

The Enlightenment



The Enlightenment was an intellectual movement in Europe during the 18th century in which people began to change their views on the world and on society.

Salon Image: www.biographie.net/Anicet-Charles-Gabriel-Lem...



The Enlightenment grew largely out of the new methods and discoveries achieved in the Scientific Revolution of the 16th and 17th centuries.

The equatorial armillary, used for navigation on ships

Enlightenment Principles

- Religion, tradition, and superstition limited independent thought

- Accept knowledge based on observation, logic, and reason, not on faith

- Scientific and academic thinking should be based on reasoning, not on Church



A meeting of French Enlightenment thinkers

Image. www.student.britannica.com/eb/art/print?id=86997...

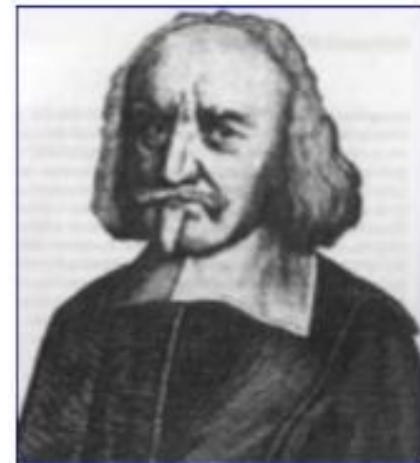
The Enlightenment

- Included a number of writers living at different times in various countries.
- Challenged old ways of thinking
- Questioned divine-right of rule
- Believed that social reforms were necessary and possible in this life, not just the next.

Voltaire - 1650 – 1722

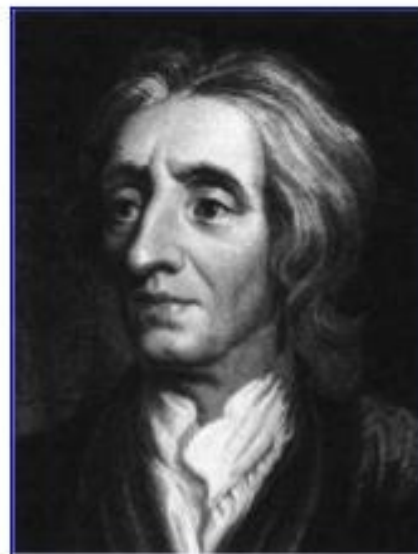
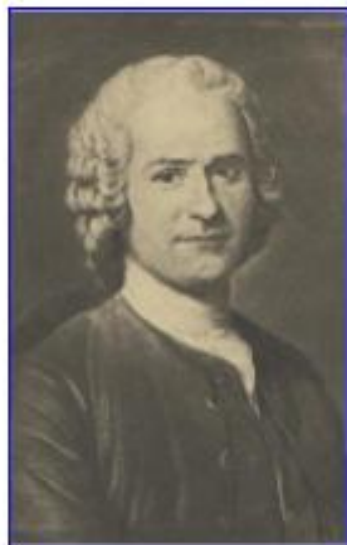


Thomas Hobbes - 1588- 1679



Enlightenment Thinkers

Rousseau - 1712 – 1778



John Locke - 1632–1704

**Montesquieu
1689–1755**



John Locke 1632–1704

- English philosopher
- New ideas about rights of people and their relationship to ruler
- Wrote that government was created for the people
- If rules did not protect the rights, then people had right to get new government
- American Revolution resulted from this idea



John Locke

Two Treatises of Government

- Government formed to protect people's natural rights.
- Government should have limited power.
- The type of government should be accepted by all citizens.
- Rejected absolute monarchy
- Government has an obligation to those it governs.
- People have the right to overthrow government if it fails its obligations or takes away natural rights (revolution).

Voltaire 1694-1778

- French philosopher
- Believed in possibility of social change and reform
- “Man is free at the instant he wants to be.”
- Tolerance, reason, freedom of religion and speech – Bill of Rights

Montesquieu 1689 – 1755

- French philosopher
- Argued that no single set of laws could apply to all people at all times
- Wrote the book –Spirit of the Laws -1748
- Stated monarchy was not necessary if there was a better government

Thomas Hobbes

- Natural State of Affairs
- Man is brutish by nature
- Leviathan- Need for state control which will take care of the welfare of all
- Absolute power of the state



The American Enlightenment

- Based on knowledge of classical writings.
- Evolved at a time when people craved new knowledge and wisdom.
- That craving inspired people to make new developments in science, religion, and politics.
- Led to America's independence and the principles of the American Government
- Through enlightenment ideals people began to think that a ruler had to be held to higher laws .

Enlightenment and the Rise of Democratic Ideas

- Natural Rights
- Social Contract
- Separation of Power

People in a state of nature give up their individual rights to a strong power in return for his protection, so social contract evolved out of self-interest.

John Hobbs



Social Contract

Jean-Jacques Rousseau



“In order to live in society, human beings agree to an implicit social contract, which gives them certain rights in return for giving up certain freedoms.”

Social Contract

American Revolution

**Declaration
of
Independence**

Constitution

John Locke, in his 1690 *Civil Government*, second treatise, separated the powers into an executive and a legislature.



Separation
Of
Power

Checks
And
Balances



Montesquieu, in his 1748 *Spirit of the Laws*, expanded on Locke adding a judiciary

"I may disagree with what you say, but I will defend till death your right to say it." Voltaire



Bill of Rights

Freedom of Religion

Civil Rights

Freedom of Speech

A Parisian Salon

