







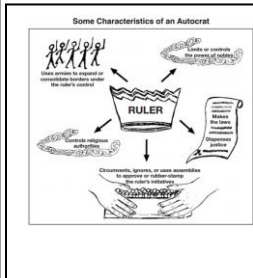


Aim #2: How did the Enlightenment thinkers answer the basic question of the 18th century: How does one make mankind happy, rational and free?

People of the Enlightenment -1600s & 1700s

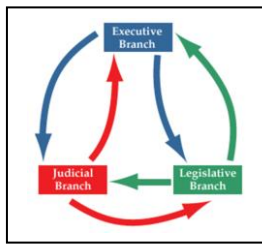
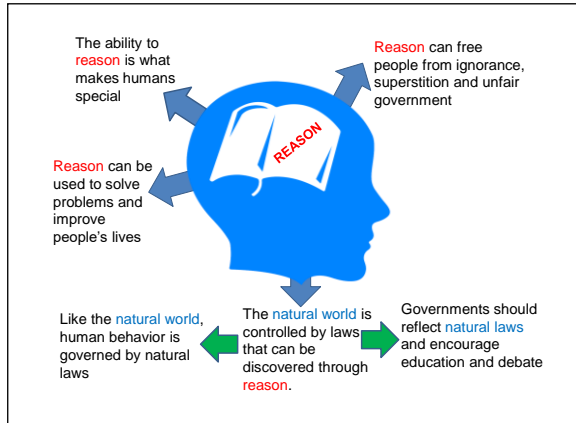
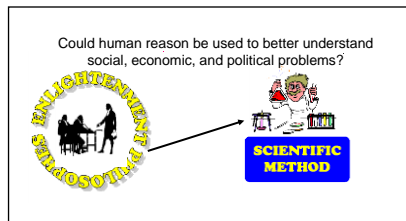
Name	From	Wrote	Main Ideas
 Locke	England	Two Treatises on Gov't	-Observation: gov't exists to "preserve life, liberty, & property" -Hypothesis: people should be sovereign (rule) -Hypothesis: monarchs not chosen by God
 Hobbes	England	Leviathan	-Observation: Life without gov't is "solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, & short." -Hypothesis: Absolute gov't needed to control evil behavior (not divine right)
 Montesquieu	France	The Spirit of Laws	-Observation: "When the legislature & executive are united in the same person, there is no liberty" -Hypothesis: Gov't must have "Separation of Powers" - 3 branches
 Rousseau	France	The Social Contract	-Observation: "man is born free, but everywhere he is in chains." -Hypothesis: Gov't is contract between people & rulers. Gov't must be what people want.
 Voltaire	France		-Observation: Life is better with liberty -Hypothesis: Freedom of speech & religion, separation of church & state -I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it."

Thinker	From	Wrote	Main Ideas	Famous Quotes
	England	Leviathan, 1651	Social Contract Man are selfish and competitive. Life without government is "solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short." Give all power to absolute government to control evil behavior	"The right of nature...in the liberty each man hath to use his own power, as he will himself, for the preservation of his own nature, that is to say, of his own life." "The only way to erect such a common power which may defend them...is to confer all their power and strength upon one man..."
	England	Two Treatises on Government, 1689	Every man has 3 natural rights: life, liberty, and property. Government exists to preserve natural rights People agree to give up some of their rights for the sake of preserving society (social contract) but have the right to rebel	"All mankind...being equal and independent, no one ought to be harmed another in his life, health, liberty, or possession." "Political power is that power which every man...has given up into the hands of society..."
	France	The Spirit of Laws, 1748	Government must have a separation of powers (3 branches: executive, legislative & judicial) to ensure freedom & liberty Checks & balances	"When the legislature & executive are united in the same person...there can be no liberty..." "Power should be a check to power."
	France	The Social Contract, 1762	Establishment of government is a social contract between the people and the ruler(s) Invent all rights into society ("general will") The government must preserve "virtue" and "liberty" or the people will overthrow it	"We, the contracting parties, do jointly and severally submit our persons and abilities to the supreme direction of the general will of all..." "Man is born free, but everywhere he is in chains."




