

# The Enlightenment

The Age of Reason

# Origins

Diverse and conflicting ideas debated in international networks

Three essential concepts:

- Rationalism
- Scientific Method
- Progress

## THE PHYSICS OF PRODUCTIVITY

OBJECTS IN MOTION TEND TO STAY IN MOTION.



GET STARTED.

JamesClear.com

# The Early Enlightenment

1690-1789

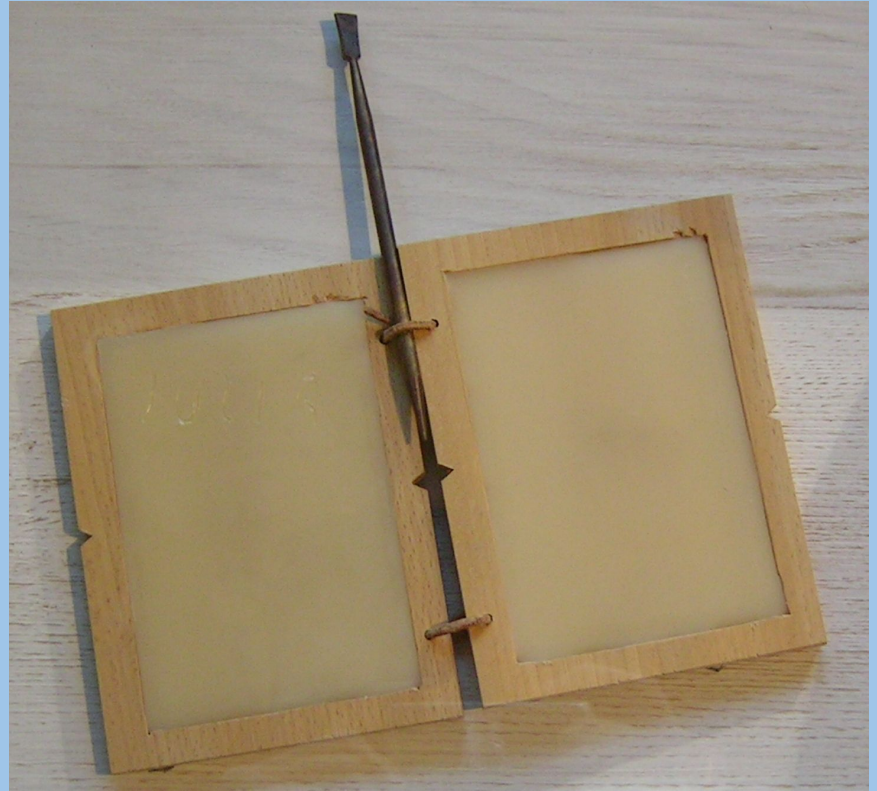
Newton's *Principia*

The Dutch Republic

Pierre Bayle and Baruch Spinoza

John Locke and the Tabula Rasa

Sensationalism

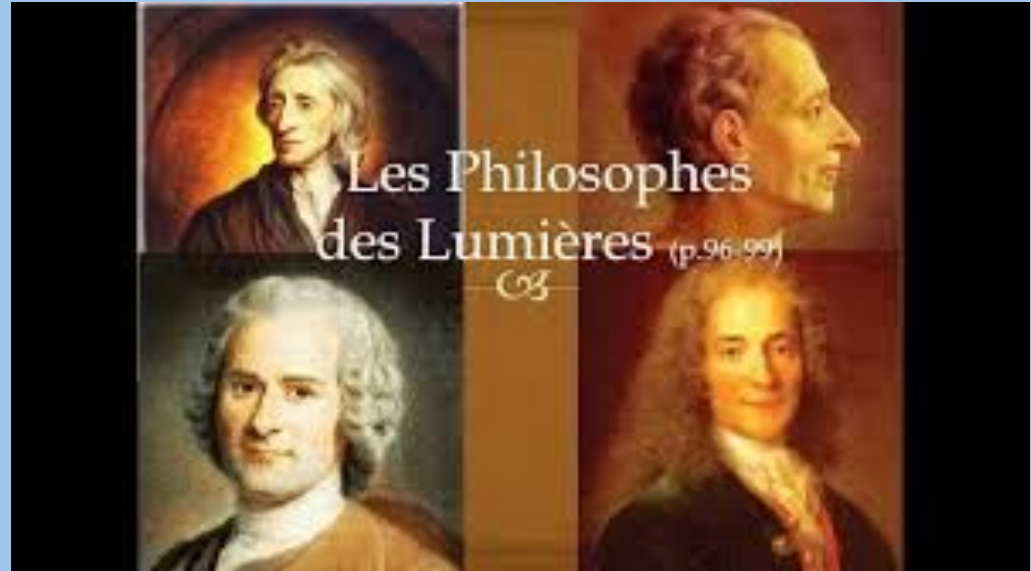


# The Philosophes

Spirit of inquiry and debate

Paris is the center for three reasons:

- French is the language of the educated
- Louis XV is unpopular
- Philosophes focused on taking their message to the people.





