

The Enlightenment

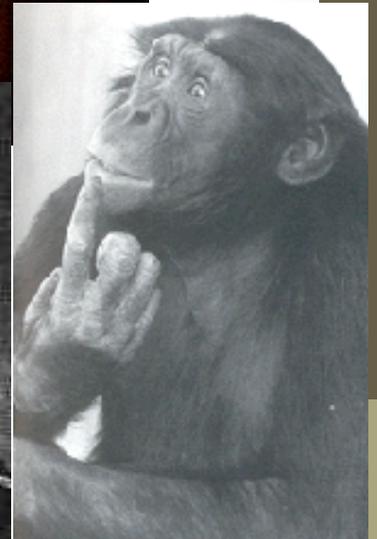
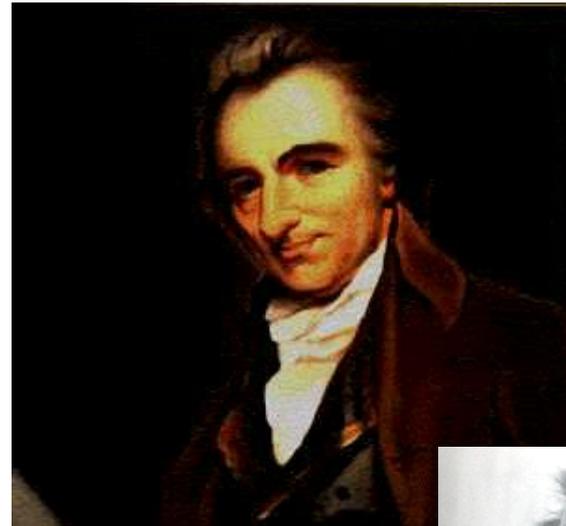
Chapter 2 Section 2

Focus Questions

- How is the Enlightenment described?
- In what areas of our society can we see Voltaire's contribution?
- Why is the system of checks and balances important under Montesquieu's system of government?
- Briefly describe the social contract.
- Why is Mary Wollstonecraft important to the women of the period?

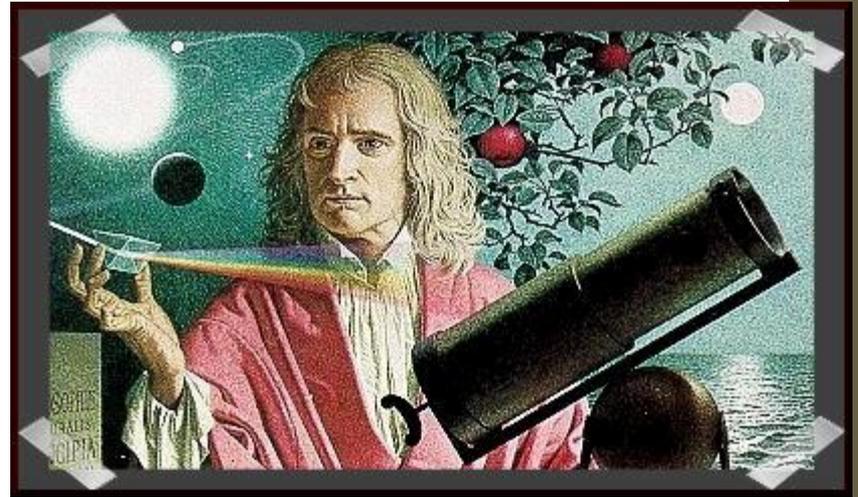
The Enlightenment and the Philosophes

- The Enlightenment was an intellectual movement that began in France.
- Philosophes are writers, professors, journalists, economists, and social reformers.
- The scientific revolution and reason enabled scientist to discover the secrets of the universe.
- Reason became the guide for philosophes who believed that if science was applied to politics, government, it would be a better more just society for all.



Science

- Isaac Newton found new discoveries in math and astronomy.
- His evidence showed that the physical universe followed regular natural laws.
- These laws inspired individuals to find natural laws for human society.



