

The Enlightenment

AP World History Notes
Chapter 16: Science and Religion
(1450-1750)

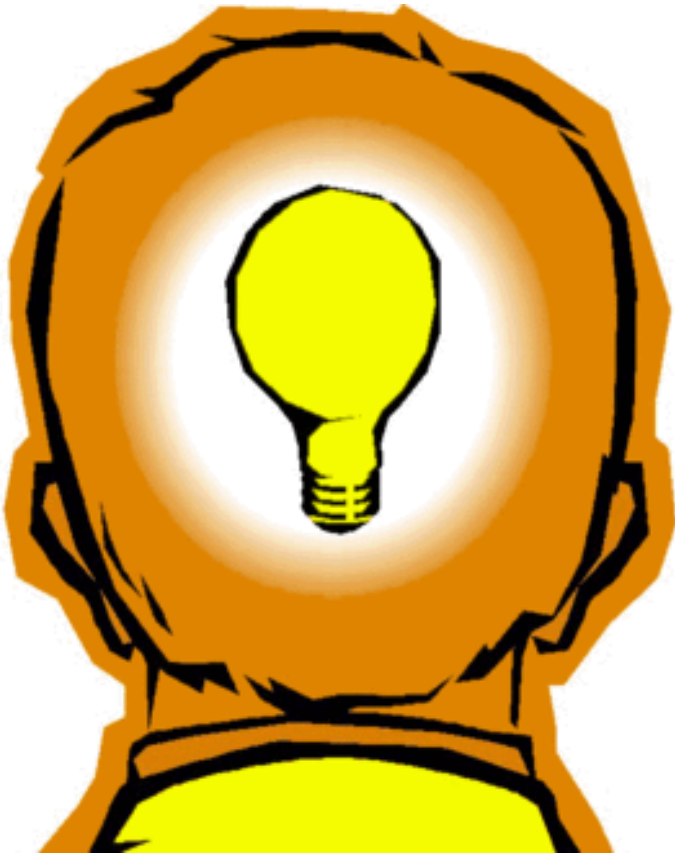
Science and Enlightenment

- Popular interest in science spread throughout Europe
- More people used science to explain the universe, not the Church
- Monarchs set up academies, observatories, museums
 - Societies like Royal Society of London
 - Financial support to scientists
 - Published their works



