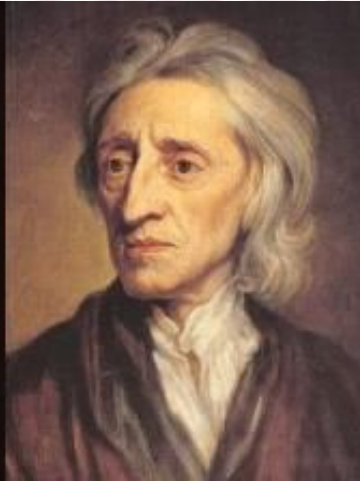
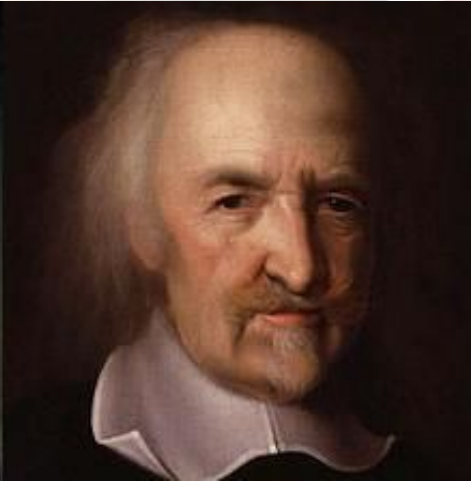
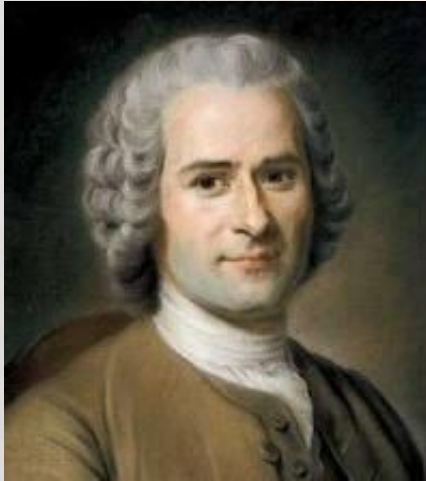


# *The Enlightenment*

The Age of Reason



# POLITICAL THEORISTS

Applying the *scientific method* to their  
PHYSICAL WORLD, Enlightenment  
thinkers, or ***political theorists***,  
re-examined ALL aspects of SOCIETY –  
from government and justice to religion  
and women's rights...

# René Descartes and Rationalism

\* **MAIN IDEA:** scientists came to believe that **REASON** is main source of ALL knowledge..

\* The **ENLIGHTENMENT** focused on **the use of REASON!**

\* **NEW** views of the **universe**, **earth** and **astronomy** *influence* **NEW** views of **HUMANS** and **SOCIETY**...



# René Descartes and Rationalism

\* 17<sup>th</sup> century French philosopher who focused on the idea that **doubt** and **uncertainty** seemed to be everywhere (began to doubt his own EXISTENCE)...

\* In *Discourse on Method* (1637), he stated that he would only accept those things his **REASON** said were true.

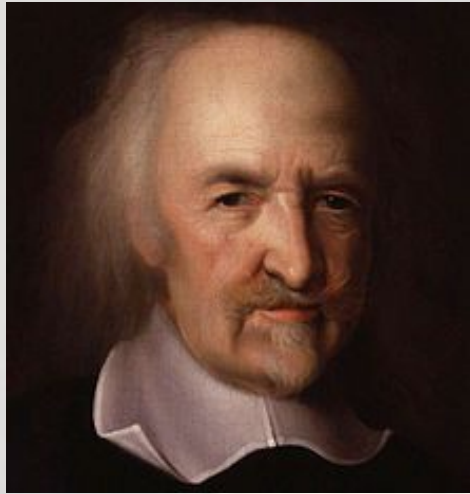
\* **First Principle:** “I think, therefore I am” (focused on his own mind)

\* **Second Principle:** “the mind cannot be doubted but the body and material world can, the two must be radically different” (the separation of mind and matter/body)



René Descartes – *The Father of Modern Rationalism*

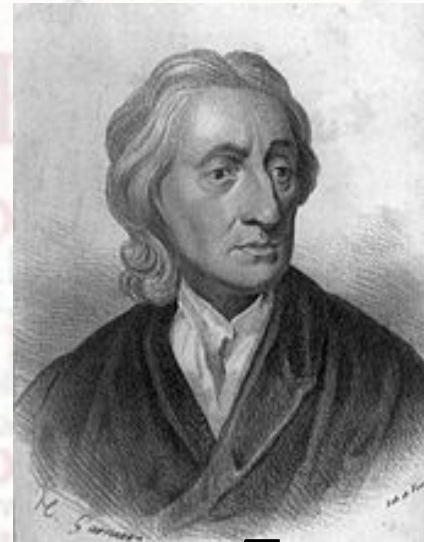
# Thomas Hobbes and John Locke



\* **HOBBS** – English philosopher who was best known for his book

***Leviathan*** (1651)

\* How does society deal with the problem of DISORDER and CHAOS? – structure of gov't, human nature...



