouldn't the religious rule because of their piety?
  4. Professor Zuckert explains that popular sovereignty means the purposes of government should be the purposes of the people, and not the purposes of the rulers. He notes that this theory is not always achieved in practice. Do you agree? Why or why not?
  5. How do limited government, representative government, separation of powers, checks and balances, and federalism all serve to support the principle of consent of the governed?
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