

ENLIGHTENMENT

The Enlightenment

DO NOW

What does the term Enlightenment mean? What do you know about the Enlightenment



ENLIGHTENMENT



Learning Targets and *Intentions of the Lesson*

I Want Students to:

1. KNOW the political, social, and religious relationship of the Scientific Revolution to the Enlightenment. **2. UNDERSTAND** and explain the impact of contributions made by enlightenment leaders to the Scientific Revolution. **3. Analyze readings (SKILL)** and define the relationships between the government and the state of nature and the government and the people.

Origins of the Enlightenment

- ▶ **What was the Enlightenment?**
 - ▶ An 18th century philosophical movement that swept throughout Europe and North America; advocated reason as the primary source of authority and legitimacy
- ▶ **What were the basic principles of the Enlightenment?**
 - ▶ Reason – Truth through logical reasoning
 - ▶ Nature – Nature is good; natural laws of politics & economics
 - ▶ Happiness – Live by nature's laws and you will find happiness
 - ▶ Progress – Believed society and humankind could be perfected
 - ▶ Liberty – Believed society should be set free

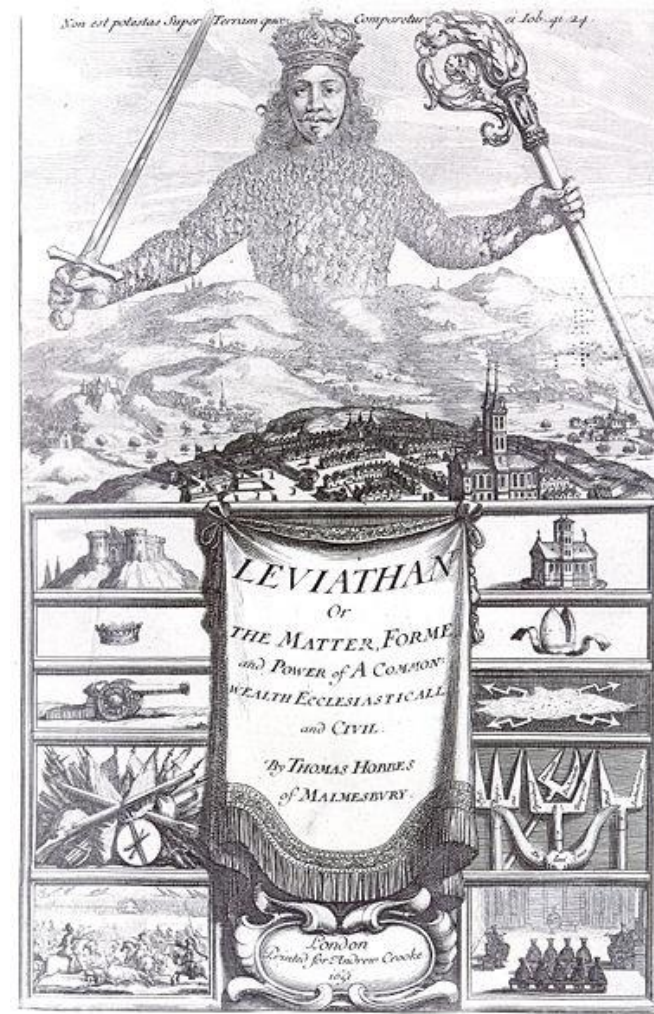
Major Enlightenment Ideas

- ▶ **Every social, political and economic problem could be solved through the use of reason**
 - ▶ Governments are created to secure an orderly society
 - ▶ Separation of powers is the best way to protect human liberties
 - ▶ All men are created “free and equal”
 - ▶ A free market should be allowed to regulate trade
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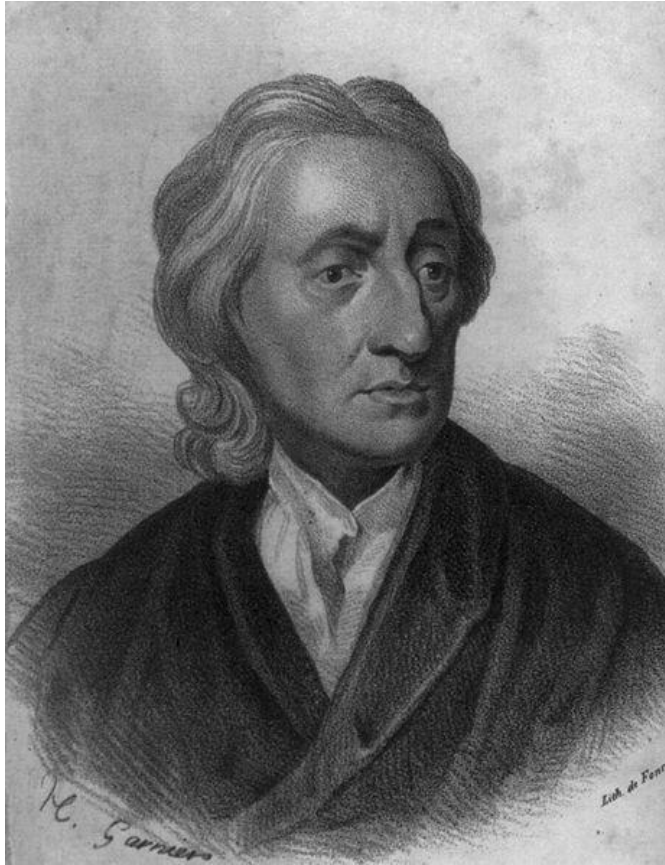
Important Enlightenment Thinkers

Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679)

- ▶ Lived during the English Civil War
- ▶ Famous work was Leviathan
- ▶ Main Ideas
 - ▶ Man is inherently selfish and aggressive
