

# The Enlightenment

- **The Enlightened Thought and the Republic of Letters (Writers)**
- **Age of Reason**
  - o Same as Enlightenment
  - o **18th century**
  - o Years preceding French Revolution (1789)
  - o Grew out of Scientific revolution
    - ⑩ Philosophers applied reason to social, political, and economic issues
    - ⑩ Rejected authority
      - Demanded proof
  - o Centered in France but elsewhere also
    - ⑩ Read worldwide
  - o **Philosophes** - French philosophers
- **Characteristics**
  - o Belief in **natural law** and **natural rights**
  - o Emphasis on reason, science, proof
    - ⑩ Skeptical of tradition, authority, censorship
  - o Sense of progress
    - ⑩ *"To make future better than the present"*
  - o Rejection of superstition
    - ⑩ End to witchcraft
  - o Critical of organized religion
  - o *Rejected original sin*
  - o **Deism**
    - ⑩ God exists; not atheist
    - ⑩ God = first cause
    - ⑩ Man doesn't need the church to promise him salvation
    - ⑩ God not necessarily a loving God; ONLY a intellectual concept
    - ⑩ **"Great Watchmaker"**
      - God made the world, wound it up, and stuck it out there for it to tick on forever, DOES NOT INTERFERE
      - **Intelligent Design** - present-day deism (creationism)
    - ⑩ Confined to the philosophes
  - o **Religious fervor** remained
    - ⑩ **Pietism**
      - Northern Germany
      - Purify Lutheranism (more personal religion)
      - "Inner spirit" not reason
    - ⑩ **Methodism**
      - John Wesley 1703-1791
      - Against gambling, drinking, dancing
      - *Great Awakening* in America (revival of religion)
    - ⑩ **Mystification**
      - J. C. Lavater
      - Study facial expression and figure out character
    - ⑩ **Mesmerism**
      - Anton F. Mesmer 1734- 1815
      - Try to hypnotize patients
      - Not scientific
      - "Quack doctor"
    - ⑩ **Freemasons**
      - Secret society
      - An organized fraternity

- Meet in lodges that are closed to the public

### - **The Philosophes**

- Thinkers with critical and inquiring spirit
- Writers - "**Men of Letters**"
  - ⑩ Spread ideas of the Enlightenment
  - ⑩ Wrote for the public (fun, comical, pleasant)
- Met in **salons**
  - ⑩ "cocktail parties" / "book club"
  - ⑩ Meetings in homes of prominent women where philosophes gathered and discussed issues
- Advocated reform, not revolution
- Ideas varied

## Enlightenment

### **The Age of Reason**

- Another name for enlightenment
- XVIII (18th c.) intellectual movement
- Outgrowth of Scientific Revolution
- *PHILOSOPHERS APLIED REASON TO SOLVE SOCIAL PROBLEMS*

### - **Philosophes = Philosophers**

- French name
- Writers and thinkers of the early 18th c.
- Social reformers
- Mostly French
- Critical of society
- Wanted to solve social problems (applied reason to:)
  - ⑩ Government
  - ⑩ Religion
  - ⑩ Economics
  - ⑩ Education
  - ⑩ Law
- Most of them:
  - ⑩ Valued equality
  - ⑩ Supported political freedom
  - ⑩ Advocated religious tolerance
  - ⑩ Criticized organized church
  - ⑩ Opposed to superstition, war, slavery
  - ⑩ Opposed to censorship
- **Salon**
  - ⑩ ... Like a cocktail party where women invited philosophes and listened to them
  - ⑩ Social meetings / parties (book club)
  - ⑩ Invited philosophes
  - ⑩ Spread ideas of philosophers

**JON LOCKE**

Similar to Hobbes:

- -----
- Englishmen
- 17th century
- (mid 1700s)
- Political scientists
  - o How government created
- Started with state of nature
  - o Period without government
  - o Before the creation of government
- Responded to Glorious Revolution
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- **Social contract**
  - o Agreement to form government

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**STATE OF NATURE:**

- o Man is genial, responsible, cooperative and free
- o 3 rights
  - Ⓢ Life
  - Ⓢ Liberty
  - Ⓢ Property
    - Property short circuits
- o Rights overlap

**SOCIAL CONTRACT:**

- o Because rights overlap
- o Purpose of government is to protect rights
- o Contact can be rescinded
  - Ⓢ Ruler can be overthrow by men