 THE ROYAL
SOCIETY

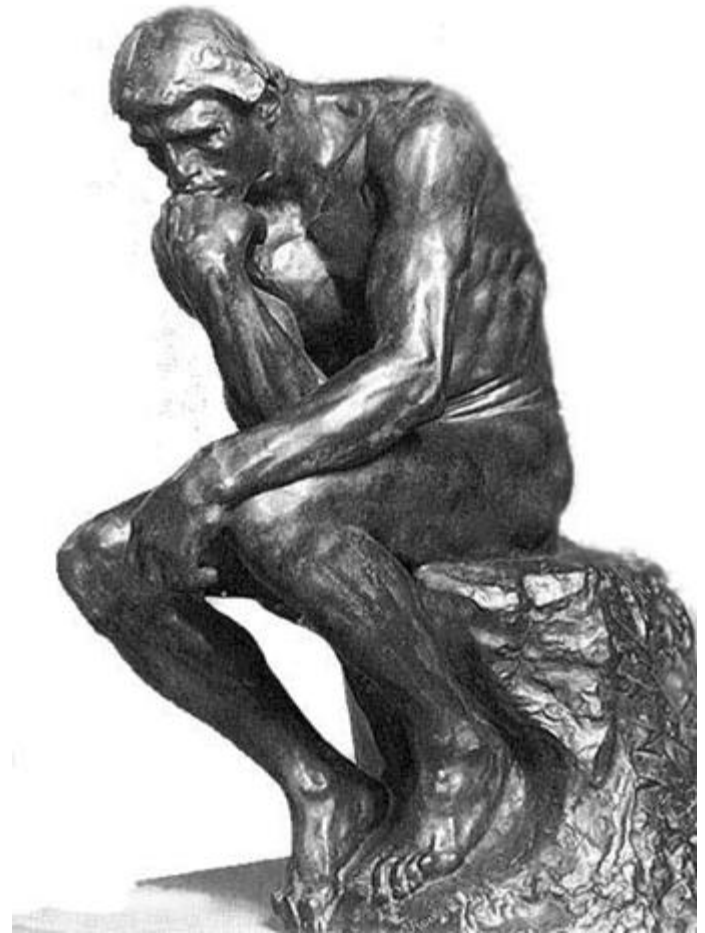
Science and Enlightenment



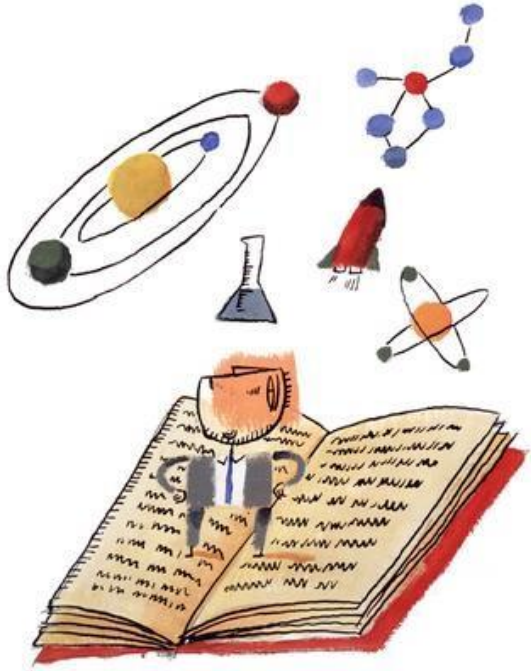
- Long-term outcome of scientific development = “enlightenment”
- Enlightenment principles:
 - Human reason could be used to discover ways in which humankind could govern itself more effectively
 - Belief in the power of knowledge to transform human society

Science and Enlightenment

- Ideas shared by Enlightenment thinkers:
 - Commitment to open-mindedness & inquiry
 - Critical nature
 - Hostility toward established religious and political authority (though in various degrees)



Science and the Enlightenment



- Central theme of the Enlightenment = the idea of progress
- Human society = not fixed by tradition or divine command
- Can be changed and improved by human action guided by reason

Spreading Enlightenment Ideas

- **Philosophes** = thinkers of the Enlightenment who spread these ideas
- Paris = active center of ideas
- **Salons** = gatherings in the homes of wealthy patrons --> middle class writers, thinkers, and artists mingled with the nobility



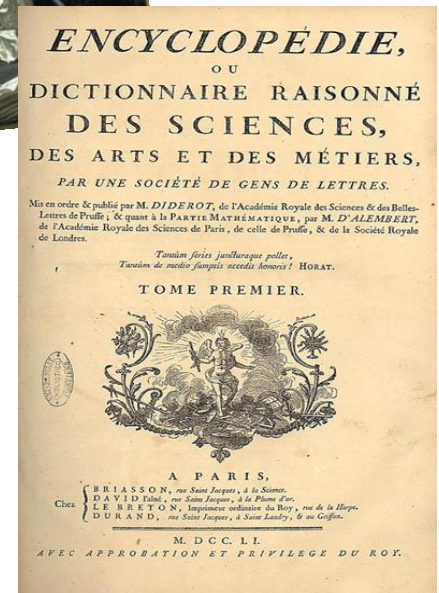
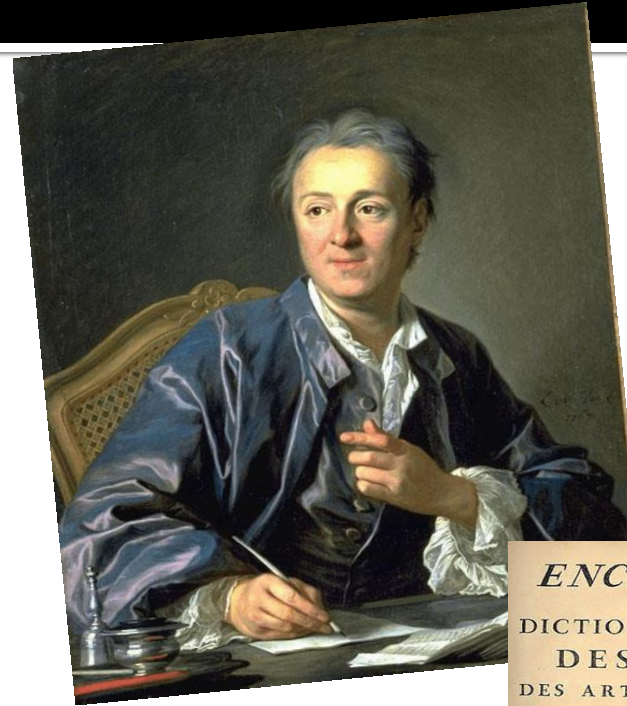
Spreading Enlightenment Ideas



- Wealthy women ran the most popular salons
- Most famous = Madame de Pompadour

Spreading Enlightenment Ideas

- 1st Encyclopedia = edited by Denis Diderot
 - Contained articles from about 20 thinkers; illustrations; variety of topics
 - Criticized the Church
 - Diderot and others went to prison



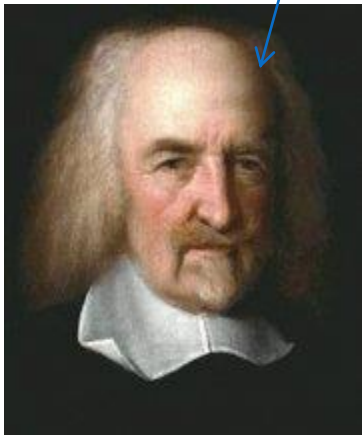
Impact on Politics

GOOD OR EVIL
Who Decides?

