

#12 -- The Age of Enlightenment

AKS: examine the intellectual, political, social and economic factors which changed the world view of Europeans (GPS) (SSWH_G2007-42)

Indicators of Achievement:

42c - identify the major ideas of the Enlightenment from the writings of Locke, Voltaire, and Rousseau and their relationship to politics and society

What was the Enlightenment? The period between 1720 and 1790 when scholars believed in the use of reason and in the scientific method.

Common beliefs among Enlightenment Thinkers

- People should examine all accepted ways of thinking and acting and they should pursue new ideas and discoveries.
- Importance of the individual.
- Ideas of freedom and rights.
- There could be unending progress in science and the humanities.
- A person is not born with knowledge, it comes with experience.
- Truth is discovered through observing, not from authoritative sources like the Bible.
- The Roman Catholic Church had enslaved the human mind with superstitions.

Enlightenment Thinkers

Thomas Hobbes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ideas of a social contract• <u>Leviathan</u>• <i>Man is evil, must have strong government</i>
John Locke	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ideas regarding natural rights• <u>Two Treatises on Government</u>• <i>Man has rights to life, liberty, property</i>
Voltaire	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Used satire• Wrote many essays• Defended tolerance, freedom of speech and religion

Montesquieu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political liberty • Admired Britain's balanced government • Separation of powers
Rousseau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committed to individual freedom • Social contract • Government by consent of the governed

Key Terms:

- Philosophes: Thinker who subscribed to the notion that reason could be applied to all aspects of life.
- Secular: concerned with worldly rather than spiritual matters
- Salon: a gathering of people to discuss their new thoughts and philosophies.
- Baroque: term first used for ornate music, means "odd", the music is known for its drama and complexity.
- Physiocrats: a French Economic theorist who believed that government regulations interfered with the production of wealth.
- Enlightened despots: absolute monarchs who tried to rule justly to respect the rights and interests of their subjects.

Effects of the Age of Enlightenment

- Citizens who often did not have a voice in their governments became dissatisfied and wanted to fight for their freedom.
- They begin wars for freedom, called Revolutions.
- The English, American, French, and Latin American Revolutions are examples.

Document Practice:

Write two paragraphs comparing and contrasting the ideas of Thomas Hobbes and John Locke.

"True and False are attributes of speech, not of things. And where speech is not, there is neither Truth nor Falsehood." - Thomas Hobbes

"It is one thing to show a man that he is in error, and another to put him in possession of truth." - John Locke