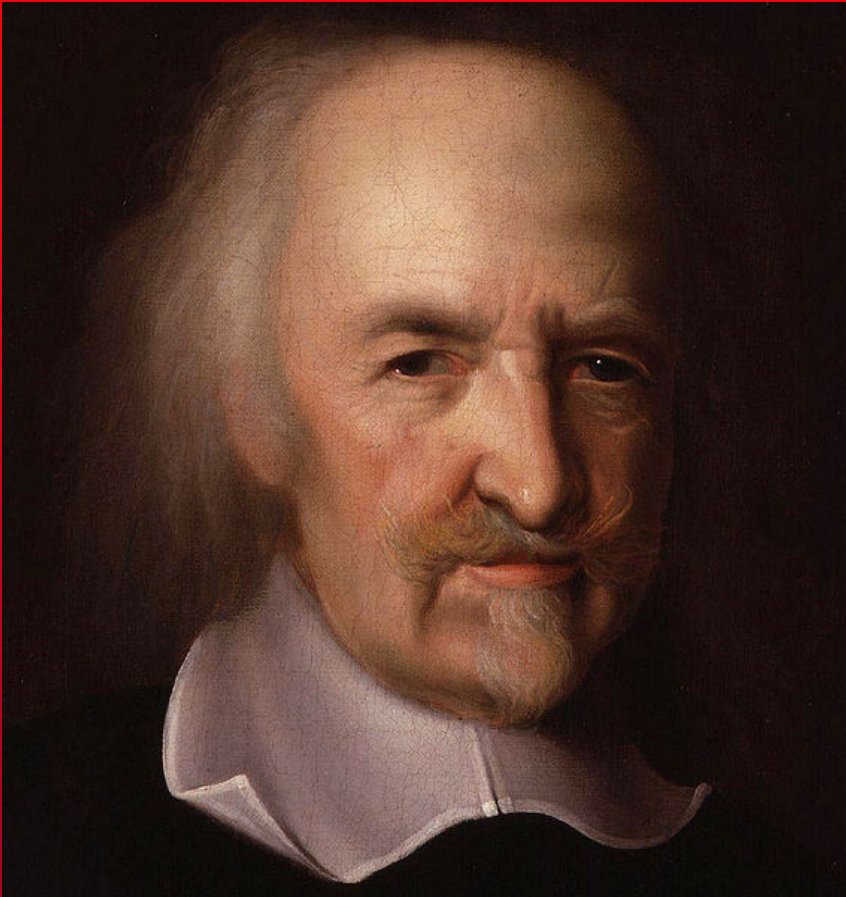


# Enlightenment or the Age of Reason

- A new intellectual movement that stressed reason, thought, and the power of the individual to solve problems