- Scientific thought & method influenced political theories
- Political philosophers believed natural law could be understood by applying reason
 - Natural law = universal moral law

Impact on Politics

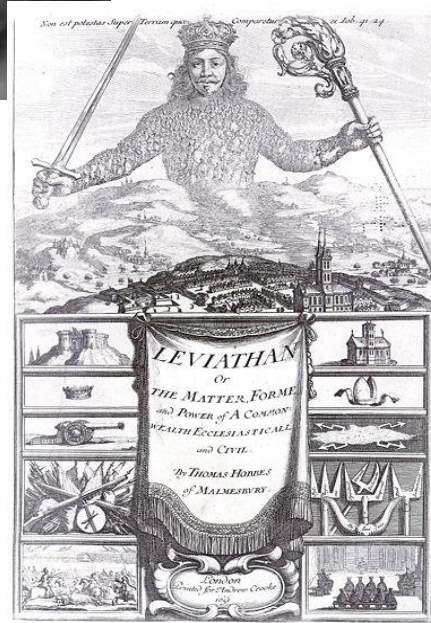
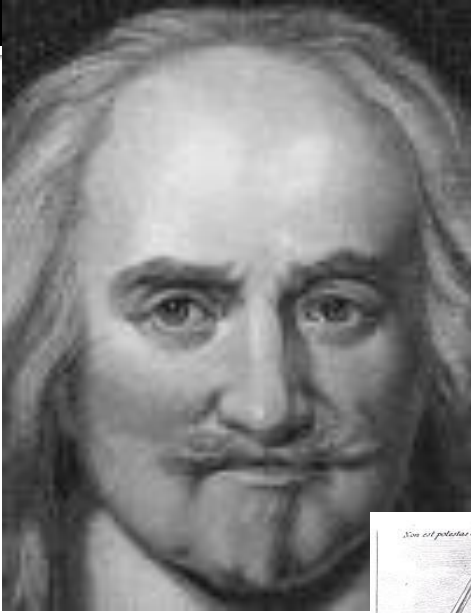
- Thomas Hobbes vs. John Locke
- In England at the time = struggle between those who wanted an absolute monarchy & those that wanted to govern themselves



vs.



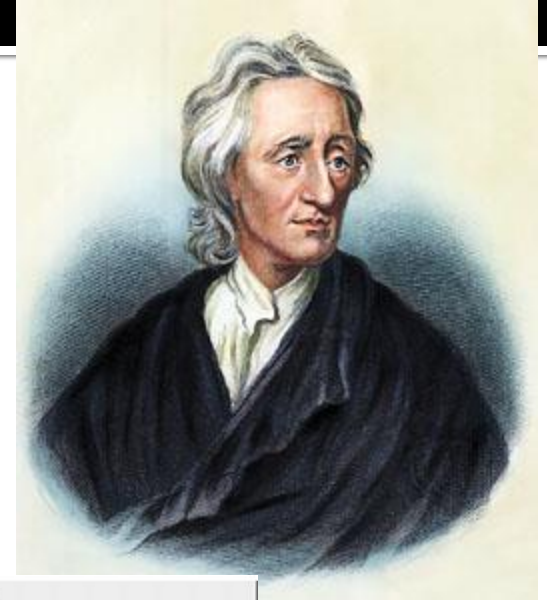
Thomas Hobbes



- Absolute monarchy = best form of government
- Violence & disorder = natural to human beings
- *Leviathan* = book he wrote about a state in which people lived without government & it was brutal
- People don't have the right to rebel against the government or ruler

John Locke

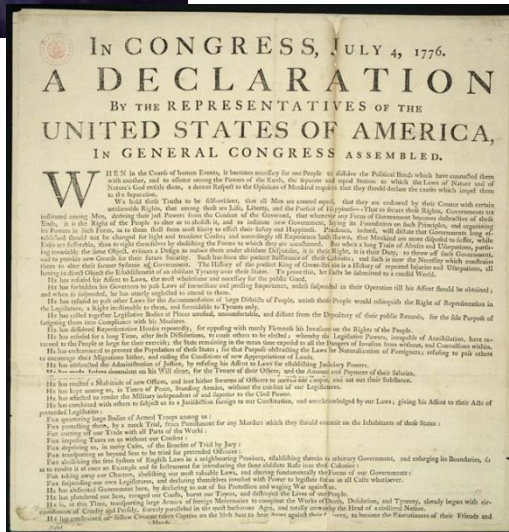
- People are naturally reasonable and moral
- People have natural rights = rights granted at birth → life, liberty, and property