# Enlightenment overview

This rational investigation will try to use reason and observation to take a fresh new look at

- Political Structures
- Religion
- Trade and manufacturing
- Social structures
- Systems of ethics and justice





# Overcoming Challenges

Censorship

Satire

Salons

Quiet and subtle support from elites



# Satire

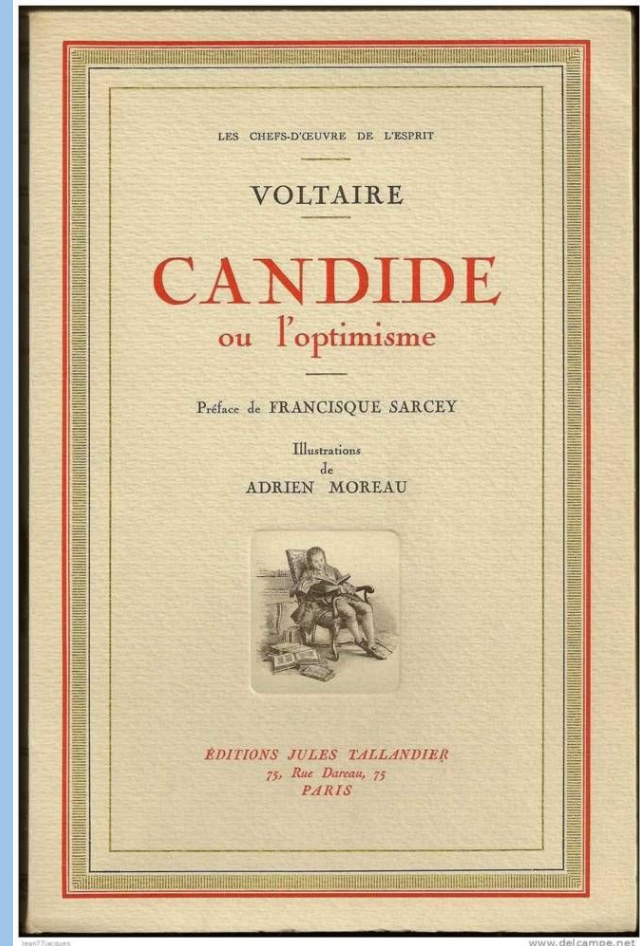
Montesquieu *The Persian Letters*

Voltaire *Candide*

- Mocked corruption
- Praised those who love simply
- Be honest and curious, and question ALL traditional authority

JJ Rousseau

- Middle class values
- Hard work
- Practical learning over formal
- Women at home





