

THE ENLIGHTENMENT

A Time of New Ideas

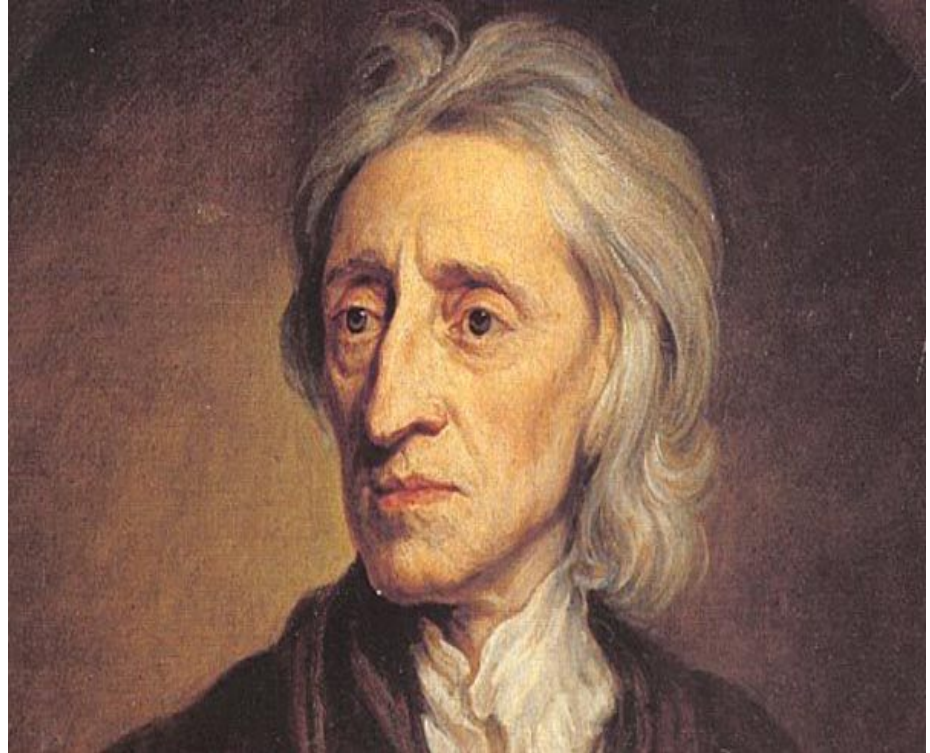
ENLIGHTENMENT/ AGE OF REASON

1. A period when people developed new ideas about human existence.
2. Started around 1715 in Europe
3. People would meet in **salons** and talk about philosophy and ways to improve human experience.
 - a. Ideas were based in Science and Reason



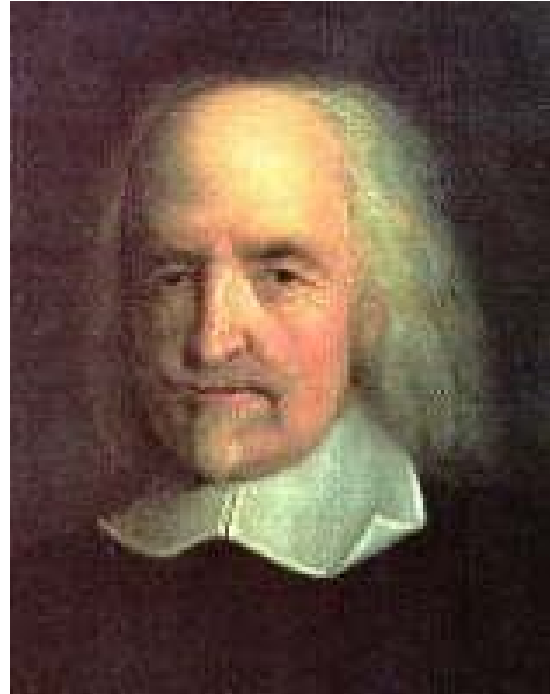
JOHN LOCKE AND NATURAL RIGHTS

1. Rights people are meant to have
 - a. Life, liberty, property and pursuit of happiness, right to express themselves, petition the government.
2. Enlightenment thinkers felt people should be able to express themselves

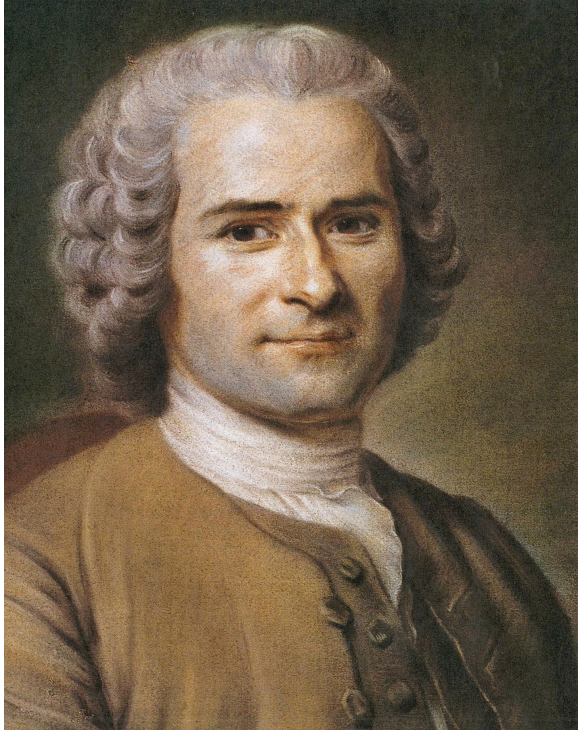


THOMAS HOBBS AND THE “NATURAL STATE” AND “SOCIAL CONTRACT”