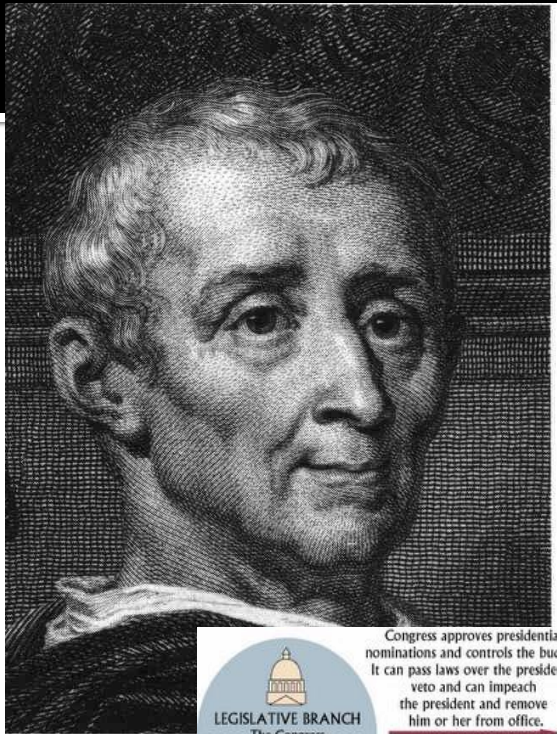
John Locke



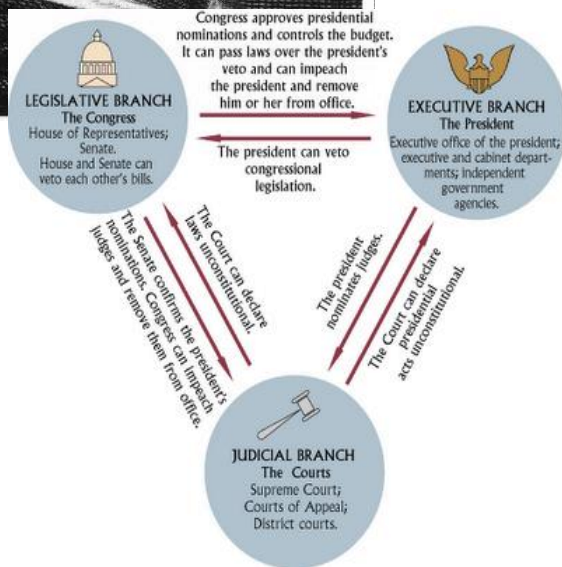
- *Two Treatises on Government* = essays he wrote that said:
 1. People created the government to protect these natural rights
 2. Government is responsible to the people
 3. If the government doesn't do it's job, the people have the right to overthrow it
- Influenced Thomas Jefferson when he wrote the Declaration of Independence



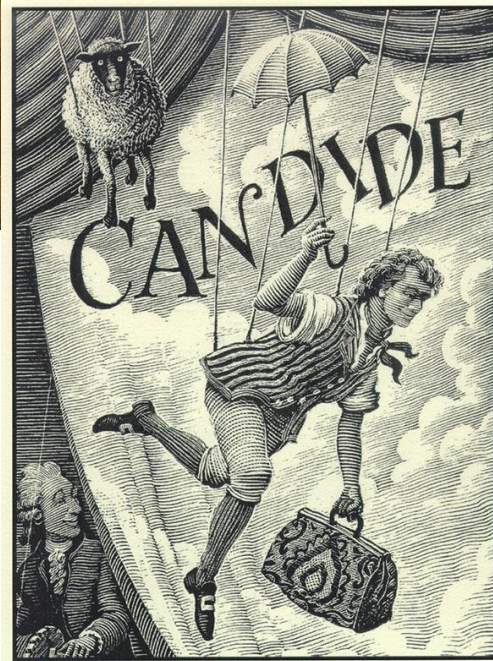
Montesquieu



- Wrote *The Spirit of the Laws*
- Studied various existing governments
- Promoted democracy and separation of powers
- Power should be equal among the branches; checks and balances
- Influenced the U.S. Constitution