KEY ENLIGHTENMENT IDEAS


- The ability to reason is what makes humans unique.
- Reason can be used to solve problems and improve people's lives.
- Reason can free people from ignorance, superstition, and unfair government.
- The natural world is governed by laws that can be discovered through reason.
- Like the natural world, human behavior is governed by natural laws.
- Governments should reflect natural laws and encourage education and debate.



Scientists believed that the world operated according to a set of natural laws that people could study and understand.



These beliefs led people to call for personal freedom, individual rights, and equality—basic ideas of democracy.



Political thinkers believed that natural laws could also explain the behavior of people. They wanted to use their understanding of human behavior to improve society.

Scientific Revolution →
Enlightenment

Mini Lecture

- In 1750, people changed how they thought about the basic political question: what rights do individuals have? The answer created revolutionary changes.
- People commonly accepted that rights came from government. Usually, this meant that they only had the freedom granted to them by the king or queen. The idea that all people had natural, inalienable rights that every legitimate government should respect was just emerging.
- People also commonly accepted that monarchs gained their right to rule directly from god (Divine right theory) & that nobles should have more powers than common people. Monarchs therefore argued no one should limit their power (Absolutism).
- The Enlightenment questioned & challenged such accepted traditional beliefs & inspired widespread political, economic, & social change.
- In the 1500s & 1600s, the Scientific Revolution introduced reason & scientific method as the basis of knowledge, changing the way people looked at the world- this convinced educated Europeans in the power of human reason.
- Philosophers aimed to use **natural laws**- rules discovered by reason- to study human behavior & solve society's problems- this sparked a revolution in thinking, known as the Enlightenment.
- **The Enlightenment**, or the **Age of Reason**, a European intellectual movement which rejected & questioned traditional beliefs (Absolutism & power of Church)- Is it reasonable for 1 absolute monarch to have all the power? Are there better types of governments? What is the purpose of government? Is it reasonable to follow the power of the Church? Why are things the way they are? Are humans naturally selfish/evil or god? Philosophers began to use reason to figuring out solutions to these questions.
- The ideas of **Thomas Hobbes & John Locke** were key to the Enlightenment.
- Hobbes rejected divine right & argued that people are naturally selfish & combative & therefore need to be controlled by an absolute monarch to maintain order. He feared dissent.
- In contrast, Locke (in *Two Treatise of Government* 1689) believed that people are reasonable & moral & are born w/ **natural rights- life, liberty, property**. Locke rejected absolute monarchy, believing the best type of gov't had limited power & functions to protect people's rights. He also felt that people could/should overthrow a gov't if it violated their natural rights.
- Locke was influenced by Isaac Newton (scientist used reason to discover natural laws which governed the physical world) & aimed to use reason to discover natural laws to that governed the human world. One such natural law was people naturally desired to pursue good & can recognize good using reason. Reason allowed humans to enter into a social contract with one another to benefit each other.
- **Baron de Montesquieu** proposed the ideas of **separation of powers** & of **checks & balances** as a way to protect liberty
- **Voltaire** exposed abuses of power & defended the principle of freedom of speech, press, & religion
- **Jean Jacques Rousseau** believed that the good of the community (**general will**) should be placed above individual interests & government be what the people want (**popular sovereignty**).

Review Questions:

1. How did the Scientific Revolution lead to the Enlightenment?
2. What were the major ideas of Locke, Montesquieu, Rousseau, & Voltaire?

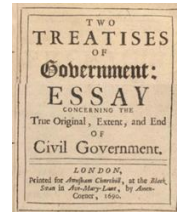
Enduring Issue:

Debates about the **Ideas** underlying government.

What points of view did Enlightenment Thinkers have about the best government?