\* **LOCKE** – English philosopher who was best known for his book ***Two Treatises on Government*** (1689) – argued against **ABSOLUTE RULE!**

\* BOTH were post-English Revolution **PHILOSOPHERS** who were particularly concerned with three different topics:

- 1.) MAN (humans) in their **STATE of NATURE**
- 2.) What is the PURPOSE of GOVERNMENT?
- 3.) How should government REPRESENT the PEOPLE?

\* BOTH had a HUGE influence on the American **FOUNDING FATHERS!**



# The *State of Nature*; Hobbes and Locke

## Thomas Hobbes

- \* Humans are guided by **SELF-PRESERVATION!** (not morals)
- \* The **STATE OF NATURE** is a *state of war*.
- \* the life of man is “**solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short.**”

## John Locke

- \* Men exist in the **STATE OF NATURE** in *perfect equality* and *freedom* to do what they want.
- \* **NATURAL RIGHTS** and **NATURAL LAW** govern the *State of Nature* (life, liberty, health and property) – *given to them by God*.
- \* The state of nature is not necessarily good or bad – it is **CHAOTIC** and **CORRUPTING**, but mostly peaceful.

\* The **STATE OF NATURE** is a hypothetical condition that preceded **SOCIETY**, civil government and structure – think a *deserted ISLAND*...

# Purpose of Government; Hobbes and Locke

## Thomas Hobbes

...to **IMPOSE LAW** and order to prevent the *state of war*.

\* **ABSOLUTE MONARCHY** (people agreed to be governed by an absolute ruler who had unlimited power to suppress chaos and rebellion)

\* ...the STATE was the “great **leviathan** to which we owe our peace and defense.”

## John Locke

...to secure **NATURAL RIGHTS**.

\* **REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY** (people found it difficult to protect their natural rights – so they create government to ensure that their natural rights are protected)

\* “The end of law is not to abolish or restrain, but to preserve and enlarge freedom... where there is no law, there is no freedom.”

\* Both LOCKE and HOBBS had *very different views* on what the **role of government** should be...

# Gov't and Representation;

## Hobbes and Locke

### Thomas Hobbes

\* Governments are designed to **CONTROL**, not necessarily represent the people!

### John Locke

\* Representation ensures that governments are *responsive to the people* – the “**consent of the governed**” is necessary...

\* Representation is a safeguard against **TYRANNY!**

\* What does **CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED** mean?  
...a government's use of power is justified and can only be legitimate if the PEOPLE give their consent to be governed!



# Impact on *Founding Fathers*; Hobbes and Locke

## Thomas Hobbes

\* Governments must be designed to protect people from infringing on each other's rights...

## John Locke

- \* Government was necessary to promote the **PUBLIC GOOD** – protect property, encourage commerce and little else... “govern little”
- \* **NATURAL RIGHTS** must be secured!
- \* The **CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED**

# The Role of Philosophy

*Philosophers (philosophes) and The Enlightenment*

\* **Philosopher**: intellectual who works to discuss and solve ethical and societal problems *through the application of knowledge and reason* (life, religious tolerance, politics, government, law)

\* Philosophers wanted to **study society** and apply **rational criticism** to it in order to make it better and improve human conditions! \*

\* **WHO** were the *philosophers* of the Enlightenment?

...intellectuals, nobility, middle-class, European, mostly French!

