

The Enlightenment



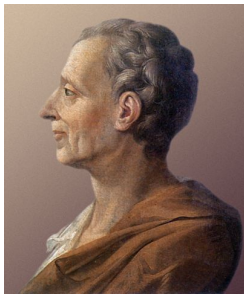
natural law

a universal moral law that could be understood by applying reason

Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679)

English political theorist

said people form a **social contract** to live obediently under a ruler, because without a leader people naturally are violent and disorderly
Leviathan (1651), showed a world without government in which life was “nasty, brutish, and short”



Baron de Montesquieu

(Charles-Louis de Secondat; 1689-1755)

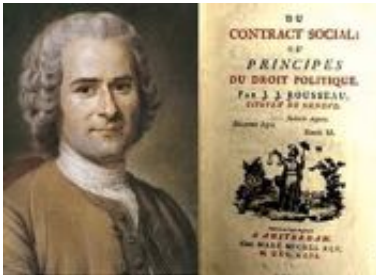
French political theorist who admired English government

believed in the separation of powers

legislative, executive, and judicial branches

contributed to the *Encyclopedie* and wrote *The Spirit of Laws* (1748)

The Enlightenment



Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778)

French philosopher born in Geneva to French Huguenot parents

The Social Contract (1762):

government should be made by the people

Voltaire

(Francois-Marie Arouet; 1694-1778)

French satirist who was jailed twice

for writing about the Church and insulting a nobleman

Candide (1759):

challenged the idea that everything works out for the best

“I disapprove of what you say,

but I will defend to the death your right to say it.”



Immanuel Kant (1724-1804)

German philosopher who claimed that there were two worlds

the physical world, which is known through the senses

the spiritual world, which is known through faith

religion is real even though it can't be scientifically explained

Enlightened Despots

absolutist rulers who governed by Enlightenment principles while keeping their royal powers



Frederick II of Prussia
(ruled from 1740–1786)
abolished the use of torture
established elementary schools
promoted industry and agriculture



Maria Theresa of Austria
(ruled from 1740–1780)
most far-reaching measures of enlightened despotism occurred under her reign
set up elementary schools
freed all serfs who worked on her estates

Joseph II of Austria

(Maria Theresa's son, ruled with her from 1740–1780, then alone until 1790)

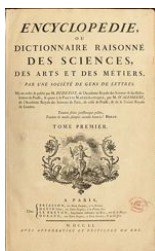
abolished serfdom
made land taxes equal for nobles and peasants
instituted freedom of the press
took property from Catholic Church;
used the money to fund hospitals
granted religious freedom to Protestants and Jews



The Enlightenment Spreads

Encyclopedie (1751)

28 volumes containing all the new theories
banned by Catholic Church for its criticisms of the Church



salons
gatherings held in the homes of wealthy patrons held partly as a social gathering and partly to increase the knowledge of the participants through conversation



Madam de Pompadour (Jeanne Antoinette Poisson)
Louis XV's mistress from 1745 until her death in 1764)
hosted salons and noted for her intelligence and wit

