The Enlightenment

The Age of Reason







MAIN IDEAS and INTRODUCTION

* **Directions**: Open your textbooks to page 310 and read the first paragraph of "Path to Enlightenment" – answer:

WHAT IS THE ENLIGHTENMENT?

* These PHILOSOPHES created a movement that impacted the entire Western World! (17th and 18th Century PHILOSOPHICAL movement) ... a cultural, intellectual, social and scientific movement!

* **BIG PICTURE**: Applying the *scientific method* to their PHYSICAL WORLD, **Enlightenment** thinkers, or *philosophes*, re-examined ALL aspects of SOCIETY – from government and justice to religion and women's rights...

René Descartes and Rationalism

* MAIN IDEA: scientists came to believe that *REASON* is main source of ALL knowledge..

* The ENLIGHTENMENT focused on the use of REASON!

* NEW views of the universe, earth and astronomy influence NEW views of HUMANS and SOCIETY...



René Descartes and Rationalism

- * 17th century French philosopher who focused on the idea that **doubt** and **uncertainty** seemed to be everywhere (began to doubt his own EXISTENCE)...
- * In *Discourse on Method* (1637), he stated that he would only accept those things his **REASON** said were true.



- * First Principle: "I think, therefore I am" (focused on his own mind)
- * Second Principle: "the mind cannot be doubted but the body and material world can, the two must be radically different" (the separation of mind and matter/body)

René Descartes – The Father of Modern Rationalism

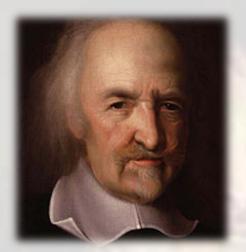
René Descartes and Rationalism

- * **Directions**: Open your textbooks to page 308 and read "Descartes and Rationalism."
- * When you are finished, answer the following questions:
 - 1.) How did Descartes' approach to the truth differ from other's at the time?
 - 2.) Explain the meaning of "I think, therefore I am"
 - 3.) What is rationalism?

* QUESTION OF THE DAY:

Are human beings inherently (naturally) GOOD or BAD? Selfish? Violent or peaceful? Why?

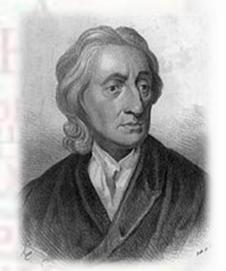
Thomas Hobbes and John Locke



* HOBBES – English philosopher who was best known for his book

Leviathan (1651)

* How does society deal with the problem of DISORDER and CHAOS? — structure of gov't, human nature...



* LOCKE – English philosopher who was best known for his book *Two Treatises on Government* (1689) – argued against ABSOLUTE RULE!

- * BOTH were post-English Revolution **PHILOSOPHERS** who were particularly concerned with three different topics:
 - 1.) MAN (humans) in their STATE of NATURE
 - 2.) What is the PURPOSE of GOVERNMENT?
 - 3.) How should government REPRESENT the PEOPLE?
 - * BOTH had a HUGE influence on the American FOUNDING FATHERS!



The *State of Nature*; Hobbes and Locke

Thomas Hobbes

- * Humans are guided by SELF-PRESERVATION! (not morals)
- * The **STATE OF NATURE** is a **state of war**.
- * the life of man is "solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short."

John Locke

- * Men exist in the **STATE OF NATURE** in **perfect equality** and **freedom** to do what they want.
- * NATURAL RIGHTS and NATURAL LAW govern the State of Nature (life, liberty, health and property) given to them by God.
- * The state of nature is not necessarily good or bad it is **CHAOTIC** and **CORRUPTING**, but mostly peaceful.

* The **STATE OF NATURE** is a hypothetical condition that preceded SOCIETY, civil government and structure – think a *deserted ISLAND*...

Purpose of Government; Hobbes and Locke

Thomas Hobbes

...to IMPOSE LAW and order to prevent the state of war.