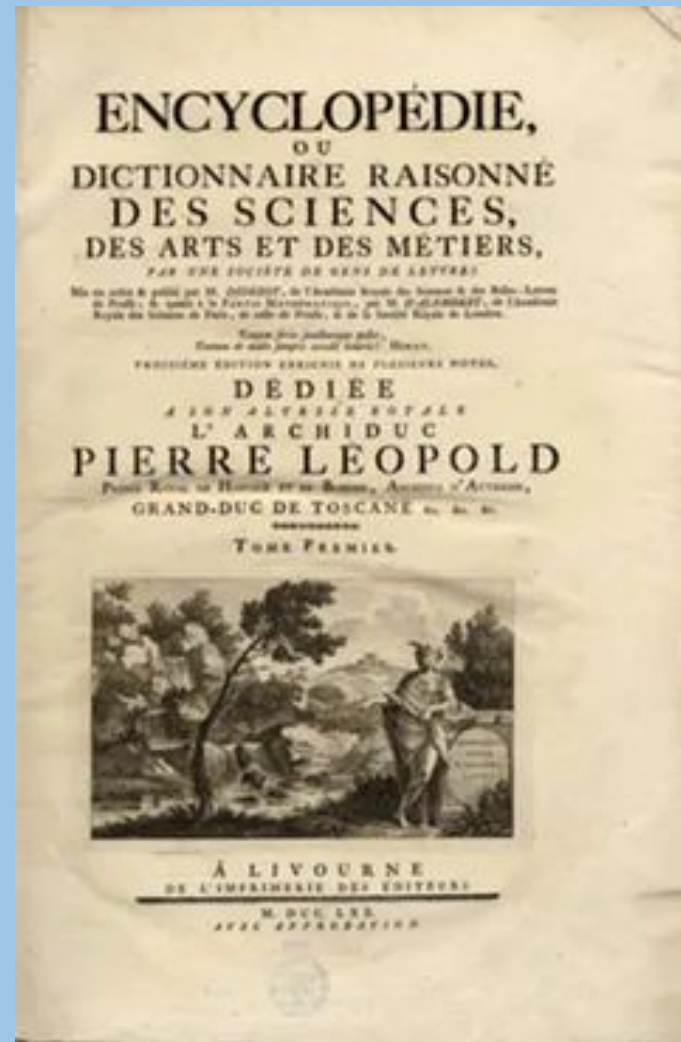
# Overall goals

They wanted to challenge all traditions

The wanted to spread knowledge

David Hume and Public Education in Scotland

Denis Diderot and the Encyclopedia



# Politics

The social contract

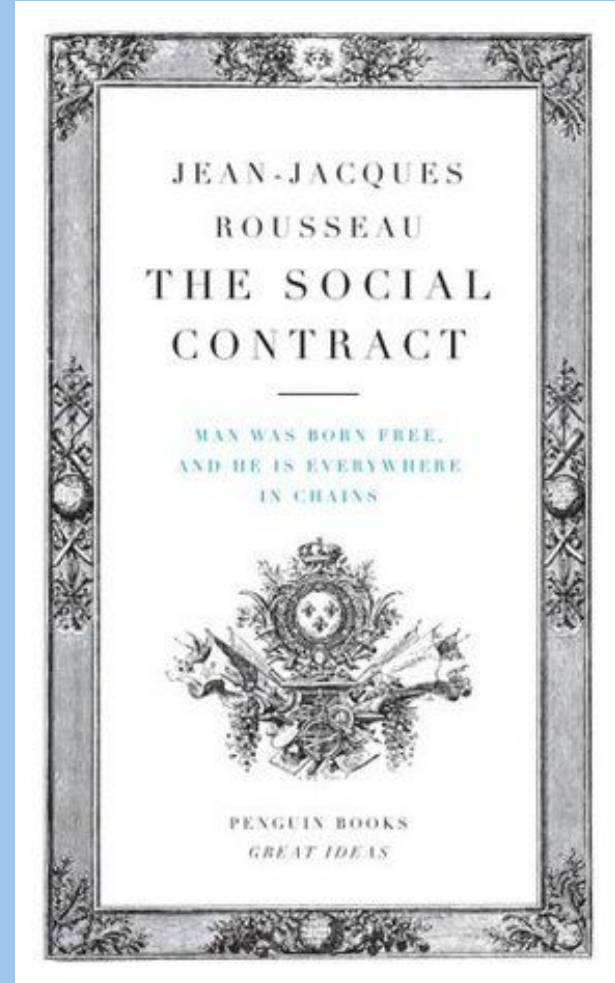
Hobbes (Leviathan) Pessimism and Natural law.

Locke: Optimism and Natural Rights

Rousseau: Man is a Noble Savage, at our best as close to nature as possible.

Consensus of the majority should govern (Why, and why will this be trouble in time?)

Montesquieu: Separation of powers



# Religion

Atheism: Spinoza (and maybe Hume?)