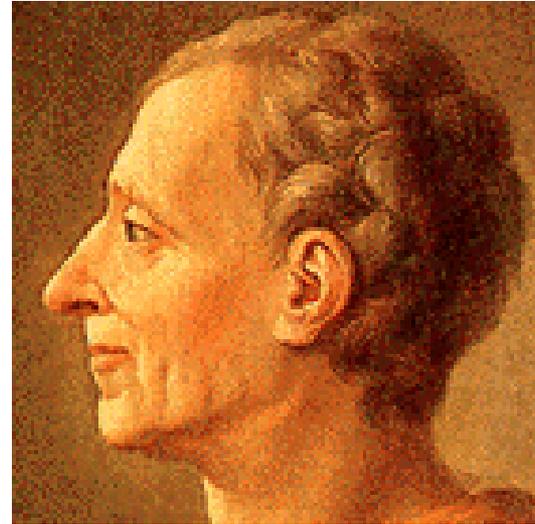
Society

- Voltaire spoke out against censorship, and unjust laws.
- He believed that men should be able to express their ideas freely.
- Opposed religion because it did not encourage people to think rationally.
- His writings heavily influenced ordinary citizens in the fight against inequality, injustice, the slave trade and religious intolerance.



Government

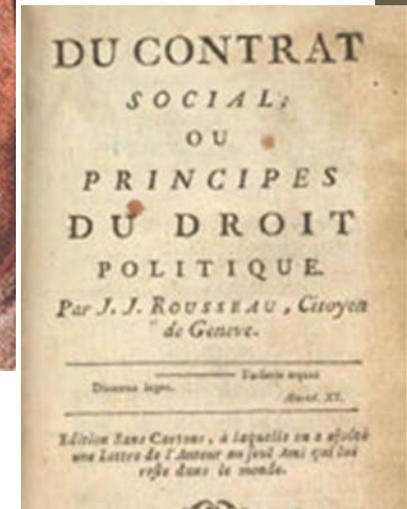
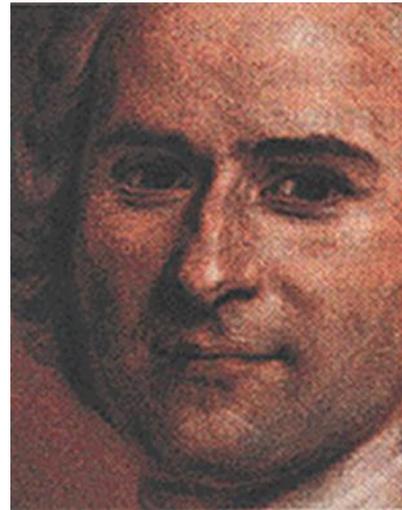
- Montesquieu introduced the idea of separate branches of government.
- These branches operated under a system of checks and balances.
- The separation of powers is a fundamental part of the US Constitution thanks to Montesquieu.



“The powers of government should be separated into executive, legislative, and judicial branches, in order to prevent any one group from gaining too much power.”

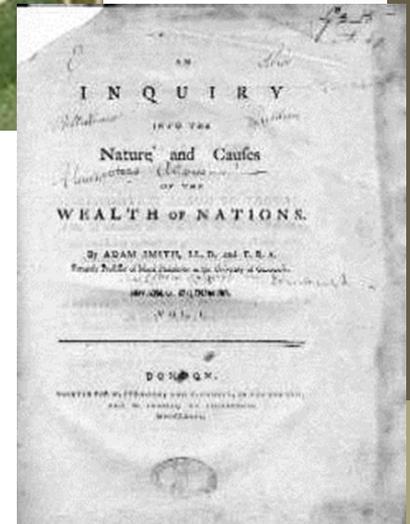
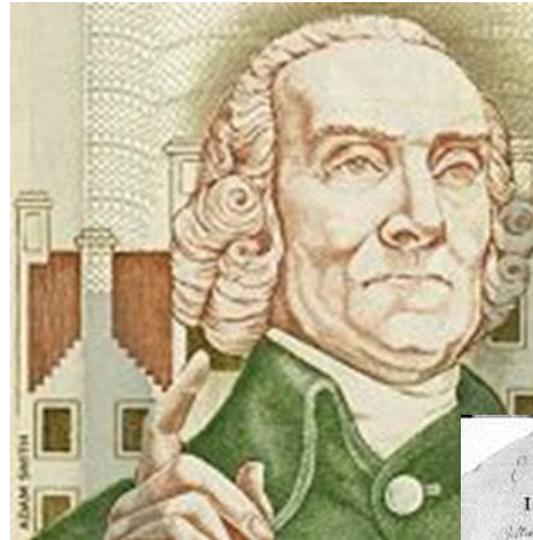
Government