- * ABSOLUTE MONARCHY (people agreed to be governed by an absolute ruler who had unlimited power to suppress chaos and rebellion)
- * ...the STATE was the "great **leviathan** to which we owe our peace and defense."

John Locke

...to secure NATURAL RIGHTS.

- * **REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY** (people found it difficult to protect their natural rights so they create government to ensure that their natural rights are protected)
- * "The end of law is not to abolish or restrain, but to preserve and enlarge freedom... where there is no law, there is no freedom."

* Both LOCKE and HOBBES had very different views on what the role of government should be...

Gov't and Representation; Hobbes and Locke

Thomas Hobbes

* Governments are designed to **CONTROL**, not necessarily represent the people!

John Locke

- * Representation ensures that governments are responsive to the people the "consent of the governed" is necessary...
- * Representation is a safeguard against **TYRANNY**!

* What does CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED mean?

...a government's use of power is justified and can only be legitimate if the PEOPLE give their consent to be governed!

Impact on *Founding Fathers*; Hobbes and Locke

Thomas Hobbes

* Governments must be designed to protect people from infringing on each other's rights...

John Locke

- * Government was necessary to promote the **PUBLIC GOOD** protect property, encourage commerce and little else... "govern little"
- * NATURAL RIGHTS must be secured!
- * The CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED

The Role of Philosophy

Philosophers (philosophes) and The Enlightenment

* Philosopher: intellectual who works to discuss and solve ethical and societal problems through the application of knowledge and reason (life, religious tolerance, politics, government, law)

- * Philosophers wanted to **study society** and apply **rational criticism** to it in order to make it better and improve human conditions! *
- * WHO were the *philosophers* of the Enlightenment? ...intellectuals, nobility, middle-class, European, mostly French!

The Spread of New Ideas

...during the Enlightenment

- * These *philosophes* spent a great deal of energy **spreading their ideas among literate society** in diverse cities throughout Europe...
- * Philosophes spread new ideas in a variety of ways (some new, some old):
 - 1.) The **BOOK industry** (developments in tech. and literacy rates)
 - 2.) SCIENTIFIC and LITERARY magazines (new sources of knowledge)
 - 3.) Parisian **SALONS** (in the *public sphere*)
 - 4.) London COFFEE HOUSES ("penny universities" in the public sphere)

The Spread of New Ideas Parisian Salons and London Coffee Houses

- * BOTH were in the **PUBLIC SPHERE**: a place for social interaction outside the home and away from public authority (openness, equality and communication)
- * People came together to discuss Enlightenment ideas and have conversations WITHOUT REGARD TO RANK!





The Spread of New Ideas Parisian Salons and London Coffee Houses

- * Women **DID NOT** participate in London's Coffee Houses...
- * Women were the CREATORS and **LEADERS** of the Parisian Salons!
- * Place for like-minded scholars to congregate, read, learn from and debate with one another!
- * In the hands of the **SALONNIÈRES** (hostesses), who had the power to choose guests and deny entry!





Tabula Rasa

* Francis Bacon, during the Scientific Revolution of the 17th century, established that **EMPIRICISM** (the reliance on the experience of the senses) was superior to speculation and deduction in the pursuit of knowledge.

- * John Locke in his *Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (1690) restated the importance of the experience of the senses!
 - ...and sets out the case that the human mind at birth is a complete, but receptive, **blank slate** (**tabula rasa**) upon which experience imprints knowledge.

* TABULA RASA – the mind is a blank slate at birth filled through experiences from the outside world!

Tabula Rasa

* Why is this important to the Enlightenment?

...It presents a very positive view of human nature – the idea that people can learn from experience and improve themselves gives them the ability to govern their own affairs and look after the welfare of society!