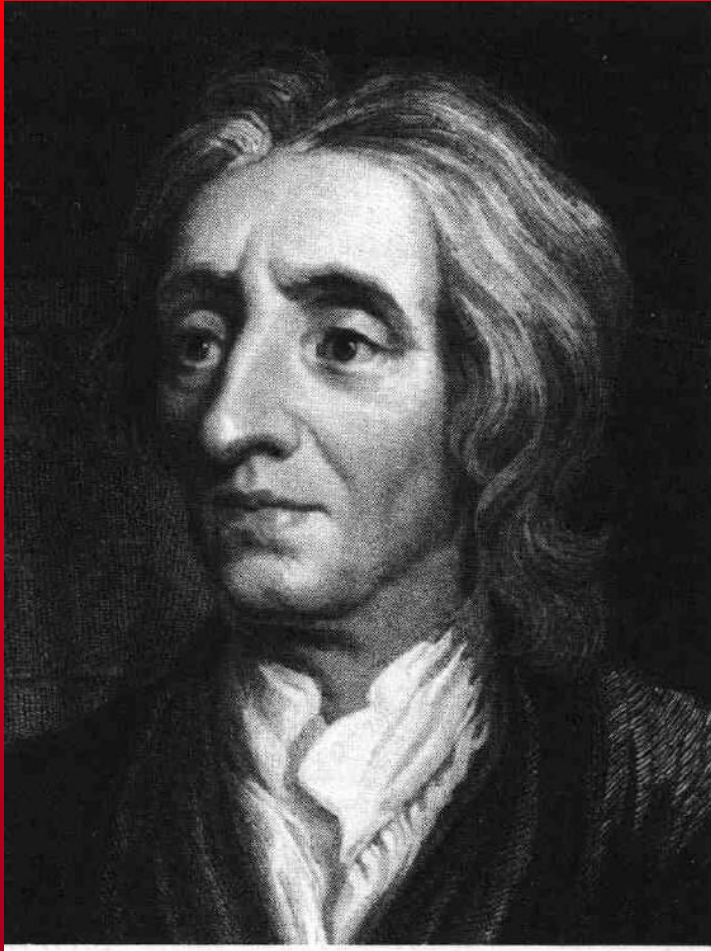


# Two Views of Government



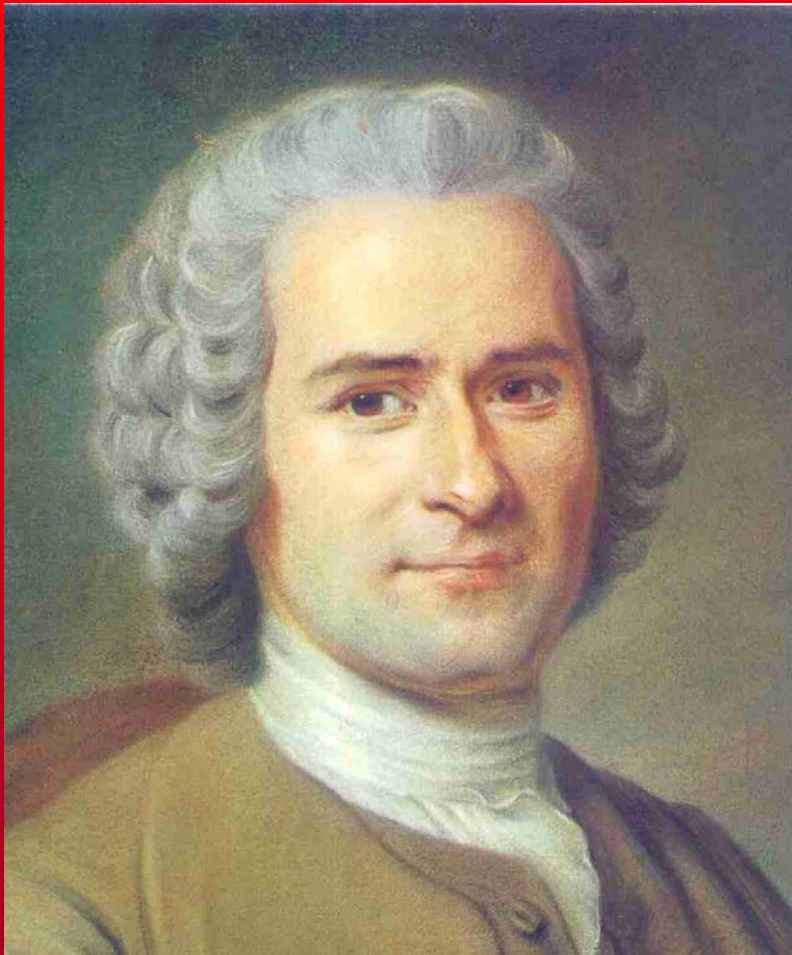
- Thomas Hobbes , *The Leviathan* (1651)
- People hand over their rights to a strong ruler; in exchange they gain a society of law and order
- This agreement was called the social contract
- In Hobbs' view the best government was an absolute monarchy which could impose order and demand obedience

# John Locke Natural Rights



- All people are born free and equal with natural rights of life, liberty, and property
- Government's purpose is to protect these rights and if it fails to do so, citizens have the right to overthrow it
- Government power comes from the consent of the governed (the people)

# Enlightenment in France



- Social groups of like thinkers known as “philosophes” met to discuss issues
- Could apply reason to all aspects of life
- Held five basic beliefs: reason, nature, happiness, progress, and liberty
- Most famous French philosopher was Voltaire
- Montesquieu, a French philosopher, liked the British government with its “separation of powers” or branches of government
- Rousseau, another French philosopher, was a champion of individual freedoms
- Benjamin Franklin was considered an Enlightenment man in America

# Lasting Impact of the Enlightenment



- Challenged divine rights of kings
- Disrupted the union between church and state
- Exposed the unequal social classes
- Promoted reason and belief in progress that paved the way for the Scientific Revolution
- Made society less religious or more secular
- Promoted the rise of the individuals to use their own abilities of reason
- Brought positive changes to some monarchies in Europe who adopted some of the ideas