

The Encyclopedie or Encyclopedia was one of the most profound products of the enlightenment period in Europe. Created by Denis Diderot, an enlightened philosopher of the time, the Encyclopedia was aimed at being a source of knowledge providing information on a vast range of topics. Denis Diderot and other great liberal philosophers that worked on the Encyclopedia added their own liberal philosophies into the book. As Europe's literacy rate rose during the enlightenment, the Encyclopedia had the enormous impact of informing the masses. The Encyclopedia encouraged people to be free thinkers. To research things themselves and not to trust the will and authority of others. The encouragement of free thinking would lead to great inventions and innovations in the scientific revolution as well as huge societal changes during the French Revolution.

The Peace of Westphalia was the official treaty that ended the Thirty Years War. This war had begun in 1618 with the Holy Roman Empire attempting to convert his protestant subjects in the Kingdom of Bohemia. The war would spiral out of control and eventually involve nearly the entirety of Europe, from Spain to Sweden. By the end of the war, the balance of power in Europe had been completely changed. France took most of Alsace-Lorraine, Sweden would gain land in northern Germany, the Netherlands would become independent from Spain, and the authority of the Holy Roman Empire severely diminished. However, one of the most important results of the war was the Guarantee that Protestantism was here to stay. It was now an impossible goal for the Catholic Church to reunite Christendom in Europe.

Salons were the places where ideas in the Enlightenment era were shared and flowed freely. During the 17th century in metropolitan areas around Europe, salons began to come about. They were usually simply households that an Aristocratic woman would invite other enlightened philosophers, scientists, and other aristocracy to come and share ideas. The salon became a place where these important people could converse with one another to create and share ideas without being prosecuted for doing so. Salons had a great impact on the creation of the ideas of the Enlightenment, and their spread throughout society. Without these places, many of the basic philosophes that we base our government, economy, and society off would not exist.

Enlightened Despots would come to be some of the most significant people of the 17th century. An enlightened despot was a ruler of country who believed that they had been selected by god to rule, but were in tune with the ideas of the Enlightenment. Enlightened despots, even though making sure that there was no question about their ultimate authority, often tried to reform their countries for the good of the people. Two great examples of enlightened despots were the Russian Czars Peter and Catherine the Great. These two rulers modernized the traditionally underdeveloped and back water that was the Russian empire. Besides for making life better for the Russian people, it also helped Russia to become a dominant power in Eastern Europe.

Thomas Hobbes and John Locke were some of Europe's greatest enlightened philosophers. The two were similar in many ways, both English, both studied at Oxford, and both lived during the time of the

English Civil war. However, their philosophies on governance varied greatly. Therefore, the two took opposing sides ideologically in the English Civil War. Though both were great philosophers of their times and had immense influence, I will argue that John Locke had the greater influence on the world.

Thomas Hobbes like mentioned before studied at Oxford and tutored William Cavendish while attending. Later in life, Thomas would travel with the Cavendish family throughout Germany, Italy, and France. He would meet other great scientists and philosophers like Galileo JJ Rousseau. During the English Civil war, Thomas would take a royalist stance and be forced to flee to France in exile. After 11 years he would return to England and publish his most famous work, the 'Leviathan'. Thomas proposed that for a man to forget his natural ways of violence and unruliness, he would have to make a contract with the people around him to place authority in a central ruler. In other words, for society to be civilized a strong ruler, like a king, was necessary. This explains his royalist stance in the civil war.

John Locke took a contradicting position to this. John Locke would become of histories greatest liberal philosophers. Like Thomas, John also relied on the patronage of an aristocratic English family. He became the family's physician and once saved his patrons life with a liver surgery. One of the greatest questions that John tackled in his career was the question of property. He thought about the importance of an estate, private property, and public property. Questions of which laid the ground for capitalist and socialist economic models in years to come. John Locke also developed theories about how government should be run. He theorized that governance would be more effective if the will of the people was considered more importantly. His theories would have a huge contribution on the creation of the United States and their constitution.

Though Thomas Hobbes was a great philosopher and contributed immensely to theories alike to his during the enlightenment, John Locke had a greater and longer lasting impact on history. John Locke created the base for the soul economic models that exist in the world today. He also helped in creating the philosophies that every western, civilized nation is built off. Respect and care for its citizens.