**TWO TREATISES ON GOVERNMENT,**

- o Glorious Revolution was good
- o Influenced Declaration of Independence
- o Government created by man NOT GOD
- o Basics of democratic thought

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Founding fathers changed Property to Pursuit of happiness

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**SOCIAL SCIENTIST:**

- o *Essay Concerning Human Understanding, 1690*
  - To find out how we learn what we learn
  - "Tabula Rasa" - mind is an "erased tablet"
    - o Experience rights on tablet
  - **Empiricism / Empirical / Empiricist** - all knowledge comes from experiences and senses
  - Basis of liberal thought

If you want to change man you have to change his experience

**THOMAS HOBBS**

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----- Similar to Locke:

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- **Social contract**
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- **STATE OF NATURE:**

- o Low opinion of state of nature
- o Nasty, brutish, quarrelsome and short tempered
- o Chaos Chaos Chaos Chaos
- o BAD, people scared and insecure
- o No capacity for self government
- o So bad that leads to social contract with the ruler

- **SOCIAL CONTRACT:**

- o Surrender rights and freedoms to ruler
- o Ruler protects from fear and gives order
- o Absoluter ruler

- **LEVIATHAN, 1651**

- o Opposed to Glorious Revolution
- Ⓣ Once man gives up rights he can never get them back
- Ⓣ Man can not overthrow the government because he accepted social contract
- Ⓣ Not allowed to overthrow
- Ⓣ Disagrees with Glorious Revolution
- Ⓣ Opposed to the fact that people overthrew James II
  - o Government created by man NOT GOD
- Ⓣ Man give power to the government
- o Absolutist

## MONTESQUIEU

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- **Nationality:** French
- **Social Class:** **Aristocrat, noble**
  
- **Political Scientist:**
  - Studied different governments and culture
    - ⑩ Concluded that none of them were perfect, but all had good characteristics
    - ⑩ Critical of absolute monarchy
    - ⑩ Admired *British* (**Constitutionalism** - law is the highest, not the king or ruler)
      - *Balance of power*
    - ⑩ Wanted to have a little of every government
  - **Separation of Power:** ("**Spirit of the Laws**" 1748)
    - ⑩ COMPARED GOVERNMENTS
    - ⑩ **Legislative**
    - ⑩ **Executive**
    - ⑩ **Judicial**
    - ⑩ To prevent abuse of power (balance of powers)
    - ⑩ **Constitution of USA**
  - Very interested in law
    - ⑩ Everybody must obey law (Even King)
    - ⑩ "Liberty is doing whatever the laws allow"
  - "**Persian Letters**" ...book
    - ⑩ Criticized nobles
    - ⑩ Men are better... but women are capable... good for separation of power
    - ⑩ Travel log
      - Persians traveling through Europe sending letters back home
    - ⑩ Escaped censorship this way
  - Forms of government vary with the climate??
    - ⑩ Despotism - hot climates
    - ⑩ Democracy - cooler climates
  
- **Social views:**
  - Opposed slavery
    - ⑩ Violated natural laws
  
- **Religious views:**
  - Not very religious
  - Church useful for balance of power
  - Pope = magician
  - AGAINST DIVINE RIGHT
  
- ⑩ Power comes from the people

## VOLTAIRE

**Pen Name:** Voltaire

**Real Name:** Francois Marie Arouet

**Profession:** Royal historian to Louis XV

**Social Class:** Middle Class - **Bourgeois**

**Nationality:** French

**Corresponded with:** Catherine the Great

### Characteristics:

**VERY POPULAR** - Witty, Funny, **Sarcastic**, Easiest to read, Optimistic

### - Accomplishments:

- Wrote 70+ books
  - o **Candide**
  - o Mocked nobility and philosophers
  - o "Tend your own garden"

### Religious views:

- **Deist...**
  - o Great Watchmaker in the Sky
  - o God made a watch (earth)... stuck it out and left it alone
  - o God made it but is not involved in daily affairs
  - o Does not believe in worship
- Believed in religious toleration
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- Criticized Christians
  - o *Christ* = religious fanatic
  - o *Bible* = work of ignorant men
  - o *Miracles* = bunch of lies
  - o Clergy was more concerned with privilege and power than morals
  - o *Christianity* = history of religious persecution in the name of God
  - o CRITICAL OF ORGANIZED CHURCH