- THE SOCIAL CONTRACT (1762): “People are basically good but become corrupted by society.
- In an ideal society, people would make the laws and would obey them willingly.”
- Rousseau proposed the Social Contract, an agreement by which people give up their freedom to a powerful government in order to avoid chaos.



Economy

- THE WEALTH OF NATIONS (1776)
- Adam Smith is the British economist credited with the concept of the free market.
- He showed how manufacturing, trade, wages, profits, and economic growth were all linked to the forces of supply and demand.
- The Free Market: A market system in which goods are bought and sold without restrictions, or natural economic forces of supply and demand is called a Free Market. Consumers in a free market have a choice of various goods and products



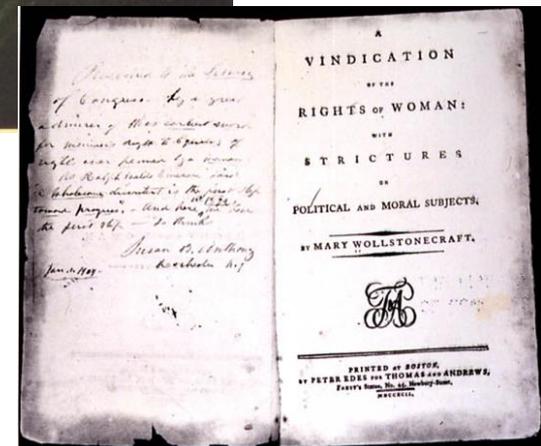
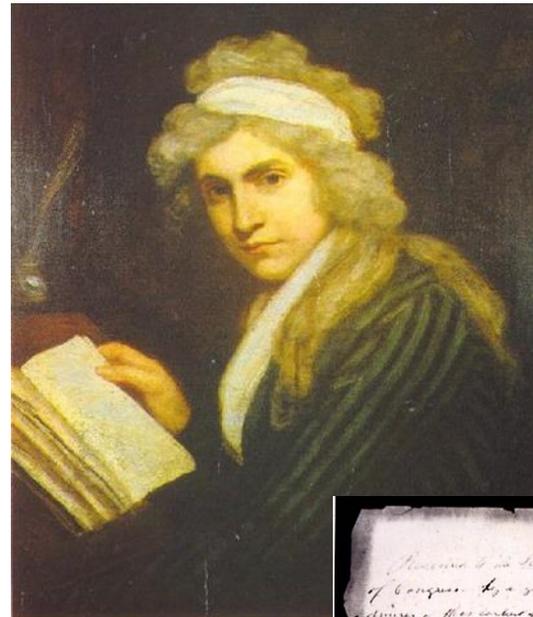
Economy

- Laissez Faire Economics is an economic ideal or government policy in which business is allowed to operate with little or no government interference.
- Economists today refer to Laissez Faire economics as Capitalism.



Women

- A VINDICATION OF THE RIGHTS OF WOMAN (1791)
- For centuries, education was only given to men.
- Wollstonecraft called for the same education for girls and boys.
- “Only education can give women the tools they need to participate equally with men in public life.”



Rights

- TWO TREATISES OF GOVERNMENT (1690)
- John Locke introduced the idea that all men are born with natural rights that should be given to them.
- The major influence in the life of the young Thomas Jefferson. “People have a natural right to life, liberty and property.
- Rulers have a responsibility to protect those rights.
- Most importantly, the people have the right to change a government that fails to do so.”