 - ▶ Mankind, if left on its own, would be ruled by chaos and conflict
 - ▶ Citizens need the law and a strong monarch to prevent chaos
 - ▶ The Social Contract



John Locke (1632-1704)



- ▶ Lived during the English Civil War
- ▶ Father of Liberalism
 - ▶ Supported individual's natural right to life, liberty, and property
 - ▶ Government at the consent of the governed
- ▶ Influenced the American Revolution and French Enlightenment thinkers



Social Contract

Thomas Hobbes	John Locke
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Humans are naturally cruel, greedy and selfish.•To escape this “brutish” life people entered into a social contract.•Only a powerful government could ensure an orderly society.•Believed only an absolute monarchy could keep a society completely orderly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Humans are naturally reasonable, moral and good•Humans have natural rights: life liberty and property•People form governments to protect natural rights•Best government was one with limited power•If a government violates people’s natural rights, people have the right to overthrow government

Jean Jacques Rousseau (1712-1788)

- ▶ French philosopher
- ▶ Main Ideas
 - ▶ Humans are basically good by nature but corrupted by society
 - ▶ Civilization destroyed freedom and equality
 - ▶ Advocated direct democracy
- ▶ Influenced the American & French Revolutions



“Man is born free, and everywhere he is in chains”



Voltaire (1694-1778)

- ▶ Perhaps the most brilliant Enlightenment philosopher
- ▶ “Friend” of Frederick II of Prussia
- ▶ Frequently targeted the clergy, aristocracy, and government
- ▶ Main Ideas
 - ▶ Freedom of religion, freedom of speech, tolerance
 - ▶ Attacked intolerance, prejudice, and superstition



“Crush the evil thing”



Montesquieu (1689-1755)



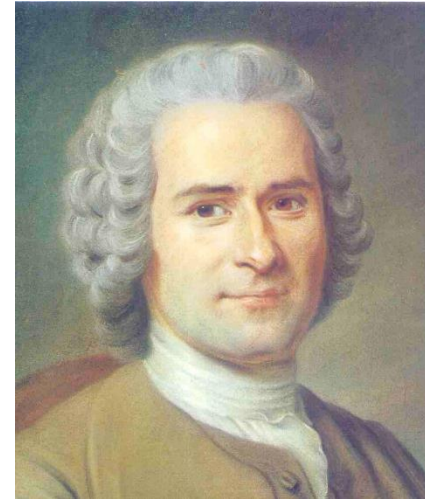
“Power should be a check to power”

