**Classical Political Theorists Key Terms**

Aristocracy – a governing body or upper class, usually made up of a hereditary nobility

Civil Service Examination – the merit-based system by which many federal bureaucrats are selected

Communism – an economic system in which government owns most or all major industries and takes responsibility for overall management of the economy

Consent of the Governed – the idea that in a democracy, the government’s power derives from the consent of the people

Constitutional Monarchy – a system of government in which the monarch shares power with a constitutionally organized government. The Monarch is the ceremonial head of state and the constitution allocates governmental power to the legislature and the judiciary

Equality – the notion that all individuals are equal in their moral worth and thereby entitled to equal treatment under the law

Justice – the maintenance or administration of what is just, especially by the impartial adjustment of conflicting claims or the assignment of merited rewards or punishments

Liberty – the principle that individuals should be free to act and think as they choose, provided they do not infringe upon the rights and freedoms of others

Oligarchy – a government in which control rests with a few persons

Unalienable Rights – the absolute rights of individuals may be resolved into the right of personal security, the right of personal liberty, and the right to acquire and enjoy property. These rights are declared to be natural, inherent, and unalienable