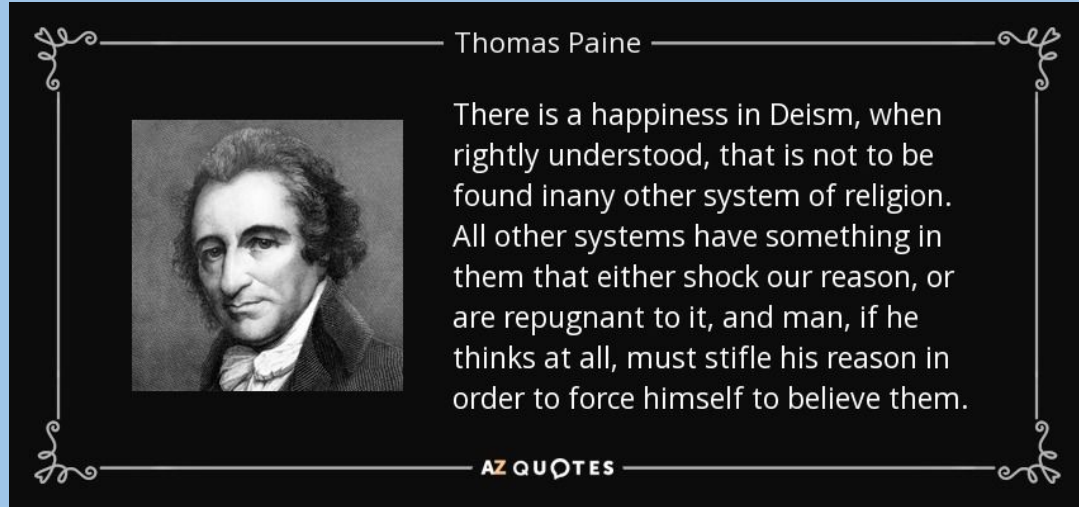
Deism: “God as a watchmaker.”

What do our traditions mean if God is indifferent?

Voltaire

*Candide*

Response to the Lisbon Tsunami



# Economics

The Physiocrats and “Laissez-Faire”

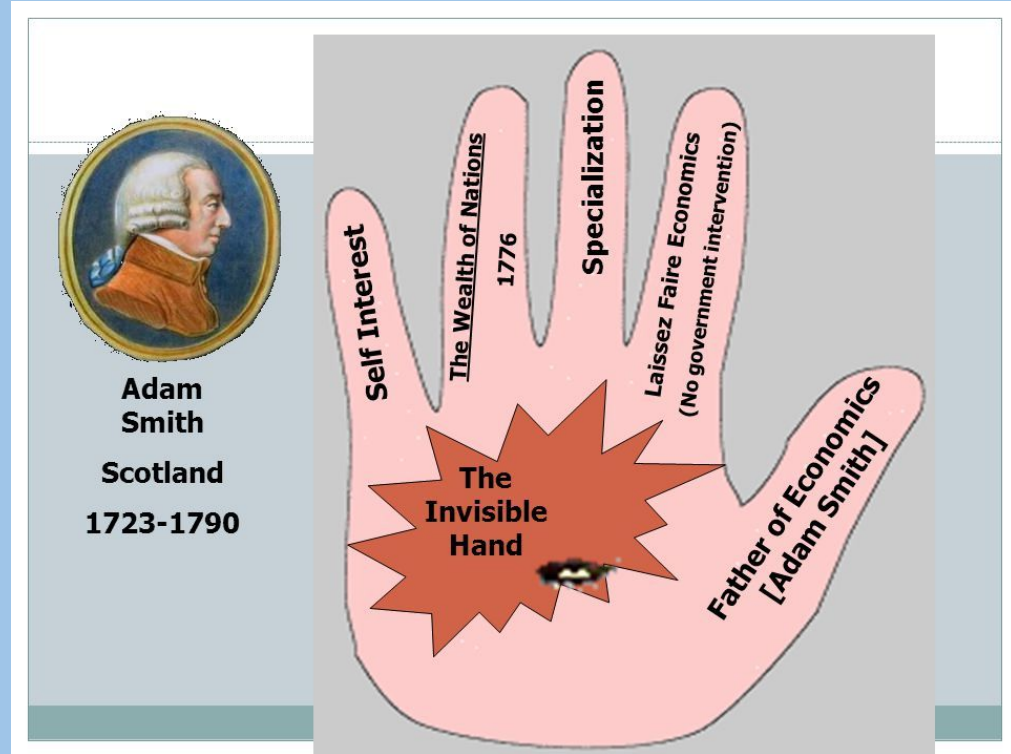
Challenged mercantilist thinking

Adam Smith

*An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the  
Wealth of Nations*

The “invisible hand”

Capitalism





# Enlightenment and Gender

## Arguments for women's rights:

- Marquis de Condorcet
- Mary Astell *A Serious Proposal to the Ladies*
- Mary Wollstonecraft
- Salons and *Salonnières*
- Madame de Pompadour

## Arguments against:

Most Philosophes, but especially JJ Rousseau

- “natural social order”
- inferiority





# Art and Architecture

Soft pastel colors

Ornate and delicate

Sentimental, often depicting lovers or children.

















