



The Enlightenment

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What was the Enlightenment?

- 1700-1800s
- Also known as the Age of Reason
- Philosophical movement
 - Several big ideas becoming popular
- Skepticism of government, religion, economics, and education
 - Absolute monarchs



Major Ideas of the Enlightenment

- Natural rights: life, liberty, property
- Separation of powers
- Freedom and thought of expression
- Abolishment of torture
- Religious freedom
- Women's equality



Notable People of the Enlightenment

There were many notable thinkers that came out of the enlightenment era, such as:

- Mary Wollstonecraft
- John Locke
- Montesquieu
- Descartes
- Francis Bacon
- Isaac Newton

And many, many others



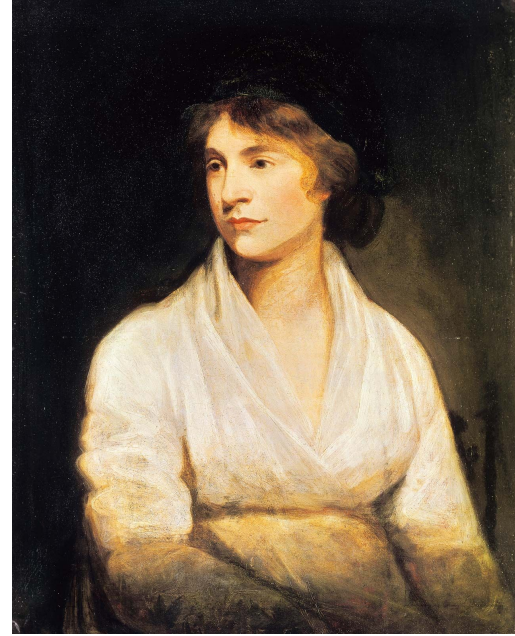
Mary Wollstonecraft

Who was she?

- philosophical writer
- considered to be first feminist

Why was she important to the Enlightenment?

- Advocate of education
- Advocate of social equality for women
- Fought for improvement of women's status

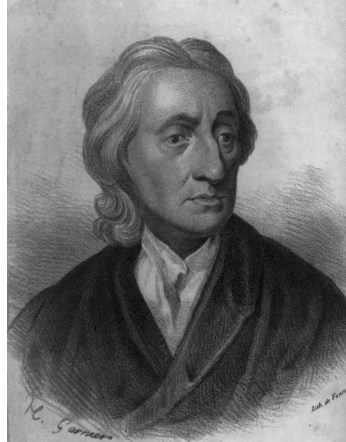


John Locke

Lived 1632 - 1704

What did he do?

- Expressed his view that government is obligated to serve the people, by protecting life, liberty, and property
- Wrote that all individuals are equal in the sense that they are born with certain "inalienable" natural rights, which he claimed to be the right to life, liberty, and property
- His ideas heavily influenced many of the founding fathers of the USA



Baron de Montesquieu

- Lived 1689-1755

What did he do?

- Published persian letters, these were satire texts that used sarcasm to convey a message
- His most important work, The Spirit of Laws stated that two types of government existed: the sovereign and the administrative
- He talked about the separation of powers
- It stated that not one power would be greater than the other



Legacy of the Enlightenment

- Inspired American and French Revolutions
- Three long term effects
 - Belief in Progress
 - Discoveries in chemistry, physics, biology, and mechanics
 - Rise of a more secular outlook
 - Non-religious views
 - Promote tolerance of all religion
 - Importance of the Individual
 - Making own decisions