# The Spread of New Ideas

*...during the Enlightenment*

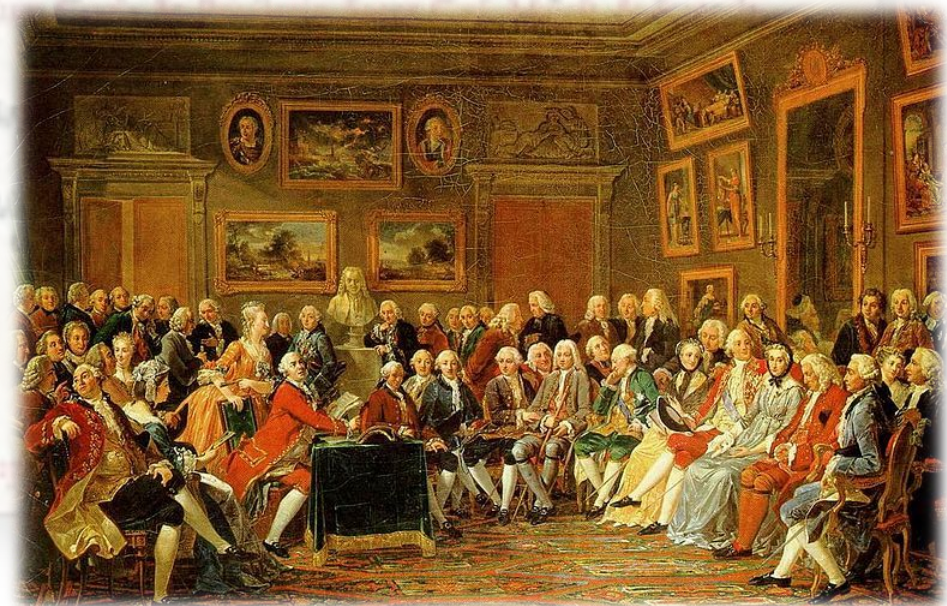
- \* These *philosophes* spent a great deal of energy **spreading their ideas among literate society** in diverse cities throughout Europe...
- \* *Philosophes spread new ideas in a variety of ways* (some new, some old):
  - 1.) The **BOOK industry** (developments in tech. and literacy rates)
  - 2.) **SCIENTIFIC** and **LITERARY** magazines (new sources of knowledge)
  - 3.) Parisian **SALONS** (in the *public sphere*)
  - 4.) London **COFFEE HOUSES** (“penny universities” in the *public sphere*)



# The Spread of New Ideas

## *Parisian Salons and London Coffee Houses*

- \* BOTH were in the ***PUBLIC SPHERE***: a place for social interaction outside the home and away from public authority (*openness, equality and communication*)
- \* People came together to discuss Enlightenment ideas and have conversations **WITHOUT REGARD TO RANK!**



# The Spread of New Ideas

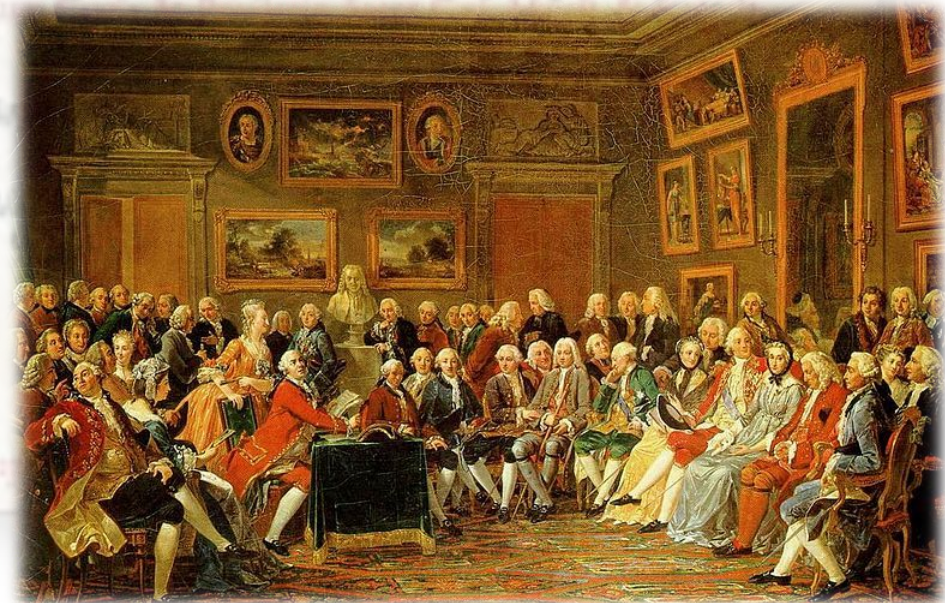
## *Parisian Salons and London Coffee Houses*

\* Women **DID NOT** participate in London's Coffee Houses...

\* Place for like-minded scholars to congregate, read, learn from and debate with one another!

