



Great Awakening & Enlightenment



Objective: Explain how these movements contributed to the Revolution and shaped thinking in the colonies

Revolution: the overthrowing of a political system by the people.

American Revolution

British colonists in America revolt against their political system (monarchy/king), declaring independence from Great Britain.



Great Awakening (1730-1740)

The Great Awakening was a Christian revival in the colonies. This led to radical traveling preachers and increase participation in church activities.



Sermons appealed to the heart and stressed the following moral ideas:

- individual or personal experiences
- inner vs. outer world = help the needy
- all people can be saved = **All created equal**
- question church authority and read the Bible
- independent thinking

Great Awakening Moral Effect



Disagreements in theology lead to new Protestant churches
Inspired colonists to help others

- Funded a home for orphans
- Taught Christianity and reading to Native American and African Americans

Founded colleges for training of ministers

- Ivy League (Harvard, Yale, Princeton, etc.)

Great Awakening Political Effect



- Encouraged ideas of equality
- Stressed the importance of the individual
- Questioning of political authority (Great Britain)
- Greater tolerance for independent thinking
- Planting a seed of an abolition movement

Enlightenment Movement

The Enlightenment emphasized **reason** and **science**. Beginning in Europe, the movement appealed to wealthy educated men. Using ideas from the Renaissance, there an importance placed on Greek and Roman philosophy and observation.

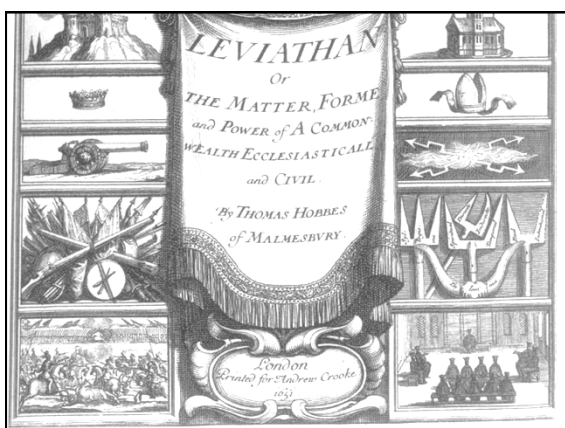
Natural governs laws of the universe

- **Natural Rights/Basic Rights**
- **Individuals being equal under God**

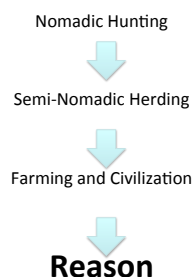


Warm Up

Describe this picture. This picture represents a political system (a type of government). What kind of government do you think it represents?



Enlightenment thinkers began to think of world cultures as developing through progressive stages.



Dialectic Process – Theory of Progressive History

- Thesis → • Age of Exploration (colonization and exploitation of non-Europeans)
- Antithesis → • The Enlightenment (Development of political ideas promoting freedom and democracy.)
- Synthesis → • Modern Democracies

The idea of progressive stages of culture **vs.** the idea of the divine right of kings.



The Divine Right of Kings:

God established monarchies to rule over people. Any civilization that does not have a monarchy has regressed from the divine order that is the will of God.

English Government at the time of the Enlightenment:

The Separation of Powers

The Parliament



Passes laws.

Raises taxes.

The King



Controls the military.

Approves laws passed by parliament.

The Courts



Judge people who commit crimes and hand out punishments.

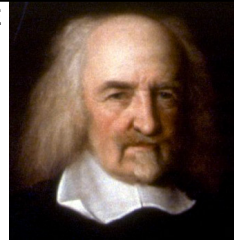
Thomas Hobbes 1588–1679 CE English Philosopher

Because people fight over resources (food, land, money, etc.), life without government is a constant "war of all against all."

Life in the state of nature is "solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short".

People enter a social contract with the government to avoid this.

Government should be absolute and no one single authority should have the power to control the military, the churches, and the courts.

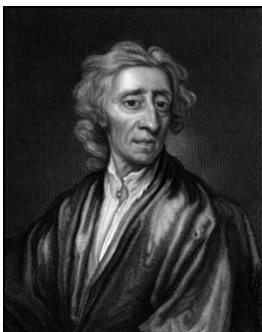


Key Term

Despotism – the exercise of absolute power, especially in a cruel and oppressive way.

Key Term

Social Compact/Contract – an agreement between rulers and the people (consent). If rulers failed in duty, then the people can replace them.



John Locke 1632 –1704 CE English Philosopher

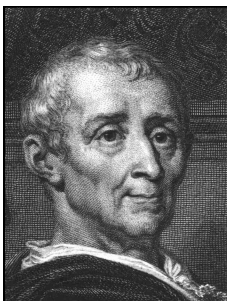
People give up some of their personal power to government. In return the government should protect their rights to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of property. (natural right/law)"

This is a social contract. If the government breaks its part of the contract by failing to protect rights, then the people can break their part of the contract by overthrowing the government.

Key Term

Natural Rights – rights that you are born with, rights that all people have (equality)

Natural Law – Laws dictated by nature and observed through reason



Charles-Louis Montesquieu
1689 –1755 CE French Philosopher

Charles-Louis Montesquieu contributed to the Enlightenment by attempting to write the law, the subjects of law, and human happiness, which he did by writing *The Spirit of the Laws*.

