

Absolute Monarchy – Kings or queens who held all of the power within their states' boundaries

Absolutism – the political belief that one ruler should hold all the power within the boundaries of a country

Divine Right of Kings – the political idea that God created the monarchy and that the monarch acted as God's representative on earth, so the monarch was answerable only to God, not to his subjects

The Enlightenment – A new intellectual movement that stressed reason and thought and the power of the individual to solve problems, also known as the Age of Reason.

The Social Contract – People hand over their rights to a strong ruler in exchange they gained law and order. Hobbes believed that by this people formed a government

Consent of the Governed – The Enlightenment idea that political power came from the people's consent to be lead.

Philosophes – Social critics of France

Reason – Enlightenment thinkers believed that truth could be discovered through reason or logical thought

Nature – what is natural is also good and reasonable

Happiness – The philosophes rejected the medieval idea that people should find joy in heaven and urged people to seek happiness on earth

Progress – stressed the idea that society and humankind could improve

Liberty – freedom of the individual and basic rights of man (Life, Liberty, and Property)