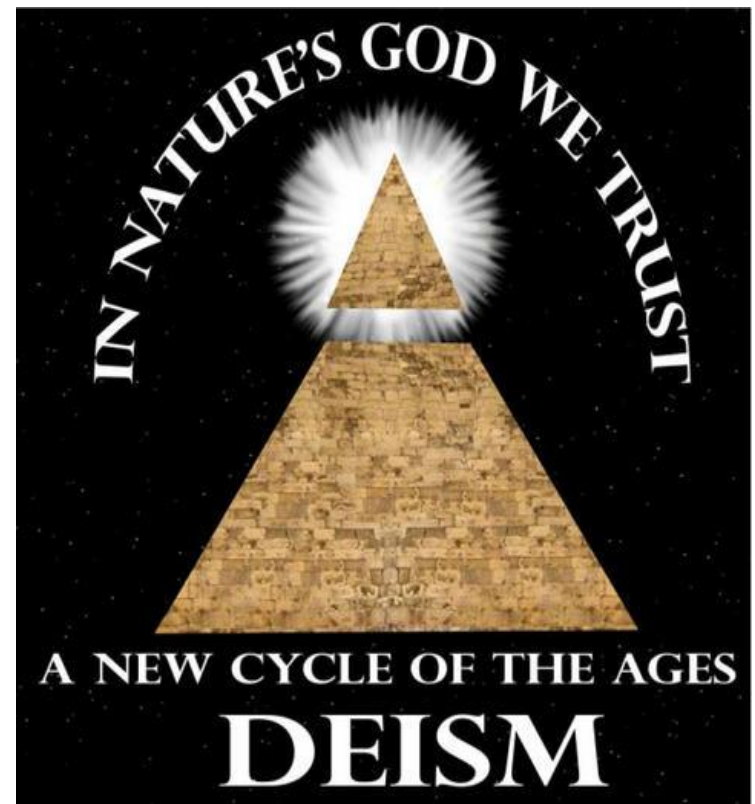
Voltaire



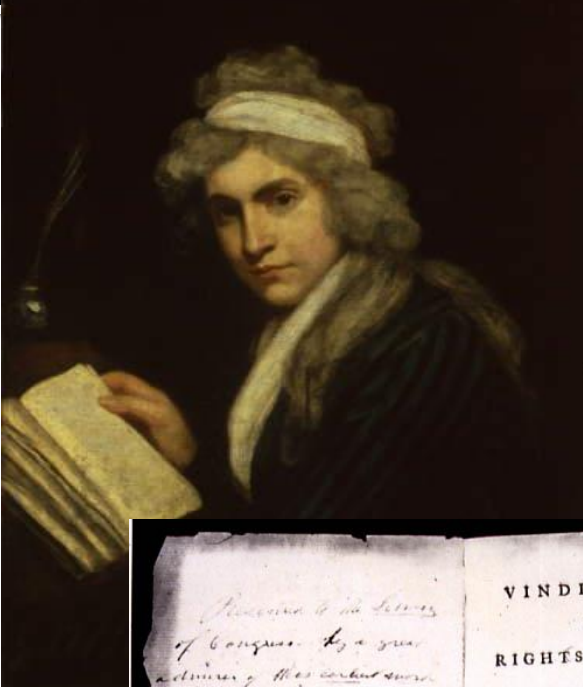
- Wrote *Candide* = challenged the idea that “all is for the best in the best of all possible worlds”
- Mocked the Church and the royal court
- Promoted religious freedom, freedom of speech, and freedom of the press

Impact on Religion: Deism

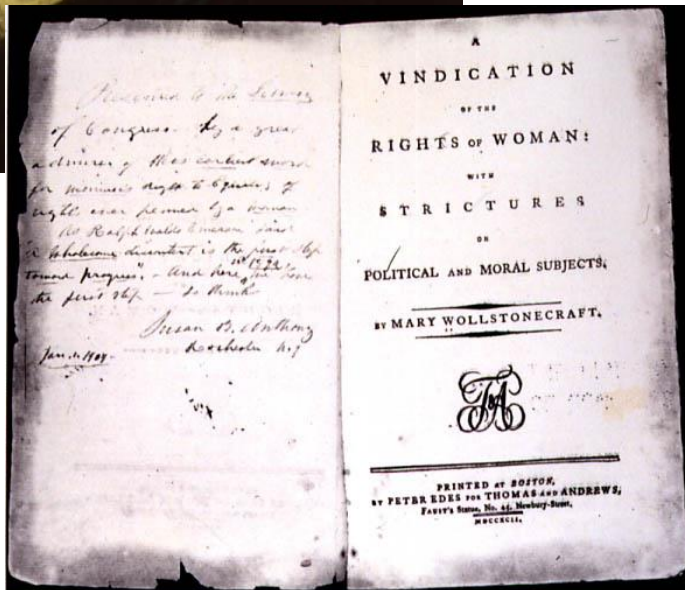
- Voltaire, along with many other Enlightenment thinkers practiced deism
 - Belief in an abstract and remote Deity
 - Deity created the world, but doesn't intervene in history or tamper with natural law
 - This Deity = like an engineer → made the machine, but is now letting it run on its own



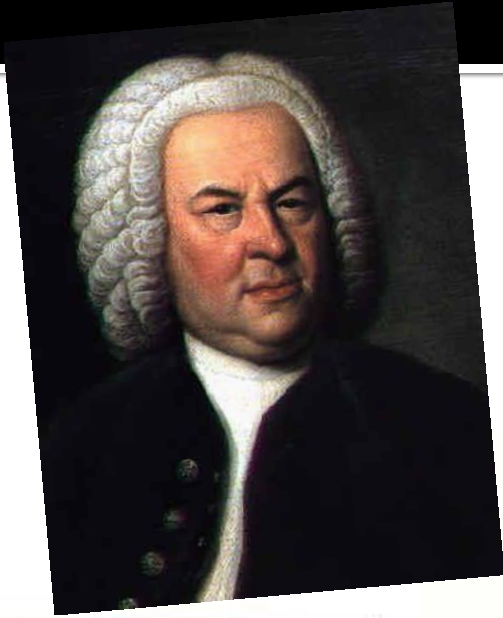
Women & the Enlightenment



- At this time:
 - Ideas of equality and freedom didn't apply to women
 - Women didn't participate in public life like men
 - Women were limited to home and the family
- Small groups of women began to speak out
- Mary Wollstonecraft = wrote *Vindication of the Rights of Women* = favored equal education for women and men so both could contribute to society