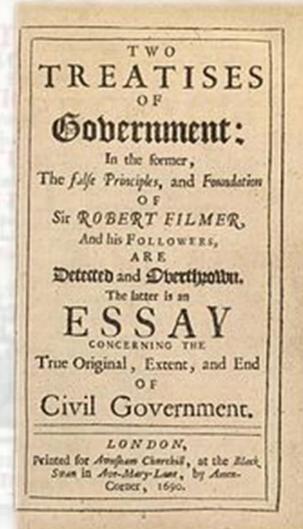
BLANK SLATE

Natural Rights

- * Two Treatises of Government (1689)
- * Two separate political philosophy

essays: the second outlines Locke's ideas for a more civilized society based on (1) **natural rights** and (2) **the social contract theory**.

"Reason... teaches all Mankind, who would but consult it, that being all *equal* and *independent*, no one ought to harm another in his Life, Health, Liberty, or Possessions."



Natural Rights

- * What are Locke's NATURAL RIGHTS?
 - 1.) LIFE (and health): everyone is entitled to live once they have been created (by God)
 - 2.) LIBERTY: all humans are entitled to do anything they want so long as it doesn't conflict with anyone else's natural rights.
 - 3.) **PROPERTY**: all humans are entitled to own all they create or gain through gift or trade so long as it doesn't conflict with anyone else's natural rights.
- * QUESTON: Why does Locke feel government is established?
- * QUESTION: What did Locke feel the people had a right to do if government did not protect the natural rights of its people?

Baron de Montesquieu

Basic Types of Government

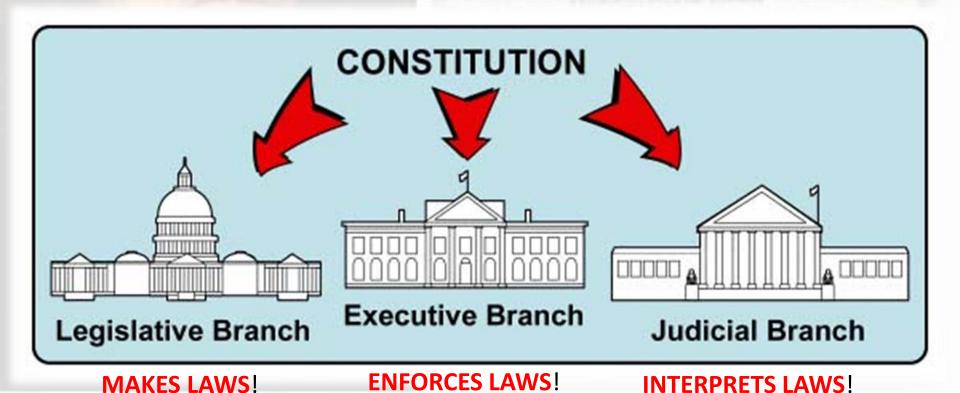


- * **The Spirit of the Laws** (1748) sought to explain humans laws, different types of government and checks/balances...
- * States that there are **THREE** different types of governments:
 - 1.) **REPUBLICS** (democracies, aristocracies)
 - 2.) MONARCHIES (fixed and established laws)
 - 3.) **DESPOTISMS** (single person TYRANT)

Montesquieu

Separation of Powers

* DESPOTISM could be prevented by a system of different governmental bodies exercising different powers (SEPARATION OF POWERS) that is held together by the RULE OF LAW!





Who are these people? Why do they do what they do? Why would they use a pseudonym?



Who are these people? Why do they do what they do? Why would they use a pseudonym?

Voltaire

Religion and Deism

* Francois-Marie Arouet – Voltaire – outspoken French philosopher and social commentator who:

...was exiled to England for two years.

...attacked injustice among nobility, government and the CATHOLIC CHURCH

through the use of **SATIRE!**

... attacked religious DOGMA and ignorance throughout society.

