

The Ideas of Isaac Newton

- His law of universal gravitation showed the power of the human mind
- Encouraged natural philosophers to approach nature directly
- Insisted upon empirical rationalization to check rational explanation

The Ideas of John Locke

- Argued all humans entered the world on a blank page
- Argued experience shapes character
- Rejected the Christian notion that sin permanently flawed humans
- Humans can take charge of their own destiny

The Example of British Toleration and Political Stability

- Religious toleration except for Unitarians and Roman Catholics
- Freedom of speech and press
- Limited monarchy
- Courts protect citizens from arbitrary government action

Print Culture

- The volume of printed materials increased; books, journals, magazines, daily newspapers
- Religious versus secular – increased number of books that were not religious led to criticism
- People of Print
 - ◆ **Joseph Addison** and **Richard Steele** - published books on politeness and the value of books
 - ◆ **Alexander Pope** and **Voltaire** – become wealthy and famous from their writings
- **Public opinion** – the collective effect on political and social life of views discussed in the home, workplace and places of leisure
 - ◆ Government had to answer to the people
 - ◆ Central European governments in fear censored books, confiscated offending titles and imprisoned authors

The Philosophers

- People who favored change, championed reform, and advocated toleration
- Could be found at universities and coffee houses
- Were usually for; expansion of trade, improvement of agriculture and transportation, invention of new manufacturing industries

Voltaire – the first philosopher

- Imprisoned at the Bastille for offending the French
- Went into exile in England
- Published works
 - ◆ 1733 – *Letters on the English* – praised the British for their freedoms especially of religion and criticized the French
 - ◆ 1738 – *Elements of the Philosophy of Newton* – popularized the theories of Newton after his death
 - ◆ 1759 – *Candide* – satire attacking war, religious persecution and unwarranted optimism about the human condition

The Enlightenment and Religion

- The Enlightenment challenged the church and its concepts of “original sin”.
- The church was not just challenged for its thoughts, but for its practices
 - ◆ Not paying taxes
 - ◆ Being rulers and religious leaders
 - ◆ Literary censorship

Deism – religion and reason combined

- **John Toland** - *Christianity Not Mysterious* (1696) – promoted religion as natural and rational, rather than supernatural and mystical
- Deism – tolerant, reasonable, capable of encouraging virtuous living

Religious Toleration Literary Works

- **John Locke** – *Letter Concerning Toleration* (1689) – set forth toleration as prime requisite for a virtuous life
- **Voltaire** – *Treatise on Tolerance* (1763) – wanted answers to why the Roman Catholic Church executed Huguenot **Jean Calas**
- **Gothold Lessing** – *Nathan the Wise* (1779) – called for religious tolerance of all religions not just Christianity

Radical Enlightenment Texts

- **David Hume** – *Inquiry Into Human Nature* (1748) – no empirical evidence that miracles exist
- **Voltaire** – *Philosophical Dictionary* (1764) – using humor, pointed out inconsistencies in the Bible and the immoral acts of Biblical heroes
- **Edward Gibbon** – *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* (1776) – explains the rise of Christianity through natural causes
- **Immanuel Kant** – *Religion within the Limits of Reason Alone* (1793) – religion as a humane force through which there can be virtuous living.

The Enlightenment and Judaism

- Jewish Thinkers

- ◆ **Baruch Spinoza** – *Ethics* – closely identified God with nature and the spiritual to the material world
 - *Theologico-Political Treatise* (1670) – called on both Jews and Christians to use reason in religious matters
 - Excommunicated from his synagogue for his beliefs
- ◆ **Moses Mendelsohn** – argued differently from Spinoza that you could combine loyalty to Judaism with rational thought
 - *Jerusalem* (1783) – argued for religious toleration and the religious distinction of Jewish communities

Islam in Enlightenment Thought

- Christians viewed Islam as a false religion and its founder **Muhammad** as an imposter
- Philosophers Negative on Islam
 - ◆ **Voltaire's** *Fanaticism* (1742) – cited Islam as one more example of religious fanaticism
 - ◆ **Charles de Montesquieu** – *Spirit of the Law* (1748) – stated Islam's passivity made it subject to political despotism
- Philosophers Positive on Islam
 - ◆ Deists **Toland** and **Gibbon** viewed Islam in a positive light
 - ◆ **Lady Mary Wortley Montagu** – *Turkish Embassy Letters* (1716-1718) – praised Ottoman society / felt women were freer

The *Encyclopedia*

- Edited by **Denis Diderot** and **Jean Le Rond d'Alembert**
- Collective work of more than one hundred authors
- Had important information about 18th century social and economic life
- Between 14,000 and 16,000 copies sold before 1789
- Aimed to secularize learning

Becarria and Reform of Criminal Law

- Bacarria wrote *On Crimes and Punishment* (1764)
 - ◆ Spoke out against torture and capital punishment
 - ◆ Wanted speedy trials
 - ◆ Purpose of punishment should be to deter further crimes
- Purpose of laws is to guarantee happiness for as many human beings as possible