- ▶ A French aristocrat and a lawyer
 - ▶ Believed Britain was the best-governed country
 - ▶ Main Ideas
 - ▶ Challenged absolute monarchy
 - ▶ Separation of Powers
 - ▶ Executive, legislative, judicial
 - ▶ Checks and Balances – Each branch of the government should be able to ‘check’ the other two
 - ▶ Influenced the United States Constitution
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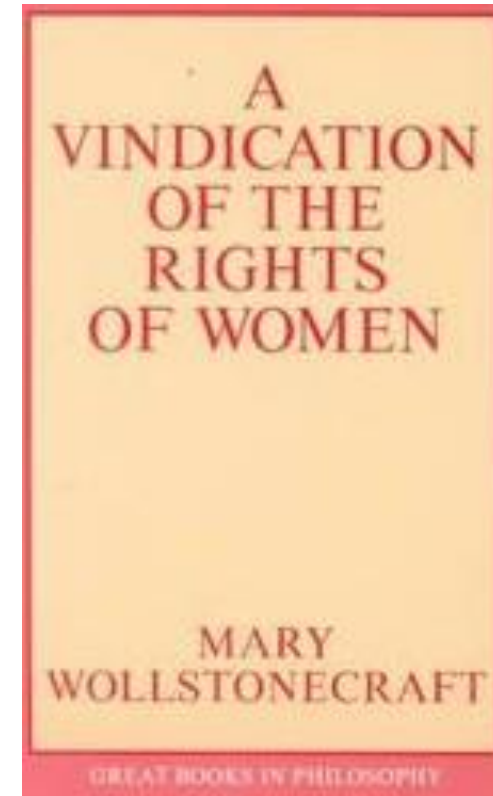
Major Enlightenment Ideas for Society

- ▶ **Detested the slave trade and slavery**
- ▶ **Deplored religious prejudice**
- ▶ **Defended freedom of speech**
- ▶ **Attacked divine right theory**
- ▶ **Urged education for all**
- ▶ **Hated unequal distribution of property**
- ▶ **Believed governments should be freely elected**
- ▶ **Women's first duty was to her family**



Women and the Enlightenment

- ▶ Enlightenment thinkers maintained traditional ideas toward women
- ▶ Educated women challenged these ideas using Enlightenment arguments
 - ▶ Mary Wollstonecraft
 - ▶ Women need education to be virtuous & useful
 - ▶ Women have the right to participate in politics
 - ▶ Women helped spread Enlightenment ideas by holding salons



Enlightenment and the Economy

- ▶ **Physiocrats** rejected mercantilism in favor of a policy called *laissez faire*.
 - ▶ Physiocrats were Enlightenment thinkers who focused on economic reforms
- ▶ **Laissez-Faire:** allowing business to operate with little or no government interference
 - ▶ Real wealth comes from productive land not gold and silver
- ▶
 - ▶ Supported free trade and opposed tariffs





Impact of the Enlightenment

Impact of the Enlightenment

- ▶ **Revolutions**
 - ▶ American, French, Haitian, etc.
- ▶ **Belief in social and human progress**
 - ▶ Abolition of slavery, promote education, social equality, etc.
- ▶ **Secular outlook in Europe**
 - ▶ Promotion of religious tolerance, openly question religious beliefs, science challenges religious teachings
- ▶ **Importance of the individual**
 - ▶ People can judge right and wrong for themselves, rise of capitalism, support for democracy, etc.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

Who believed that people are naturally cruel and greedy?

- a) Montesquieu
- b) Hobbes
- c) Rousseau
- d) Voltaire

Which of the following is true of the physiocrats?

- a) They rejected laissez faire in favor of mercantilism.
- b) They rejected mercantilism in favor of laissez faire.
- c) They rejected both mercantilism and laissez faire.
- d) They focused on social reform.



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