\* Women were the **CREATORS** and **LEADERS** of the Parisian Salons!

\* In the hands of the **SALONNIÈRES** (hostesses), who had the power to choose guests and deny entry!



# John Locke

## *Tabula Rasa*

\* Francis Bacon, during the Scientific Revolution of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, established that **EMPIRICISM** (*the reliance on the experience of the senses*) was superior to speculation and deduction in the pursuit of knowledge.

\* **John Locke** – in his *Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (1690) – restated the importance of the experience of the senses!

...and sets out the case that the human mind at birth is a complete, but receptive, **blank slate** (*tabula rasa*) upon which experience imprints knowledge.

\* **TABULA RASA** – the mind is a blank slate at birth filled through experiences from the outside world!

# John Locke

*Tabula Rasa*

## \* Why is this important to the Enlightenment?

...It presents a **very positive view of human nature** – the *idea that people can learn from experience* and improve themselves gives them the ability to govern their own affairs and look after the welfare of society!

BLANK SLATE

# John Locke

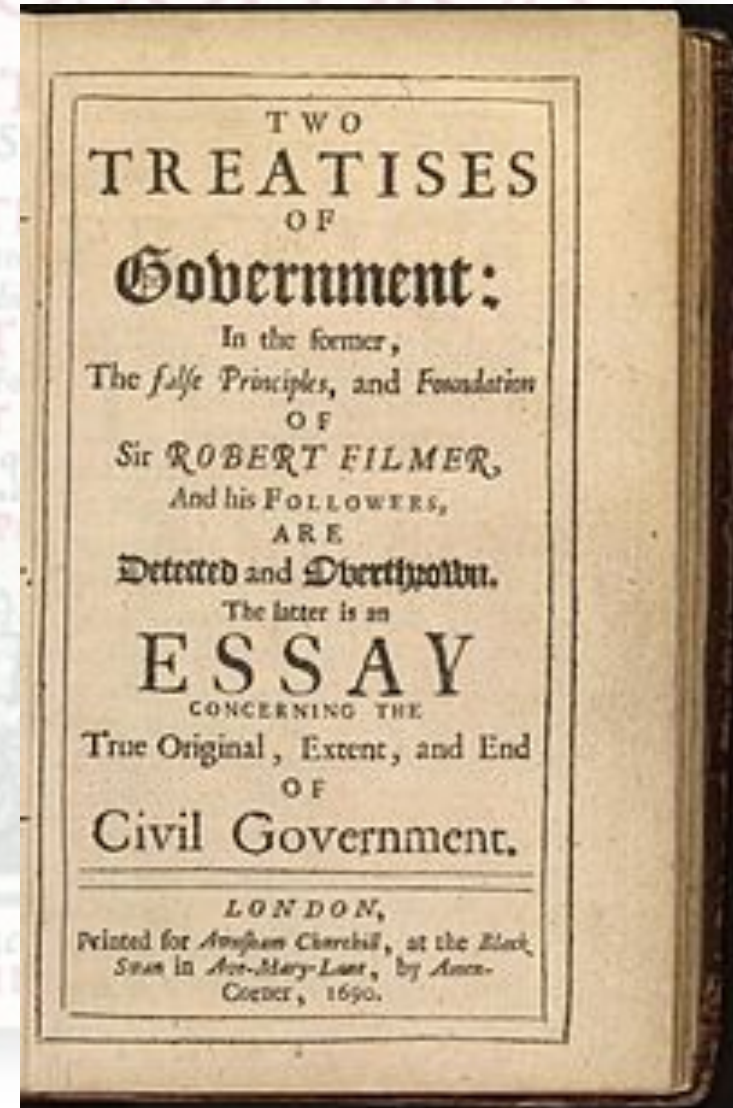
## *Natural Rights*

\* *Two Treatises of Government* (1689)

\* *Two separate political philosophy*

*essays*: the second outlines Locke's ideas for a more civilized society based on (1) **natural rights** and (2) **the social contract theory**.

“Reason... teaches all Mankind, who would but consult it, that being all **equal** and **independent**, no one ought to harm another in his **Life, Health, Liberty**, or **Possessions**.”





# John Locke

## *Natural Rights*

### \* What are Locke's *NATURAL RIGHTS*?

- 1.) **LIFE** (and health): everyone is entitled to live once they have been created (by God)
- 2.) **LIBERTY**: all humans are entitled to do anything they want so long as it doesn't conflict with anyone else's natural rights.
- 3.) **PROPERTY**: all humans are entitled to own all they create or gain through gift or trade so long as it doesn't conflict with anyone else's natural rights.