* Fought a lifelong struggle for *equal justice*, *religious tolerance*, the use of *reason* and *freedom of speech*



Voltaire

Religion and Deism

- * Throughout his life, **VOLTAIRE** fought and advocated for **DEISM**
 - 1.) **Deism** was an 18th century religious philosophy that focused on *REASON* and *NATURAL LAW*
 - 2.) ...built on Isaac Newton's WORLD-MACHINE concept
 - 3.) GOD created the universe... set it in motion... then stepped back and let it run on its own!
- * Why would Voltaire be an advocate of DEISM?



Voltaire

"Those who can make you believe absurdities can make you commit atrocities."

Voltaire's words reflected his observations on history and foreshadowed atrocities yet to come in Europe (particularly France). Outspoken against tyranny, ignorance, religious intolerance and the excesses of the Church, Voltaire never held his tongue, even in the face of threats.

Forced to choose between exile and imprisonment after insulting a powerful French nobleman, Voltaire chose exile in England. While there, he befriended Jonathan Swift and Alexander Pope and was influenced by *John Locke* and *Isaac Newton*. He returned home to France more radical than ever, and his ideas influenced the American and French revolutions.

* **QUESTION**: What 'absurdities' have been accepted as 'common knowledge' throughout the modern world AND/OR during the SCI. REV. and Enlightenment?

Denis Diderot

The Encyclopedia

- * Think back to the discussion we had on *HOW IDEAS ARE SPREAD*... How are ideas spread in modern world?
- * **Denis Diderot** was a **French philosopher** (18th century) who wanted to "incorporate all of the world's knowledge and hoped to spread the information to the public and future generations" ...founder, chief editor and contributor to the **Encyclopédie**



* According to Diderot, the compilation was a "change to the ordinary way of thinking"

Denis Diderot

ENCYCLOPEDIE,

OU

DES SCIENCES,

DES ARTS ET DES MÉTIERS,

PAR UNE SOCIÉTÉ DE GENS DE LETTRES.

Mis en ordre & publié par M. DIDEROT, de l'Académie Royale des Sciences & des Belles-Lemes de Peufle, & quant à la Partis Matrié Matrique, par M. D'ALEMBERT, de l'Académie Royale des Sciences de Paris, de celle de Prufle, & de la Societé Royale de Londres.

Tancim feries juntheraque polles,
Tancim de melio fampiis accede honoris! HORAT.

TOME PREMIER.



Chez BRIASSON, our Saine Jacques, à la Science, DAVID Talon, our Saine Jacques, à la Plante d'or. LE BRETON, Imprimeur collection de Roy, one de la Hoye. DUBAND DE SAIN FRANCE, L'ASSE Jacques, d'un Gréfon.

M. D.C. L.I.

The Encyclopedia

- * The *Encyclopédie* was a **LIFE-LONG** work of Diderot (worked for 27 years and published the last volume, of 28, in 1772)
- * Articles written by greatest thinkers, philosophers and scientists of the day they included:
 - 1.) Attacks on religious superstition
 - 2.) Social, legal and political reforms
 - 3.) Supported tolerance
 - 4.) New ideas about art, science and government

Denis Diderot

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A PARIS

Chex BRIASSON, ne Sain Japas, 4 le Soine.
DAVID Edia, ne Sain Japas, 6 le Plane Le.
LEBRETON, Impérimes enfinite de Roy, ne de le Beyn.
DURAND, ne Sain Japas, 4 Sain Lorby, 6 ne Grifen.

M. DCC. LL

AVEC APPROBATION ET PRIVILEGE DU ROY.

* **QUESTION**: How do you think the Church and the French government reacted to Diderot's *Encyclopédie*?

ANSWER – They opposed it heavily and tried to stop its publication and distribution throughout France!