The Physiocrats and Economic Freedom

- Physiocrats were economic reformers in France
- Leaders were **Francois Quesnay** and **Pierre Dupont de Nemours**
- Believed primary role of government was to protect property and to permit its owners to use it freely

Adam Smith

- Wrote *Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations* (1776)
 - ◆ Most famous work of the Enlightenment
 - ◆ Argued best way to economic growth is for people to pursue their own selfish self-interests
- Founder of **laissez-faire** economic thought – a limited role of the government in the economy
- **Four-stage theory** – human societies classified as the following
 - ◆ hunting and gathering
 - ◆ pastoral or herding
 - ◆ agricultural
 - ◆ commercial – society at its highest level

Political Thought of the Philosophers

- Most thought came from France
- Proposed solutions included; aristocratic reform, democracy, absolute monarchy

Montesquieu and *Spirit of Laws* (1748)

- Concluded that no single set of political laws could apply to all people, at all times, in all places
- Best government for a country depended on country's size, population, social and religious customs, economic structure, traditions and climate
- Believed in separation of powers so one part of the government would not be completely in control

Jean Jacques Rousseau: A Radical Critique of Modern Society

- His written works
 - ◆ *Discourse on the Moral Effects of the Arts and Sciences* (1750) – contended that the process of civilization and the Enlightenment had corrupted human nature
 - ◆ *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality* (1755) – blamed much of the evil in the world on the uneven distribution of property
 - ◆ *The Social Contract* (1762) – society is more important than its individual members and each person can maintain individual freedom while being a loyal member of a larger community
- His philosophies later influence the French and American Revolution.

Enlightened Critics or European Empires

- A few philosophers of the Enlightenment criticized the Europeans on moral grounds
 - ◆ Conquest of the Americas
 - ◆ Treatment of the Native Americans
 - ◆ Enslavement of Africans
- Three Ideas from the Critics
 - ◆ (1) “human beings deserve some modicum of moral and political respect simply because they are human beings”
 - ◆ (2) different cultures should have been respected and understood, not destroyed
 - ◆ (3) human beings may develop distinct cultures possessing intrinsic values that cannot be compared because each culture possesses deep inner social and linguistic complexities that make any simple comparison impossible

Women in the Thought and Practice of the Enlightenment

- **Montesquieu** believed in equality of the sexes but had a traditional view of family and marriage
- The *Encyclopedia* suggested ways to improve women's lives, but did not suggest reform
- **Rousseau** – felt women should be subordinate to men
- **Mary Wollstonecraft** – *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792) – defended equality of women with men based on human reason

Rococo and Neoclassical Styles in Eighteenth-Century Art

- **Rococo** style of art embraced lavish decoration with pastel colors
 - ◆ became style of French aristocracy
 - ◆ famous artists included **Jean-Antoine Watteau**, **Francois Boucher**, and **Jean-Honore Fragonard**
- **Neo-classical** style art went back to the ancient world
 - ◆ concerned with public life more than the intimate families of rococo
 - ◆ famous artists included **Jacques-Louis David** and **Jean Antoine Houdon**

Enlightened Absolutism

- defined as the form of monarchical government in which the central absolutist administration was strengthened as cost of the church, parliament, or diets
- Monarchs
 - ◆ Frederick II of Prussia
 - ◆ Joseph II of Austria
 - ◆ Catherine II of Russia

Frederick the Great of Prussia

- Promotion through merit – work and education rather than birth would decide ruled Prussia
- Religious Toleration – for every Christian, Muslim or Jew
- Administrative and Economic Reforms – legal reform included abolishing torture and limiting number of capital crimes

Joseph II of Austria

- Centralization of Authority – aimed to extend the empire at the expense of Poland, Bavaria, and the Ottoman Empire
- Ecclesiastical Policies – religious toleration and bringing the Roman Catholic Church under royal control
- Economic and Agrarian Reform
 - ◆ improved transportation and trade
 - ◆ abolished serfdom
 - ◆ land taxation

Catherine the Great of Russia

- limited administrative reform – local control of the nobility
- economic growth – opened up trade and favored the expansion of the urban middle class
- territorial expansion – to warm weather ports along the Baltic and Black Seas

The Partition of Poland

- land split by Russia, Austria, and Prussia
- proved that without a strong bureaucracy, monarchy and army, a nation could not survive

The End of the Eighteenth Century in Central and Eastern Europe

- nations became more conservative and politically more repressive
- fading monarchs
 - ◆ **Frederick the Great of Prussia** – grew remote with age and left the aristocracy to fill government posts
 - ◆ **Joseph II of Austria** – in response to criticism turns to censorship and the secret police
 - ◆ **Catherine the Great of Russia** – peasant uprisings lead to fears of social and political upheaval