\* **QUESTION**: Why does Locke feel government is established?

\* **QUESTION**: What did Locke feel the people had a right to do if government did not protect the natural rights of its people?

# Baron de Montesquieu

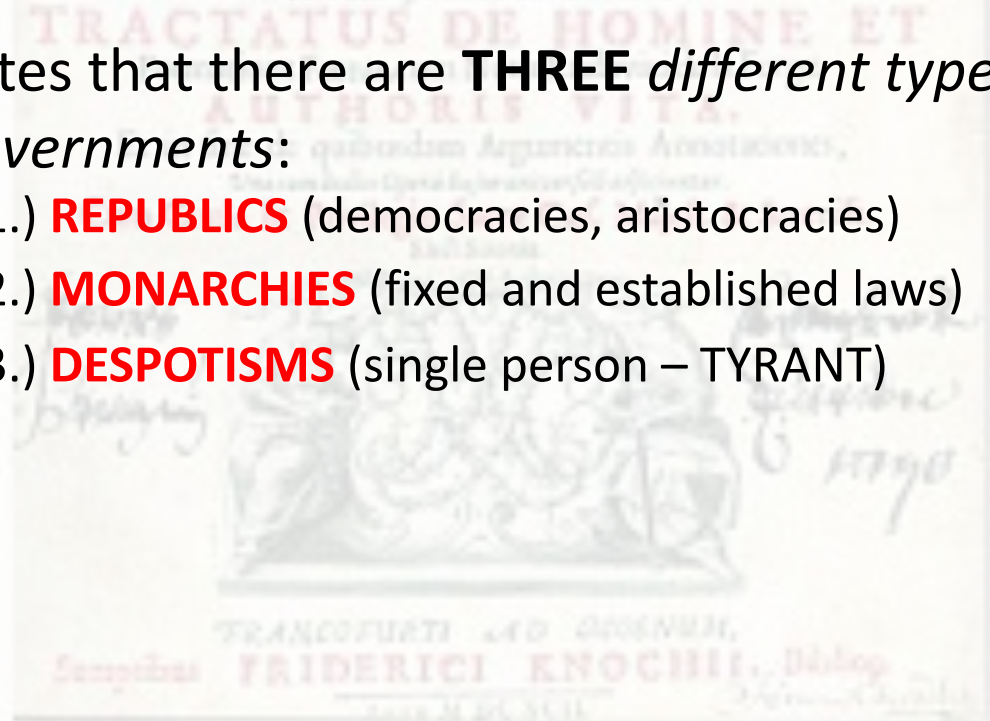
## *Basic Types of Government*



\* ***The Spirit of the Laws*** (1748) sought to explain humans laws, different types of government and checks/balances...

\* States that there are **THREE** different types of governments:

