

The Enlightenment

Ms. Rosenberg

Chapter 18, Sections 1 & 2

Progress and Reason

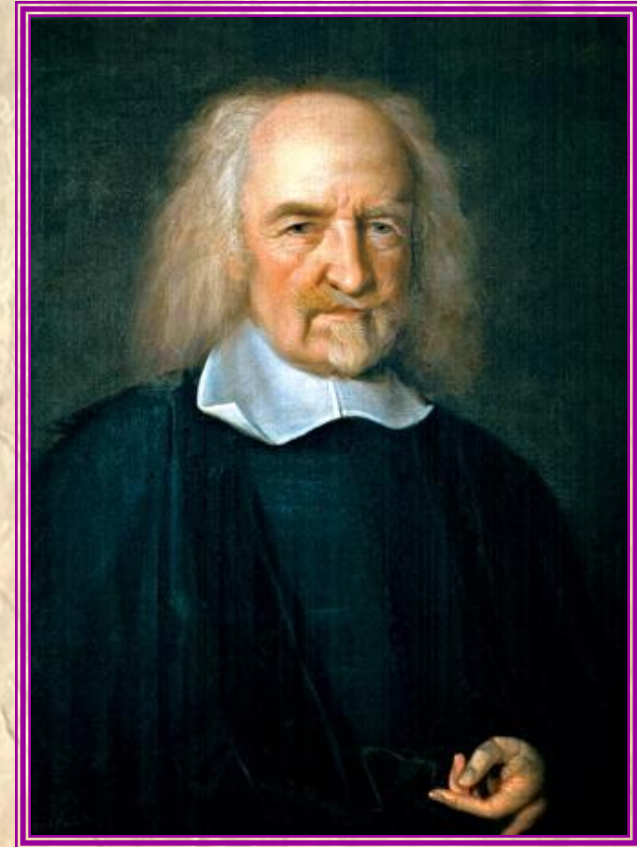
- The Scientific Revolution changed the way people thought in the 1500s and 1600s
- Medical and scientific discoveries were more common by the 1700s
- People began to believe that if reason could be used to understand the physical world, it should be used to discover the laws that govern human nature.

The Enlightenment

- A revolution in THINKING
- Through the use of REASON, people and governments could solve all social, political, and economic problems

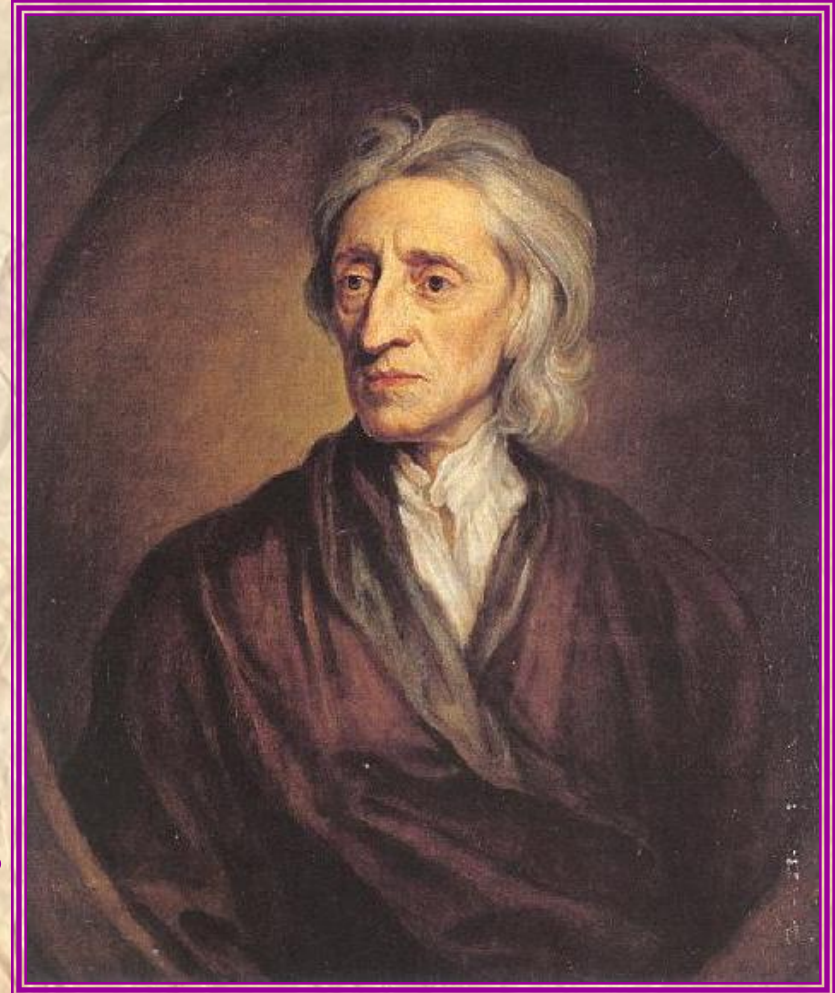
Thomas Hobbes

- English thinker from the 1600s
- Wrote Leviathan:
 - People are naturally cruel, greedy and selfish
 - If not controlled, they will fight and rob each other
 - Rules are needed to avoid this – a Social Contract for an organized society run by a powerful government (like an absolute monarchy)