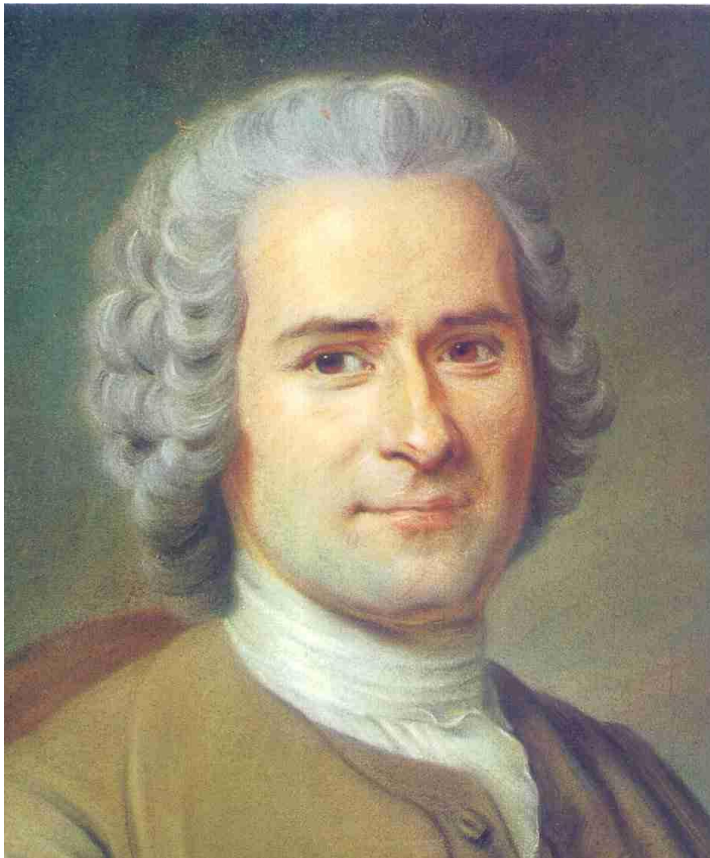


Impact on the Arts



- **Classical Movement** = art going back to ancient Greek and Roman ideals that represented order and reason
 - Includes art, music, and literature → all reflected simplicity, clarity, and order
 - Famous classical composers = Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Johann Sebastian Bach

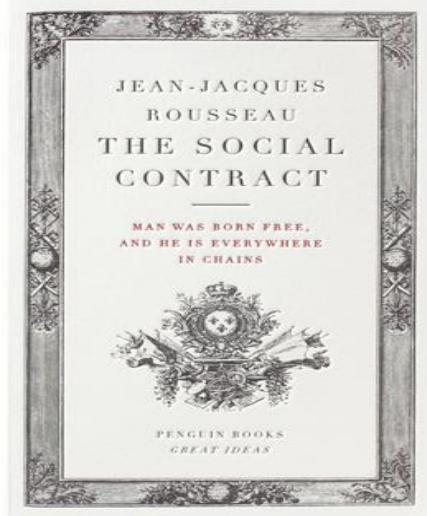
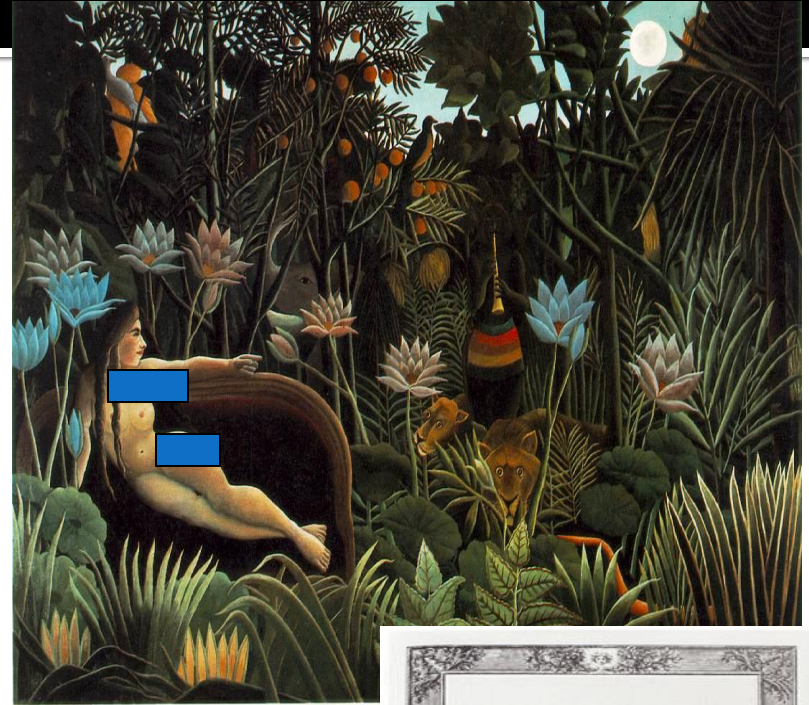
Opposition to the Enlightenment



- Some saw this ordered view of the universe as overly rational and lacking emotion
- Jean-Jacques Rousseau
 - People should rely more on emotion and instinct and less on book learning
 - Believed people are naturally good, but civilization and institutions corrupt them

Jean-Jacques Rousseau

- Urged getting rid of civilization and returning to a “state of nature”
- *The Social Contract* = “man is born free, and he is everywhere in chains”
- Basis of government = social contract in which people give up their individual rights to the “general will” of the majority
- Government BY the people
- Influenced democracy