### - Political Views:

- o BEST government = **Enlightened monarchy**
  - ⑩ Need strong government
  - ⑩ People too stupid to rule themselves
  - ⑩ Ruler should be enlightened
- o Democracy is okay... but not for France
- o Government should
  1. Fight stupidity and laziness
  2. Keep church weak
  3. Protect freedom of thought, religion, and press

### - Social Views:

- o Source of problems = nobility
- o Get rid of titles of nobility
- o Opposed to slavery
- o Freedom of Thought and press
  - Opposed to censorship
- "I do not believe a word you say, but I will defend to the death, your right to say it"

## **DIDEROT**

### **Denis Diderot**

- **"Encyclopedia"**
  - ⑩ 28 Volumes
  - ⑩ Had pictures, and diagrams
  - ⑩ Each article written by different author (60,000)
  - ⑩ Very subjective - opinionated, **biased**
  - ⑩ Banned by church
    - Sold even more
    - Sold 20,000 copies
- o To spread ideas of the Enlightenment
- Exposed evils of society
  - o Torture
  - o War
  - o Slavery
- 
- Supported
  - o Free speech
  - o Education
- **Critical of**
  - o **Absolute monarchy**
  - o **Organized religion**
  - o Wanted to look critically at everything
- He was a deist

*"Man will never be free until the last king is strangled with the entrails of the last priest"*

## **ROUSSEAU**

### **Life:**

- 1712 - 1778
- Social critic
- Misfit
- Unlike other philosophes
  - o VERY POOR
    - ⑩ Sold wife and kids into slavery
  - o Catholic
- Controversial

- ★ Forerunner of Romanticism - ahead of his time
  - o Emotion = most important

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### **Social Views:**

- Man born good... busy society corrupts him
- Progress is bad
- Opposed to modern world
- Admired the 'noble savage'
  - o Someone who lived simple life
  - o Good human qualities
- Wanted to reform society
  - o Simple life
  - o Free from evil, private property, materialism,
  - o Assuredness of liberty
- Women lack ability

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### **BOOKS:**

"Emile" - life, education

"Confessions" - society

"Social Contract" - government

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### **Political Views:**

- Most democratic
- Man is capable of ruling himself
- Faith in common man
- Government should reflect the "general will"... majority

Pure Democracy:

- Every would directly participate

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### **Religious views:**

- Catholic
- Tolerant

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### **Education:**

- Purpose = self reliance
  - No formal education until age 12
  - Learn from experience
    - o EMPIRICISM
  - Self reliance
  - First book to read: Robinson Crusoe - self reliant
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## Enlightened Arts

### Rococo

- ⑩ 18th Century
- ⑩ Louis XV Style
- ⑩ **Because:** after Louis XIV died, court moved back to Paris
- ⑩ **Name:** *rocaille*, "rock work"
- ⑩ Reaction against the formal baroque style (Louis XIV)
  - Baroque = religious, Counter-Reformation
  - Flowed out of Baroque
- ⑩ Final phase of baroque
- ⑩ Ornate, but light (less heavy)
- ⑩ New taste for more delicate decorations
  - Suitable for smaller and more intimate interiors of town houses
- ⑩ Not religious
- ⑩ Denoting the frivolous over-elaboration
- ⑩ **Characteristics:**
  - Flowing curves
    - Free graceful movement
    - Playful use of line
  - **Delicate colors**
  - Ornate curls
    - Gilded molding
  - Subject matter
    - **Secular** (not religious)
    - Erotic (suggestive flirting... erotic for the 18th not 21st century)
    - No ~~grand heroes~~ or ~~historical themes~~
    - Birds, flowers, life, etc
    - Carefree life of the aristocracy (**aristocrats at play**)
      - ◇ Love, fun, romance, nature

⑩

### Artists:

- **Jean Honore Fragonard**
  - (*The Swing*) 1767
    - ◇ Woman kicking of her shoe on a swing in a garden
  - (*Blindman's Buff*)
    - ◇ Adults playing little kid's game
- **François Boucher**
  - (*The Love Letter*)
    - ◇ Aristocratic, rosy-cheeked and somewhat pudgy aristocratic ladies
    - ◇ Country life, "shepherdesses" wearing fine clothes
    - ◇ Originally oval, but canvas added
- **Antoine Watteau**
  - Perfect example of Rococo
  - "Off balance", asymmetrical
  - (*The Embarkation for Cythera*)
    - ◇ Group of aristocrats embarking for the mythical birthplace of Venus
    - ◇ Fuzzy