1. Idea that without a government, people would have complete freedom but without any protection from each other
 - a. Dog eat Dog world
2. Citizens give up certain freedoms, and in exchange the government protects citizens' right to life, liberty, and property.



JEAN JACQUES-ROUSSEAU AND THE SOCIAL CONTRACT



1. The Government should be created by the people.
2. Enlightenment thinkers felt that the relationship between a government and citizens was an agreement.
3. Citizens would obey the laws, and the government would protect their rights.

CONSENT OF THE GOVERNMENT

If the government failed to uphold their responsibility of a social contract, the people had the right to revolt.

Traditionally, kings had absolute authority over the people, and they had to follow the rules even if they didn't consent.

Enlightenment thinkers thought that was unacceptable.

REPUBLICANISM

The idea that a country's leader should be chosen by the citizens. Before the Enlightenment period rulers inherited.

However, enlightenment thinkers did not favor democracy because they feared what could happen if uneducated people got the right to vote.

THE INFLUENCE ON AMERICA

Enlightenment thinkers were very popular with Americans who wanted independence.

Through the Constitution the US government recognized that citizens were born with basic rights. In spite of the enlightenment thinkers worries of uneducate people voting they still granted citizens the right to vote.

VOLTAIRE AND TOLERANCE

Real Name: Francois Marie Arouet

reHe advocated for tolerance, reason, freedom of religious belief, and freedom of speech. He used words to fight against intolerance, prejudice, and superstition.

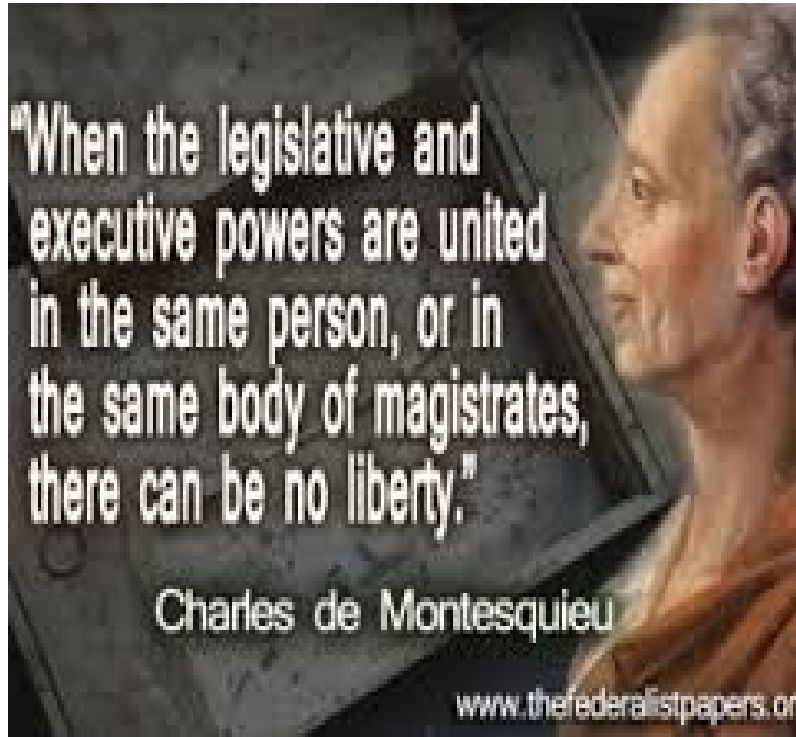
Famous quote: “I do not agree with a word you say but will defend to the death your right to say it.”

**Think about how difficult
it is to
change yourself, and
you will realize
how insignificant are
your chances to
change others**

~ Voltaire ~



BARON DE MONTESQUIEU (SEPARATION OF POWER)



Studied political liberty

- Argued that power should be divided to prevent a person or group from gaining total control (checks and balances)

CESARE BONESANA BECCARIA (CRIMINAL JUSTICE)

- His beliefs were based on the idea that government should seek the greatest good for the greater number of people.

Cesare Bonesana Beccaria

- Beliefs
 - Laws existed to preserve social order, not avenge crime.
 - Accused should receive speedy trials.
 - Torture should never be used.
 - Degree of punishment should match seriousness of crime.
 - Capital punishment (death penalty) should be abolished.