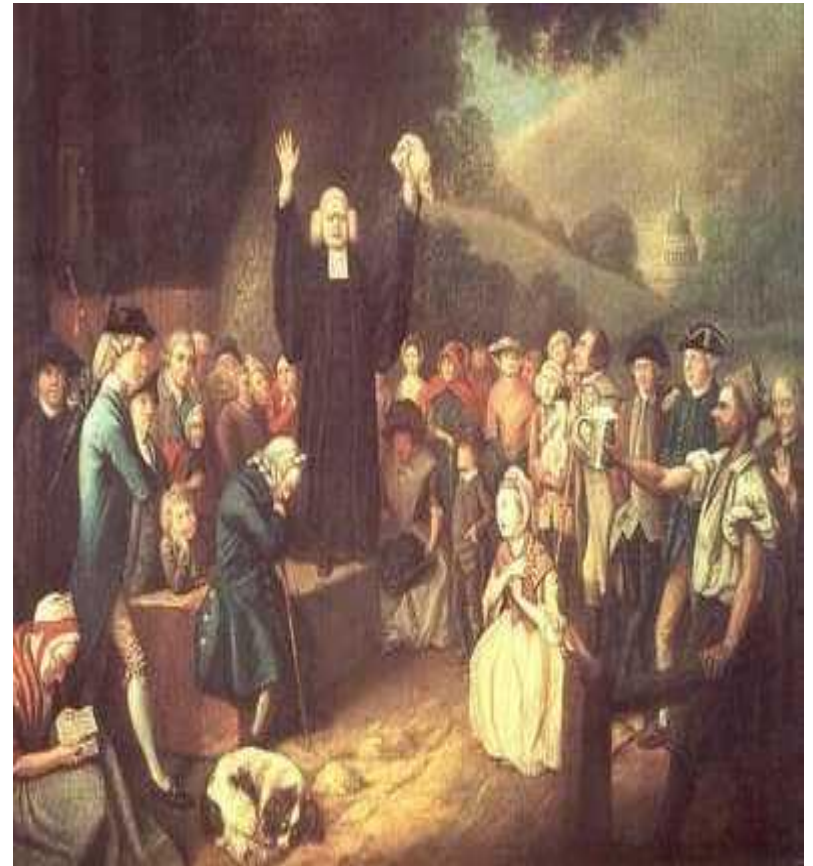
Immanuel Kant



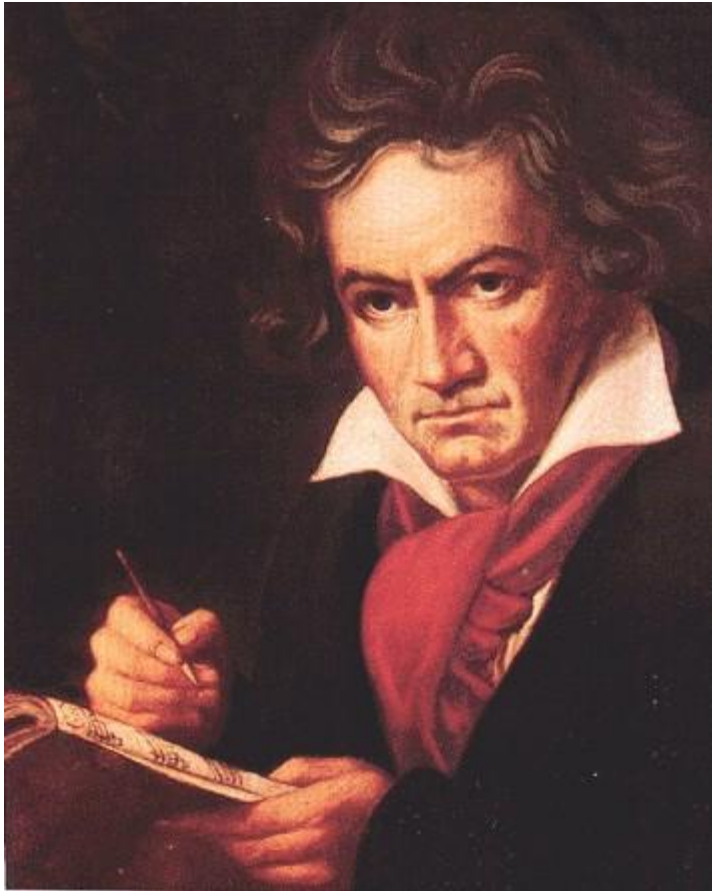
- Argued that reason couldn't answer problems of **metaphysics** = philosophy that deals with spiritual issues like the existence of God
- Reality = there's a physical world and a spiritual world – and you need different methods for looking at each one
- Physical world = knowledge through senses and reason
- Spiritual world = knowledge through faith and intuition

Impact on Religion

- Many started to reject deism → wanted something more emotionally satisfying
- Religious awakenings shook Protestant Europe and North America
 - Fiery sermons
 - Public repentance
 - Sharing intense personal experiences of sin and redemption



