

# 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...](http://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 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> 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...](http://www.student.britannica.com/eb/art/print?id=86997...)



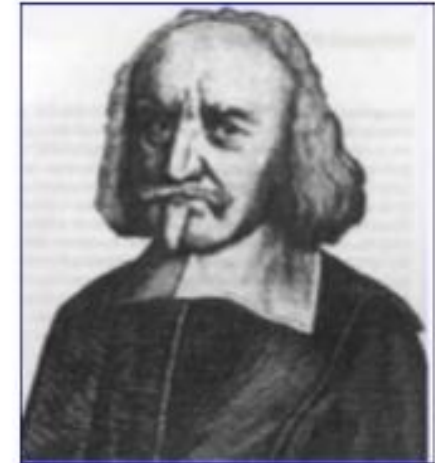
# The Enlightenment

- 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**

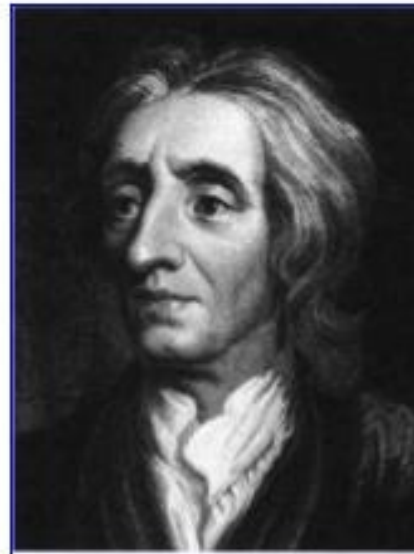
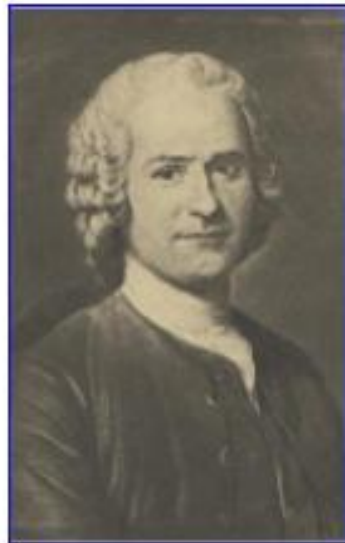


**Thomas Hobbes - 1588- 1679**



**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 Treaties 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

