

Enlightenment Philosophers

John Locke	<p>Wrote the book <i>Two Treatises of Government</i>. In this book, he explains that people are born with certain <u>natural rights</u> such as the right to life, liberty, and property. He believed that it was the <u>governments'</u> responsibility to protect these rights and that if the government failed, the people had the right to <u>overthrow it</u>. He argued that people are reasonable and capable of governing themselves. He opposed <u>absolute monarchy</u> and said that the best form of government was a <u>representative democracy</u>. Locke greatly influenced the <u>Glorious Revolution</u>.</p>
Montesquieu	<p>He believed that a government should have a <u>separation of powers</u>. He thought that the government should be divided into 3 branches: <u>executive</u>, <u>legislative</u>, and <u>judicial</u>. He believed that there should be a system of <u>checks and balances</u> to make sure each branch does not gain too much power.</p>
Thomas Hobbes	<p>Wrote the <u>Leviathan</u>. He argued that all humans were naturally selfish and evil. Without governments to keep order, people would be in a constant state of war.</p>

He said that in order to have a decent society, people had to turn over all rights to a strong leader with absolute power. In exchange, the people would gain law and order. This agreement was called a social contract between the people and the government. He believed that an absolute monarchy was the best form of government because it was strong enough to enforce laws and keep order.

**Francois Marie
Arouet (Voltaire)**

He was very influential and is most famous for his fight for tolerance, reason, religious freedom, and freedom of speech. Many of his ideas had an impact in the drafting of the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

**Jean Jacques
Rousseau**

He believed in individual freedom. He believed that people were naturally good and that civilization corrupted them. He also thought that people must work together for the common good of society rather than for their own interest in order to avoid corruption. He said that a direct democracy was the best form of government because it was guided by the people. He believed that all people were equal and that titles of nobility should be abolished. His ideas inspired many leaders of the French Revolution.