"[W]riters on government agree, and the feelings of the human mind witness the truth of these political axioms, that man is born free and possessed of certain unalienable rights-that government is instituted for the protection, safety and happiness of the people, and not for the profit, honor, or private interest of any man, family, or class of men-That the origin of all power is in the people, and that they have an incontestable right to check the creatures of their own creation, vested with certain powers to guard the life, liberty and property of the community." (*Observations on the New Constitution By a Columbian Patriot*, 1788)

---

Mercy Otis Warren was a patriot, playwright and writer. She was a prolific correspondent who advised many revolutionary era statesmen, including several Presidents.