

What Is Modern Liberalism?
Probably not what most people think it is.

Historians refer to the Modern Era in Europe as the time beginning at about 1600 A.D.

“Modern Liberalism” in Europe including Britain was the philosophy which was concerned about the Rights of the Governed. It was the time of emerging Republics against the Kings.

In Britain General Oliver Cromwell (1599-1658) led the Parliamentarians in the British Civil War against King Charles I whom Cromwell defeated and beheaded in 1649 and the elected Parliament ruled Britain as The Puritan Commonwealth, (1649-1660). After the death of Cromwell his second son tried to take his father’s place as “The Lord Protector” but failed and Parliament called Charles II, the son of the beheaded King, back to be their King. (“England will always have a king.” - Shakespeare) However, the influence of Parliament had been established and the Monarch’s power became more and more limited from that time forward. But Britain had lost their Republic. It then fell to America to create a successful Republic in the New World.

Samuel Rutherford and John Locke were two early representatives of a representative Bible-based Republic. Unlike a Democracy (mob rule) a Republic consists of elected representatives who make the laws of the land which are enforced by a Prime Minister (Head of Government) under a king (Head of State) or a President. A President is both Head of State and Head of Government.

The Protestant Reformation is the ancestor of Modern Republicanism and of the American Declaration of Independence (1776) and The Constitution (1789).

Here is its family Tree:

American Republicanism

Thomas Jefferson and John Adams (both died July 4, 1826) and other Fathers of the Republic.

John Locke (1632-1704) Locke’s father was a Cavalry Captain under Cromwell.

Samuel Rutherford (1600-1661)

John Knox (1513 -1572)

John Calvin (1509-1564)

Martin Luther (1483-1546)