Impact on the Arts



- Classicism in arts gave way to **romanticism** = celebrated emotion and the individual
 - Broke free of restraints
 - Famous Romantic composer = Ludwig von Beethoven

Looking Ahead: Science in the 19th Century

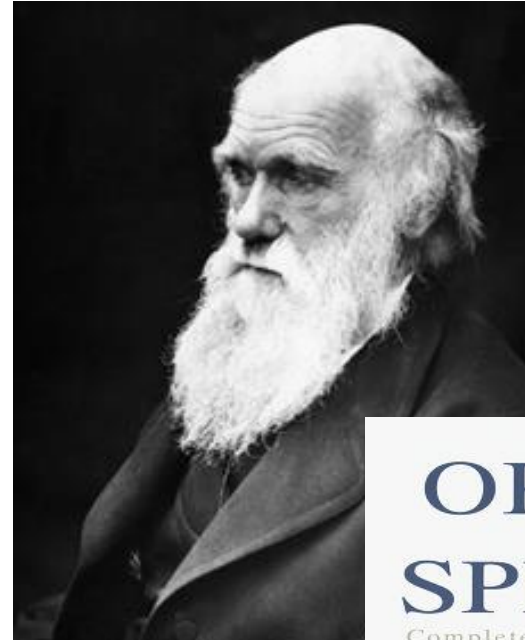
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Science in the 19th Century

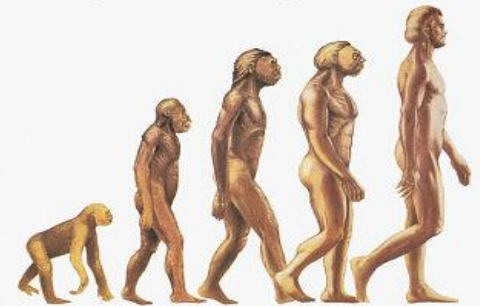
- Enlightenment ideas challenged by:
 - Romanticism
 - Religious “enthusiasm”
 - Continued development of science

Charles Darwin (1809-1882)

- Developed theories of natural selection and survival of the fittest
- All of life is an endless and competitive struggle for survival
 - Constantly generates new species of plants and animals and throws others into extinction
 - Humans not excluded → also the product of evolution operating through natural selection

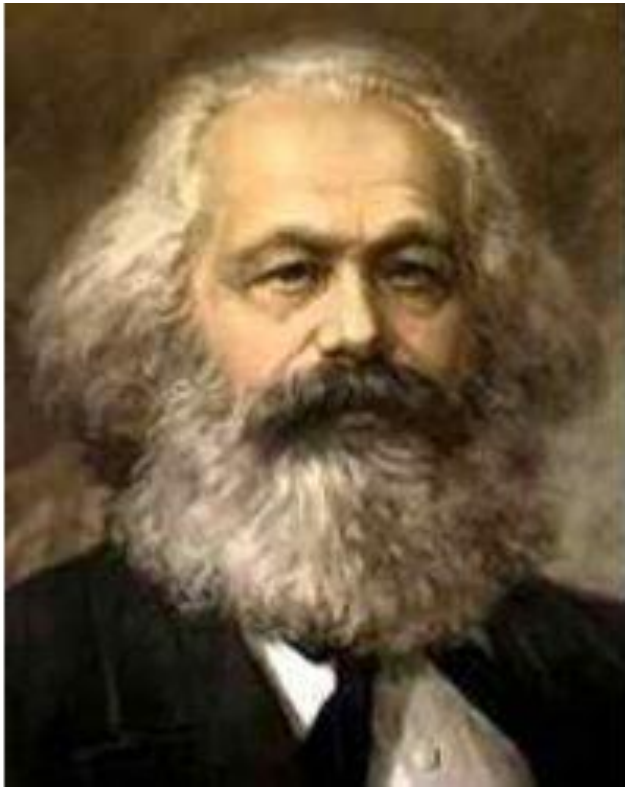


THE
ORIGIN
OF
SPECIES
Complete and Fully Illustrated



CHARLES
DARWIN

Karl Marx (1818-1883)



- Argued that human history has been shaped by economic conflict and class struggles
- Conflicting social and economic classes = push history forward
- Did not believe in heavenly intervention, chance, or the “divinely” endowed powers of kings
- In favor of socialism = means of production owned and controlled by society, either directly or through the government
 - Goal = wealth is distributed evenly amongst all people

Darwin and Marx

- Like Enlightenment thinkers = Darwin and Marx believed in progress
- UNLIKE Enlightenment thinkers = Darwin and Marx argued that conflict and struggle were the motors of progress, not reason and education

Sigmund Freud (1856-1939)

- Applied scientific techniques to the operation of the human mind and emotions
- Cast doubt on concept of human rationality
- His argument = at the core of every person are primal impulses toward sexuality and aggression
 - Impulses = barely kept in check by our social conscience we derive from civilization
 - Our “neuroses” = come from the struggle between our irrational drives and our social conscience
 - Examples of neuroses = anxiety, OCD, depression, phobias, personality disorders, etc.