Cesare Beccaria

Justice and the Law

- * By 18th century, European states had developed BRUTAL justice system to deal with inadequate policing powers... (PUNISH and PREVENT)
- * **Cesare Beccaria**, Italian philosopher and politician *On Crimes* and *Punishments* (1764) condemned *torture* and the *death penalty*

* In *On Crimes and Punishments*, Beccaria argued:

- 1.) Punishment should NOT be excessive SHOULD be proportionate to the crime
- 2.) The death penalty does NOT deter crime the STATE does not have the right to take lives
- 3.) Procedures of criminal convictions and punishments should be PUBLIC and PROMPT
- 4.) ...for overall reform of the legal system



Adam Smith

Economics and the Physiocrats

- 1.) The PHYSIOCRATS were a group of French economists who believed that the wealth of nations was derived from the agriculture and natural resources of that nation... (1750s and 60s)
- 2.) Adam Smith was a Scottish economist who is most well-known for writing *AN INQUIRY INTO THE CAUSE OF THE WEALTH OF NATIONS*(1776 *The Wealth of Nations*)
- * French Physiocrats AND Adam Smith acted as the founders of modern economics as they maintained that:

"individuals should be free to pursue their own economic self-interest – which would benefit society as a whole!"



WHY should individuals be free to pursue their own economic self-interest?

- * Because, according to Smith:
 - 1.) The desire for personal gain drives economic activity, which leads to competition...
 - 2.) And competition would benefit economy as a whole... (competition keeps prices lower, makes production more efficient, labor and capital are directed to profitable industries)
 - 3.) THUS, individuals who pursue their own economic self-interests ultimately benefit society!
- * This free-market system, was known to the PHYSIOCRATS and ADAM
- SMITH as LAISSEZ-FAIRE economics (French for "to let do")
 - * The government would NOT interrupt the FREE-MARKET through regulations and restrictions!

Adam Smith

The Wealth of Nations

- * In *The Wealth of Nations*, Smith outlined his ideas on a FREE-MARKET (*laissez-faire*) economy:
 - * The Government should only play three roles...
 - 1.) Protect society from outside invasion the ARMY
 - 2.) Defend citizens from injustice and harm the POLICE
 - 3.) Keep up public works that private individuals could not afford the **NECESSITIES**

Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Human Development

- * **Emile** (1762) a *TREATISE*/novel on the education of the "natural man" education should FOSTER human development!
- * In Emile, he argued:
 - 1.) **EMOTION** and **REASON** were important to human development sought a balance between emotion and reason
 - 2.) Women are naturally different from men (educate women for roles as wives and mothers) learn obedience and the skills necessary to provide loving care for husbands and children...

The Social Contract

Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau

* The Social Contract (1762) theorized about the best way in which to set up a government in the face of the problems throughout society...

* Inspired political reforms
in Europe — (WHY? ...argued
against the idea that monarchs
had the DIVINE RIGHT to govern)
...the PEOPLE are the SOVEREIGN!

	Hobbes (1588-1679) England	Locke (1632-1704) England	Rousseau (1712-1778) France
Human Nature	People are inherently evil and need to be protected from themselves with a government	People are inherently good but corrupted by society	Life is purest in nature and civilized man is corrupted and unequal
Basic Human Rights	Natural rights go only so far as is necessary for survival	All people are born equal and have the right to basic natural laws of life, liberty, and property	In nature, individual needs are met by the group and thus noble and perfect; civilization corrupts natural law
Social Contract	People give up some of their rights for government protection of order	Government offers services and protection but the people have the right to change it if government does not serve the people	Social contract is between people, not the government and give up their rights to the General Will
Role of State What	The state prevents chaos	The state protects a person's natural rights V't is ideal fo	The state serves the General Will r Rousseau?
Religion	Nation can only have one unified	Religious toleration	Against organized religion but not God
Best type of Govt	Monarchy	Representative government: republic, democracy, constitutional monarchy	Dictatorship reflecting the General Will

Mary Wollstonecraft Women's Rights

- * A Vindication of the Rights of Woman (1792) made three important arguments:
 - 1.) Men arbitrarily ruling women was similar to gov't arbitrarily ruling people both are wrong!

2.) Humans have ability to reason... women are humans... women should have the same rights as men!

3.) Women are NOT naturally inferior to men!