

American Government & Politics: A Christian Worldview
Short Film: “The British House of Commons” (8–10 Minutes)
(TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS/KEY)

Goal

In this short film (4: 53) students see an example of the British House of Commons at work, with some members sparring with then-Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher—who was relatively more in favor of limited government. (This exchange occurred on November 22, 1990, during Thatcher’s final address to the House of Commons.)

Instructions

1. Play this short film for students:

<https://youtu.be/VkGIJWmRJI>

2. Ask students for their overall thoughts.

3. **Notes:**

- As you can see, it’s a pretty raucous crowd, split down the middle, and those disagreeing with whoever is speaking tend to be vocal about it!
- Ask students to explain the similarity between the two lawmaking branches in Britain and America. (The U.S. House of Representatives and the British House of Commons are elected by majority vote, and the U.S. Senate—which used to be appointed, but is now also elected by majority vote—compares to the British House of Lords, whose members are still appointed, not elected.)