

The Enlightenment

Age of Reason

- Same as Enlightenment
- 18th Century
- Years preceding the French Revolution (1789)
- Grew out of Scientific Revolution
 - o Philosophers applied reason to social, political, and economic reasons
 - o Rejected authority
 - Demanded proof
- Centered in France
 - o Started in England
 - o Spread all over Europe
- **Philosophes**
 - o French Philosophers
 - Thinkers with critical and inquiring spirit
 - o Writers
 - “Men of letters”
 - Spread ideas of the Enlightenment
 - Wrote for the public
 - Fun, comical, satirical, pleasant
 - Advocated reform, not revolution
 - Critical of society
 - o Government
 - o Religion
 - o Economics
 - o Law
 - Ideas varied
 - Agreed on key issues
 - o Valued equality
 - o Political freedom
 - o Religious tolerance
 - o Criticized organized church
 - o Opposed to superstition, war, slavery
 - o Opposed censorship
- o **Salons**
 - “Cocktail parties/book clubs”
 - Meetings in homes of prominent women
 - Gathered and discussed issues
 - Helped spread ideas of Enlightenment



Characteristics

- Belief in **natural law** and **natural rights**
- Emphasis on reason, science, proof
 - o Skeptical of tradition, authority, censorship
- Rejection of superstition
 - o End to witchcraft
- Critical of organized religion
 - o Rejected original sin

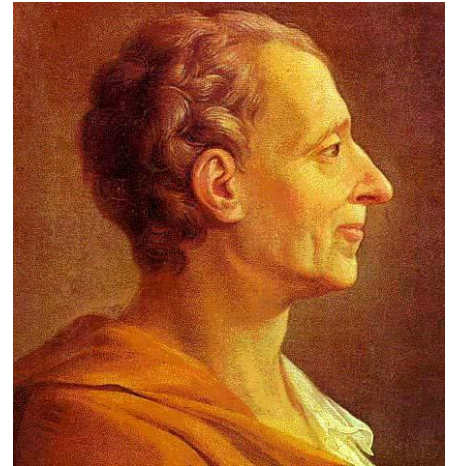
- **Deism**
 - God exists; not atheist
 - God=First Cause
 - Man does not need the church to promise him salvation
 - God not necessarily loving God; only intellectual concept
 - **“Great Watchmaker”**
 - God made the world, wound it up, and left it
 - Intelligent Design – present day deism
 - Confined to the philosophes
- Religious fervor remained
 - Pietism
 - Northern Germany
 - Purify Lutheranism
 - More personal religion
 - “Inner Spirit” not reason
 - Methodism
 - Josh Wesley 1703-1791
 - Against gambling, drinking, dancing
 - *Great Awakening* in America
 - Revival of religion
 - Mystification
 - J.C. Lavater
 - Study facial expressions and figure out character
 - Mesmerism
 - Anton F. Mesmer 1734-1815
 - Try to hypnotize patients
 - Not scientific
 - “Quack doctor”
 - Freemasons
 - Secret society
 - An organized fraternity
 - Met in lodges closed to the public

The Philosophes

Montesquieu

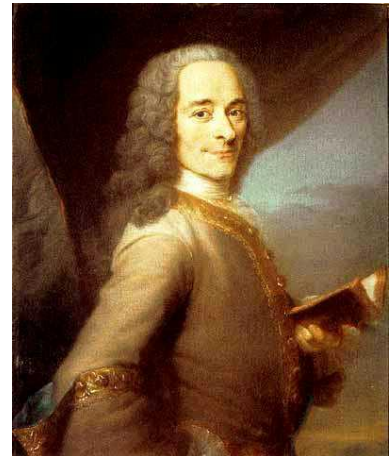
- Background
 - French
 - Aristocratic
- Political scientist
 - Studies different governments and culture
 - Concluded that none of them were perfect, but all had good characteristics
 - Critical of absolute monarchy
 - Admired British
 - *Constitutionalism* – law is the highest, not the king or ruler
 - Balance of power
 - Wanted to have little of every government
 - Separation of Power
 - *Spirit of Laws* – 1748
 - Wanted division between legislative, judicial, and executive branches
 - Balance of power