Excerpts from *Two Treatises of Government* 1690 by John Locke

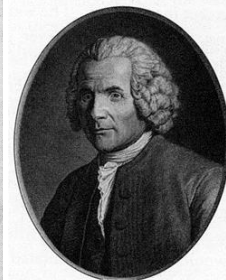
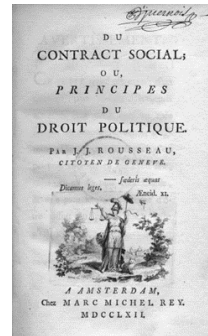
If man in the **state of nature** is free, if he is absolute lord of his own person and possessions [things that he owns], why will he give up his freedom? Why will he put himself under the control of any person or **institution** [an organization created for a religious, educational, social, or political purpose]? The obvious answer is that rights in the state of nature are constantly exposed to the attack of others. Since every man is equal and since most men do not concern themselves with **equity** and **justice**, the enjoyment of rights in the state of nature is unsafe and insecure. Hence each man joins in society with others to preserve his **life, liberty, and property**.
 ...as far as we have any light from history, we have reason to conclude, that all peaceful beginnings of government have been laid in the **consent** [permission] of the people.
 [When] the **legislature** shall . . . grasp [for] themselves, or put into the hands of any other, an absolute power over their lives, liberties, and estates of the people, . . . they forfeit [give up] the power the people had put into their hands for quite contrary [opposite] ends, and it [passes] to the people, who have a right to resume their original liberty. . . .



1. What do you think Locke means by “state of nature?”
2. According to John Locke, why would a person “put himself under the control of any person or institution,” like a government?
3. What does Locke mean when he says, “the enjoyment of rights in the state of nature is unsafe and insecure?” Can you think of an example of this?
4. What are the three natural rights that Locke lists at the end of this excerpt?
5. According to Locke, what have “all peaceful beginnings of government” had in common? Why do you think that might lead to a more peaceful government?
6. According to Locke, when does a legislature, or government, lose its right to rule?

Excerpts from *The Social Contract*, 1762 by Jean-Jacques Rousseau

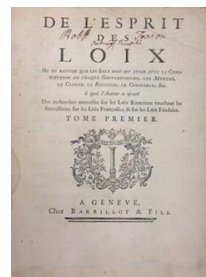
I...regard the establishment of the political body as a real **contract** between the people and the chiefs chosen by them: a contract by which both parties bind themselves to observe the laws therein expressed, which form the ties of their union.
 From whatever side we approach our principle [belief], we reach the same conclusion, that the social compact [contract] sets up among the citizens an equality of such a kind, that they all bind themselves to observe the same conditions and should therefore all enjoy the same rights.



1. According to this excerpt from *The Social Contract*, what do the people and the government agree to as a part of the contract?
2. According to Rousseau, what is one advantage of the social contract?

Excerpts from *The Spirit of Laws*, 1748 by Baron de Montesquieu

Political **liberty** is to be found only in moderate governments; and even in these it is not always found. It is there only when there is no abuse of power: but constant experience shows us that every man invested with power is apt to abuse it, and to carry his authority as far as it will go. To prevent this abuse, it is necessary, from the very nature of things, that power should be a check to power...In order to have this liberty, it is requisite [required] the government be so constituted [created] as one man need not be afraid of another. When the **legislative** and **executive** powers are united in the same person, or in the same body of magistrates [government employees], there can be no liberty. . . . Again, there is no liberty if the **judiciary** power be not separated from the **legislative** and **executive**...



1. According to Montesquieu, when is “political liberty” found in a government?
2. Explain what Montesquieu means when he writes, “every man invested with power is apt to abuse it, and to carry his authority as far as it will go?” Do you agree or disagree? Why?
3. According to Montesquieu, how can the “abuse” of power be prevented in a government?
4. What three branches of government does Montesquieu say must be separated to have liberty?