### Opera

- ⑩ Began to decline
- ⑩ Criticized by philosophes

## Enlightened Monarchy

### - **Enlightened Monarchy and Benevolent Despotism**

#### ○ **Growth of Monarchy**

- ⑩ *New Monarch* - 16th Century
- ⑩ *Absolute Monarchs* - 17th Century
- ⑩ *Enlightened Monarchs* - 18th Century
- ⑩ Very similar
- ⑩ *Role of the monarch evolved*

#### ⑩ **New Monarchs**

- *Characteristics:*
  - Laid foundation of modern state
  - Suppressed brigands
  - Established law and order
  - Levied taxes
  - Claimed rule by divine right
    - ◇ Legitimacy - (from God)
- *Examples:*
  - **Henry VII**
  - **Louis XI**
  - **Ferdinand and Isabella**

#### ⑩ **Absolute Monarchs**

- *Characteristics:*
  - Centralized power
  - Created strong nation states
  - Mercantilists
  - Weakened nobility and church
  - Built bureaucracy
  - Built up military
  - Ruled by divine right
- *Examples:*
  - **Peter the Great**
  - **Louis XIV**
  - **Charles XII**
  - **Leopold II**
  - **Frederick William, the Great Elector** (lesser degree)

#### ⑩ **Enlightened Monarchs**

- *Characteristics:*
  - Made reforms to increase their own power
    - ◇ Education
    - ◇ Toleration
    - ◇ Eased punishments
  - Made state more powerful, but not necessarily more just
  - **Secular rule**; did not claim to rule by divine right
- *Examples:*
  - **Frederick the Great (Prussia)**
  - **Joseph II (Austria)**
  - **Catherine the Great (Russia)**
  - **Louis XV** (*least enlightened of them all*)

# Enlightened Monarchy

## - **Enlightened Monarchs**

### - **France**

- **Louis XV & Louis XVI** (France 1715 – 1774 & 1774 – 1793)
- least enlightened

### **Charles III (Spain, r. 1759 – 1788)**

- required universities to teach science and philosophy
- relaxed censorship
- abolished death penalty
- expelled Jews

### **Maria Theresa (Austria, r. 1740 – 1780) (very cautious re. change) "Baby Steps"**

- built up; centralized bureaucracy
  - Ⓣ appointed able ministers
  - Ⓣ Really good at picking good people
- increased taxes
- maintained flow of soldiers
- broke control of local **diets** (assembly)
- left Hungary alone
- didn't force Hungary to conform
- wanted to increase production
  - Ⓣ set up tariff union of Bohemia, Moravia, Austria (area of free trade)
  - Ⓣ limited guilds
  - Ⓣ suppressed brigands
- reformed abuses of serfdom

### **Joseph II (Austria, r. 1780 – 1790) (impatient, wanted total abolition of bad conditions, fast to act)**

- Total opposite of her mother
- **abolished serfdom**
- **economic reform**
  - Ⓣ built up port of Trieste
  - Ⓣ established an E. India Co.
  - Ⓣ equality of taxation
- equal punishment for equal crimes
- punishment made less cruel
- freedom of press and religion
- **religion**
  - Ⓣ improved civil rights for Jews including granting nobility
  - Ⓣ allowed Protestants to become civil servants
  - Ⓣ supported **Febronianism** (freedom from Roman control of church)
    - increased control over bishops
    - suppressed monasteries (took some of their wealth)
  - Ⓣ set up secular hospitals
- **administrative reforms**