- Interests in law
 - Everyone must obey the law
 - Including the king
 - “Liberty is doing whatever the laws allow”
 - Persian Letters
 - Criticized Nobles
 - Men are better, but women are capable
 - Good for separation of power
 - Written like a travel log
 - Outsiders making observations and sending them home
 - Escaped censorship in this way
 - Forms of government vary by climate
 - Despotism – hot climates
 - Democracy – cooler climates
- Social views
 - Opposed slavery
 - Violated natural laws
- Religious views
 - Not very religious
 - Church useful for the balance of power
 - Compares the pope to a magician
 - Against **Divine Right**
 - Power comes from the **people**



Voltaire

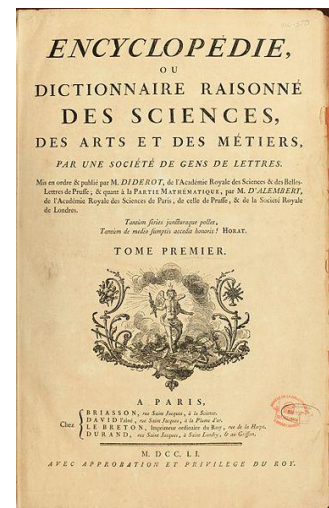
- Background
 - Real name Francois Marie Arouet
 - Royal historian to Louis XV
 - Also communicated with Catherine the Great
 - Bourgeois
- Characteristics
 - Very popular
 - Witty
 - Funny
 - Sarcastic
 - Easiest to read
 - Optimistic
- Accomplishments
 - Wrote 70+ books
 - **Candide**
 - Mocked nobility and philosophers
 - “Tend to your own garden”
- Religious views
 - **Deist**
 - Believed in religious toleration
 - Highly critical of organized church
 - Criticized Christians
 - Christ was a religious fanatic
 - Bible is the work of ignorant men
 - Miracles are a bunch of lies



- Clergy more concerned with privilege and power than morals
- Christianity is the history of religious persecution in the name of God
- Political Views
 - **Enlightened Monarchy** is the Best Government
 - Need strong government
 - People too stupid to rule themselves
 - Rulers should be enlightened
 - Democracy is okay, but not for France
 - Government should
 - Fight stupidity and laziness
 - Keep church weak
 - Protect freedom of thought, religion, and press
- Social views
 - Nobility is source of problems
 - Titles of nobility should be gotten rid of
 - Opposed to slavery
 - 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

- Background
 - Denis Diderot
 - French
 - Deist
- Encyclopedia
 - 28 volumes
 - Had pictures, and diagrams
 - Each article written by a different author
 - Over 60,000
 - Very subjective
 - Opinionated and biased
 - Banned by church
 - Bad press is good press!
 - Sold 20,000 copies
 - Helped spread ideas of Enlightenment
- Exposed evils of society
 - Torture
 - War
 - Slavery
- Supported
 - Free speech
 - Education
- Critical of
 - Absolute monarchy
 - Organized religion
 - Wanted to look critically at everything
- "Man will never be free until the last king is strangled with the entrails of the last priest"



Rousseau

- Background
 - o 1712-1778
 - o Jean Jacques Rousseau
 - o Very poor
 - Gave kids to orphanage
 - o Controversial
 - Misfit
- Forerunner of Romanticism
 - o Emotion is most important
- Social views
 - o Man born good
 - **Corrupted by busy society**
 - o Progress is bad
 - Opposed to modern world
 - Admired the 'noble savage'
 - Someone who lived simple life
 - Good human qualities
 - o Wanted to reform society
 - Simpler life
 - Free from evil, private property, materialism
 - Assuredness of liberty
 - Women lack ability
- Books
 - o **"Emile"** – life, education
 - o "Confessions" – Society
 - o "Social Contract" – Government
- Political views
 - o Most democratic
 - o Man is capable of ruling himself
 - o Faith in common man
 - o Government should reflect the "general will"
 - Preferred a direct democracy
- Religious Views
 - o Catholic
 - But Tolerant
- Education
 - o Purpose is to lead to self-reliance
 - o No formal education until age 12
 - Empiricism
 - Learn from experience

