

Key Men of the Enlightenment

Author & Work	Main Ideas	Impact
<p>Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679) Wrote: <i>Leviathan</i> (1651)</p>	<p>All humans were naturally selfish and wicked and needed a government to rule them. People give up their rights to a strong ruler, in turn gain law and order.</p>	<p>Helps absolute monarchs as he believed best government was an absolute monarchy: created the Social Contract: an agreement where individuals surrendered some of their individual rights and freedoms to an absolute sovereign in exchange for security and order, thus escaping the brutal "state of nature"</p>
<p>John Locke (1632-1704) Wrote: <i>Two Treatises of Government</i> (1690)</p>	<p>All men have natural rights of life, liberty, property; men have a right of revolution if the government fails to protect rights. He offered the construction of a constitutional government.</p>	<p>Influenced Thomas Jefferson and the Declaration of Independence; his theories were used many times to justify revolutions against unjust governments.</p>
<p>Voltaire (1694-1778) [His real name was Francois Marie Arouet] Wrote: <i>Letters on the English</i> (1728)</p>	<p>Admired the relative freedom of religion and press in England; believed enlightened despots (kings and queens) should use power to benefit people</p>	<p>Challenged authority, especially the Roman Catholic Church, the upper classes and the government. Increased English pride in freedoms resulted in rise of enlightened despots</p>
<p>Jean Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778) Wrote: <i>Social Contract</i> (1761)</p>	<p>Believed "man is born free, yet everywhere he is in chains"; wanted men to give power to the government [General Will] which would act for the common good with consent of people. He believed a girl's education should just teach about being a wife and mother.</p>	<p>Influenced development of democracy – government "of the people, by the people, for the people" and also inspired the French Revolution.</p>
<p>Baron de Montesquieu (1689-1755) Wrote <i>The Spirit of the Laws</i> (1748)</p>	<p>Baron de Montesquieu believed in separation of powers (legislative/judicial/executive); wanted balance of power among various elements in government. Believed Ancient Rome collapsed due to their loss of political liberties.</p>	<p>Influenced structure of the <i>U.S. Constitution</i> and other constitutions based in it</p>

<p>Cesare Bonesana Beccaria (1738-1794) Wrote: <i>Crimes and Punishments</i> (1764)</p>	<p>Laws exist to preserve social order, not to avenge crimes. A person accused of a crime had the right to a speedy trial. The crime had to fit the punishment and you were innocent until proven guilty.</p>	<p>Torture was outlawed or reduced in Western Europe and the Americas. Capital punishment (death penalty) was abolished in many countries. His ideas became part of the United States <i>Bill of Rights</i>.</p>
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Key Women of the Enlightenment

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<p>Mary Astell (1666 - 1731) Wrote: <i>A Serious Proposal to the Ladies</i></p>	<p>Focused on a lack of education for women. "If all men are born free, how is it that all women are born slaves?"</p>	<p>Her ideas led to many changes for women's equality and the argument against unequal relationships between men and women.</p>
<p>Mary Wollstonecraft (1759 to 1797) Wrote: <i>A Vindication of the Rights of Women</i></p>	<p>She openly disagreed with Rousseau about education for women. She claimed it was essential. She believed that women have the right to become doctors and not just nurses.</p>	<p>An educated mother will become a better mother. Her arguments led to women's rights to participate in politics.</p>
<p>Émilie du Châtelet (1706 to 1749)</p>	<p>Was born into French upper class so was given an education. She specialized in the sciences and became a trained mathematician and physicist.</p>	<p>She is best known for translating Isaac Newton's work from Latin to French and advocating for women's education.</p>
<p>Marie-Thérèse Geoffrin (1699 to 1777)</p>	<p>She was self-educated and came from French middle class. She became one of the elite women in France during the Enlightenment.</p>	<p>She financed the project of Denis Diderot when he created the <i>Encyclopedia</i>.</p>