- ⑩ centralized the state
    - ⑩ included Hungary under controls
    - ⑩ est. German as single language of the gov't
    - ⑩ civil servant
      - arranged for training courses
      - provided retirement pensions
      - established efficiency reports and inspections
    - ⑩ secret police
  - Established education system (primary through university)
  - **FAILED**; could not do it all by himself
    - ⑩ opposition from *nobles, church, Hungary* and Bel.
    - ⑩ too few middle class to help support
    - ⑩ Leopold (brother) undid most of Joseph's reforms
- **Frederick the Great (Prussia; r. 1740 – 1786)**
- **Background / Beliefs**
    - ⑩ didn't get along with father
    - ⑩ became cynical
    - ⑩ became a soldier
    - ⑩ married but never consummated
    - ⑩ invaded Silesia (War of Austrian Succession) Broke Pragmatic Sanction
    - ⑩ very ill (porphyria)
    - ⑩ read philosophes, corresponded, ran a salon, fought with Voltaire
    - ⑩ wrote history: anti Machiavelli
    - ⑩ interested in music; played flute, wrote sonatas and concertos
    - ⑩ Protestant/Lutheran
  - **Devoted to his subjects**
    - ⑩ His job to make people happy, without giving up power
  - against sweeping change
    - ⑩ wise, moderate, reasonable
  - encouraged crop rotation
  - **Administrative reforms**
    - ⑩ "*1<sup>st</sup> servant of the state*"
    - ⑩ codified laws
    - ⑩ abolished capital punishment
    - ⑩ reformed courts (cheaper, increased efficiency, honesty)
    - ⑩ built up the civil service; est. civil service exam
      - ⑩ never relegated any real authority (attended to all business himself)
  - **Religious reforms**
    - ⑩ some religious reform but
      - Prussia already docile and Lutheran church subordinate to state
      - intolerant of Jews
  - **Social reforms**
    - ⑩ some free elementary education for all
    - ⑩ did little for serfs
      - freed serfs on his own estates, but needed support of Junkers
        - Junkers free to deal with serfs in their own way
    - ⑩ maintained rigid class differences
      - small middle class
      - power of Junkers checked but not abolished
    - ⑩ believed in freedom of speech
  - **no successors**

- **Catherine the Great (Russia, r. 1762 – 1796)**
  - centralized GOV.
  - **Background**
    - ⑩ German
    - ⑩ Married to Russian Czar (Peter III)
    - ⑩ r. 1762-1796
    - ⑩ Intelligent and ambitious
    - ⑩ Agreed with philosophes (Voltaire..)
      - invited Diderot to Russia
    - ⑩ Well liked
    - ⑩ Adopted Russian ways religion language
    - ⑩ May have been part of her husbands death (murder)
  - **Political Reforms:**
    - **Charter of Rights** for nobles
      - ⑩ No taxation for nobles
      - ⑩ No government service
    - **Legislative Commission** 1767
      - ⑩ Traveled around Russia and reported to Catherine
    - Merchants received freedom to trade
    - **Expansionist**
      - Expanded territory (west and south)
      - expansion break down of Balance of Power
    - **War with Ottoman Empire**
      - ⑩ Won ports on Black Sea
      - ⑩ Annexed Crimea
    - **3 partitions of Poland**
      - ⑩ Won land in west
      - ⑩ 1772, 1773, 1795
      - ⑩ Austria, Russia, Prussia
      - ⑩ No Poland left... wiped off map
    - favored **boyars**
  - **Social Reforms**
    - Wrote legal code
    - Restricted use of torture
    - Granted some religious toleration
      - stopped persecution of Old Believers
    - Introduced western education
    - Encouraged the arts
    - Encouraged printing
    - Established schools to educated daughters of nobles
    - ★ ○ Did not help the serfs
  - **Purgachev's Rebellions**
    - 1773
    - CAUSE: Fighting for rights of serfs
    - FAILED
    - OUTCOME: Led to further degradation

# Economics / Physiocrats

## Physiocrats

- economists of 18th century
- Applied reason to economic issues
- Critical of mercantilism
- Believed in free trade
- Looked for natural laws

## Mercantilism

- 17th Century
- Economics should make economy strong
- Trade is most important ([balance of trade](#))
- [Government regulation](#)
- [Specie](#) (gold and silver)

## Beliefs of Physiocrats

- Should make individual strong
- Farming was the most important economic activity
- [Free market](#) ([laissez faire](#))
  - Ⓣ Totally [free trade](#)
  - Ⓣ No tariffs
- Real wealth = [land](#) (farming, mining, logging)

## Adam Smith, 1723-1790 - *Father of Capitalism*

- English
- Admired physiocrats
- "[Wealth of Nations](#)" - 1776
- [Leave economy alone](#)
- **Invisible Hand** would control economy
  - Ⓣ **Market Forces**
    - *Supply and demand*
    - *Competition*
- **[Role of Government](#)**
  - Ⓣ Maintain [legal framework](#)
    - Banking laws
    - Business laws
    - [Set up so that business takes place...](#) maintain contracts
  - Ⓣ Maintain competition
    - Not allow monopolies
  - Ⓣ Keep the peace
    - Promote stability
    - Law and order
- **Division of Labor**
- [Self Interest](#)
  - Ⓣ If everyone does what's good for them, it will be good for the nation
- **[Dismal Scientists](#)**
  - Ⓣ Followers of Adam Smith
  - Ⓣ Took him literally and [took it too far](#)