John Locke

- English thinker from the 1600s
- Viewed human nature more positively than Hobbes:
 - People generally more reasonable and moral
 - All people had Natural Rights that belonged to all humans at birth (Life, Liberty, Property)



John Locke

- *Two Treatises of Government:*
 - Governments formed to help protect natural rights
 - Best governments have limited power and accepted by all citizens (against absolute monarchies)
- Locke's view of Government:
 - Has an obligation to the people it governs
 - The people have the right to overthrow a government that fails or violates people's natural rights
 - The Right to Revolution becomes a worldwide issue

Separation of Power

- French thinker Baron de Montesquieu studied and wrote about European governments, criticized absolute monarchies
- Admired the Limited Monarchy of Britain:
 - British were protected from tyranny by dividing jobs and powers of the government into Branches (executive, legislative, judicial)
 - Branches should be able to check each other to prevent one from gaining too much power (checks and balances)

The Philosophes

- French thinkers who applied science to understand and improve society
- Use of reason = better government, law, society
- Called *Philosophes* (Lovers of wisdom)
- Montesquieu,
Voltaire, Diderot,
Rousseau



Voltaire

- Used his sarcastic wit and writings to fight for injustice, inequality, and superstition
- Against slavery and religious prejudice
- Often offended the French government and Catholic Church
- Eventually imprisoned then exiled but he continued to speak out

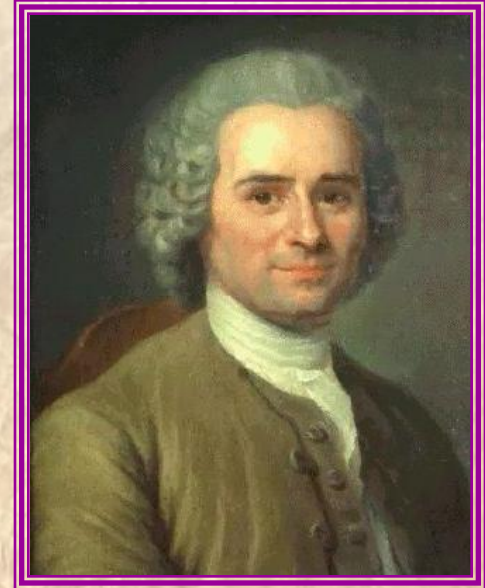


Diderot

- Wrote Encyclopedia:
 - 28 volume work that contained articles on government, religion, and philosophy written by many philosophers
 - Articles were against slavery, for freedom of expression and education for everyone
 - Against Divine Right and traditional religion
 - The Church was against it
 - Spread Enlightenment ideas worldwide

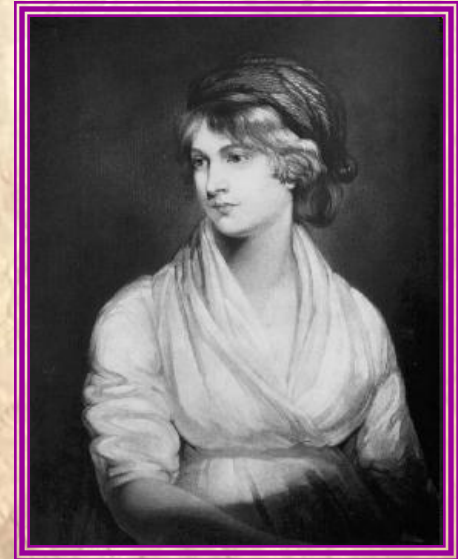
Rousseau

- Controversial French thinker
- Believed people were basically good but easily corrupted by society
- *The Social Contract*:
 - Society limited people's behavior too much
 - Governments should be freely elected
 - Good of the community should be above the individual (opposite of what other believed)



Women & the Enlightenment

- Women still not equal members of society at this time, natural rights limited to home and family
- Women began to protest this idea
- Mary Wollstonecraft
 - British critic
 - Believed women shouldn't be totally dependent on husbands
 - Make decisions in their own best interest
 - Supported equal education for all



Laissez Faire Economics

- Allow businesses to operate with little or no government intervention
- Real wealth comes from making the land productive
- Supports free trade, opposes taxes on trade

Adam Smith

- British economist, wrote *The Wealth of Nations*:
 - Supply and Demand were linked to manufacturing, trade, wages, profits, and economic growth (if there is a demand, supplies will make sure demands are met so they make a profit)
- Supported laissez faire economics but government has a duty to protect society, administer justice, and provide public works