Montesquieu is famous for his articulation of the theory of separation of powers, which is implemented in many constitutions throughout the world.

Key Term

Separation of Powers– an act of vesting the legislative, executive, and judicial powers of government with checks and balances

Voltaire 1694-1778 CE
French Philosopher and Author

Voltaire is best known for his support of civil rights. He was a strong supporter of the ideas of free speech and his writings stressed the idea of religious tolerance.

His most popular novel *Candide* was a parody of religious philosophers from his time period.

Voltaire was a deist, which means he believed in God, but did not believe god interfered with the world through miracles.



Voltaire speaking about Christian intolerance for the Hindu religions of India.

"This is only a small part of the ancient cosmogony of the Brahmins. Their rites, their pagodas, prove that among them everything was allegorical; they still represent virtue beneath the emblem of a woman who has ten arms, and who combats ten mortal sins represented by monsters.

Our missionaries have not failed to take this image of virtue for that of the devil, and to assure us that the devil is worshipped in India. We have never been among these people but to enrich ourselves and to calumniate them. "



Benjamin Franklin 1706-1790CE
American statesman and inventor

British American Colonist and founder of the U.S.A.

Self-made, Self educated man

- Used reason to improve society
- Devoted his life to science and public service
- Proved lightning was a form of electricity
- Franklin stove and bifocals
- Help draft the Declaration of Independence and attended the Constitutional Convention

The Declaration of Independence

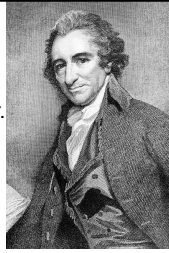
"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed, by their Creator, with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.

That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or abolish it, and to institute new Government..."

**Thomas Paine English/American
Political Philosopher
1737 – 1809 CE**

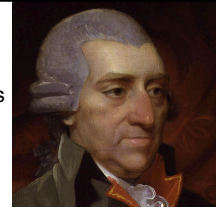
Religion: Thomas Paine was a Quaker. Quakers during this time period, were anti-slavery, anti-war, and pro-equality (and therefore anti-monarchy.)

Common Sense (1776): This was the most widely read political pamphlet arguing for the American Revolution. Paine argued that monarchies were against the will of God, that the high taxes paid by American colonies to England were to pay for unnecessary wars, and that democratic republics would never go to war with each other.

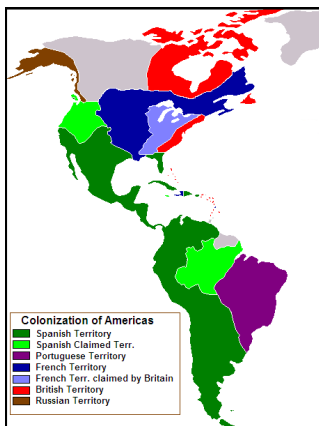


**Cesare Beccaria
Italian Philosopher and Author
1694-1778 CE**

Beccaria is best for his contributions on criminology and the ideas on crime and punishment. In his book *On Crimes and Punishment*, he condemned torture and the death penalty (capital punishment).



Beccaria, an Italian born philosopher, argued for rights such as a fair and speedy trial which is the foundation of the Fifth Amendment. He argued for liberty and the greatest happiness for the greatest numbers. Arguing that the states does not have the right to take another person's life.



**British and French
territory during
the Seven Year
War.**

**French Support for the American
Revolution**

The French King Luis XVI supported the American Revolution, not because he supported democracy, but because he wanted to weaken the British Empire by separating it from its American colonies.



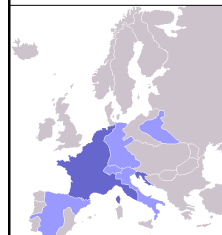
The Marquis de Lafayette was a French nobleman who served as a general in the American Revolution. He came to support the ideals of the revolution and later became a leader in the French Revolution.

Causes of the French Revolution

- The French Government is bankrupt from the Seven Year War and other economic problems.
- There is widespread unemployment in French cities, especially Paris.
- Famine lead to starvation in the country side.
- The French people looked to the ideals of the Enlightenment as a way of avoiding these problems in the future.
- More so than the American Revolution, the French Revolution was largely about more equal distribution of wealth.



Because of leadership problems the French Revolution ended up collapsing and producing a dictatorship lead by Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte.



Napoleon's conquest of most of Europe will lead to opportunities for revolutions throughout the Americas.

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Questions

The idea that personal experiences could be a better guide to a religious belief system than rulers and regulations came from?

- A. The Great Awakening
- B. Classical Republicanism
- C. The writing of John Locke
- D. The Declaration of Independence

Question

What is a social contract?

- A. Freedom of speech
- B. A promise to treat everyone equally
- C. An agreement between rulers and the people
- D. An agreement among people to overthrow the government

Question

Which of the following quotes justifies a revolution?

- A. All men are created equal
- B. With a certain unalienable Rights, that among these are life, liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness
- C. Governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed
- D. Whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it