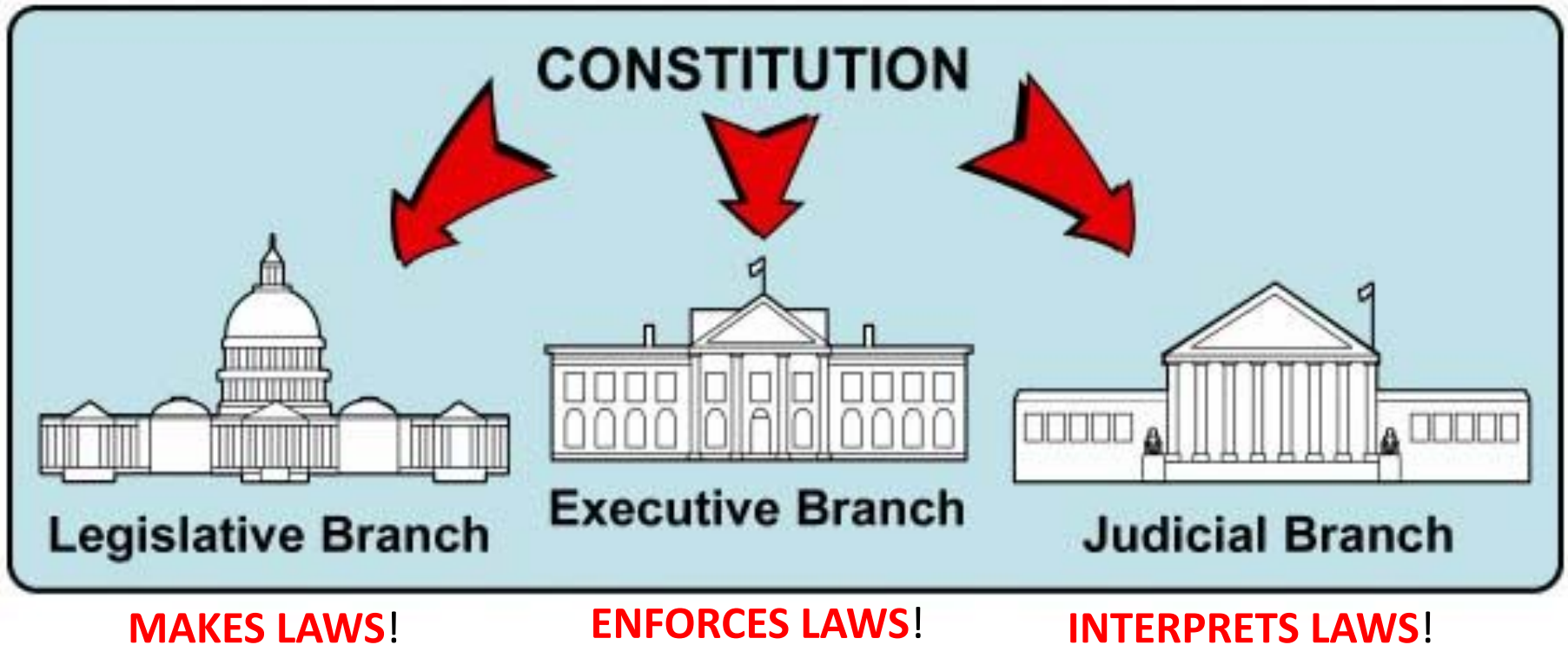
- 1.) **REPUBLICS** (democracies, aristocracies)
- 2.) **MONARCHIES** (fixed and established laws)
- 3.) **DESPOTISMS** (single person – TYRANT)



# Montesquieu

## *Separation of Powers*

\* DESPOTISM could be prevented by a system of **different governmental bodies exercising different powers** (**SEPARATION OF POWERS**) that is held together by the **RULE OF LAW!**



# Voltaire

## *Religion and Deism*

\* **Francois-Marie Arouet** – **Voltaire** – outspoken French philosopher and social commentator who:

...was exiled to England for two years.

...attacked injustice among nobility, government and the **CATHOLIC CHURCH** through the use of **SATIRE!**

... attacked religious **DOGMA** and ignorance throughout society.

\* Fought a lifelong struggle for **equal justice**, **religious tolerance**, the use of **reason** and **freedom of speech**



# Voltaire

## *Religion and Deism*

- \* Throughout his life, **VOLTAIRE** fought and advocated for **DEISM**
  - 1.) **Deism** was an 18<sup>th</sup> century religious philosophy that focused on **REASON** and **NATURAL LAW**
  - 2.) ...built on Isaac Newton's **WORLD-MACHINE** concept
  - 3.) **GOD** created the universe... set it in motion... then stepped back and let it run on its own!
- \* Why would Voltaire be an advocate of DEISM?



# Voltaire

“Those who can make you believe absurdities can make you commit atrocities.”

Voltaire’s words reflected his observations on history and foreshadowed atrocities yet to come in Europe (particularly France). Outspoken against **tyranny, ignorance, religious intolerance** and the **excesses of the Church**, Voltaire never held his tongue, even in the face of threats.

Forced to choose between exile and imprisonment after insulting a powerful French nobleman, Voltaire chose exile in England. While there, he befriended Jonathan Swift and Alexander Pope and was influenced by *John Locke* and *Isaac Newton*. He returned home to France more radical than ever, and his ideas influenced the American and French revolutions.

\* **QUESTION:** What ‘absurdities’ have been accepted as ‘common knowledge’ throughout the modern world AND/OR during the SCI. REV. and Enlightenment?

# Denis Diderot

## *The Encyclopedia*

\* Think back to the discussion we had on **HOW IDEAS ARE SPREAD...** **How are ideas spread in modern world?**

\* **Denis Diderot** was a **French philosopher** (18<sup>th</sup> century) who wanted to “*incorporate all of the world's knowledge and hoped to spread the information to the public and future generations*”

...founder, chief editor and contributor to the **Encyclopédie**



\* According to Diderot, the compilation was a “*change to the ordinary way of thinking*”

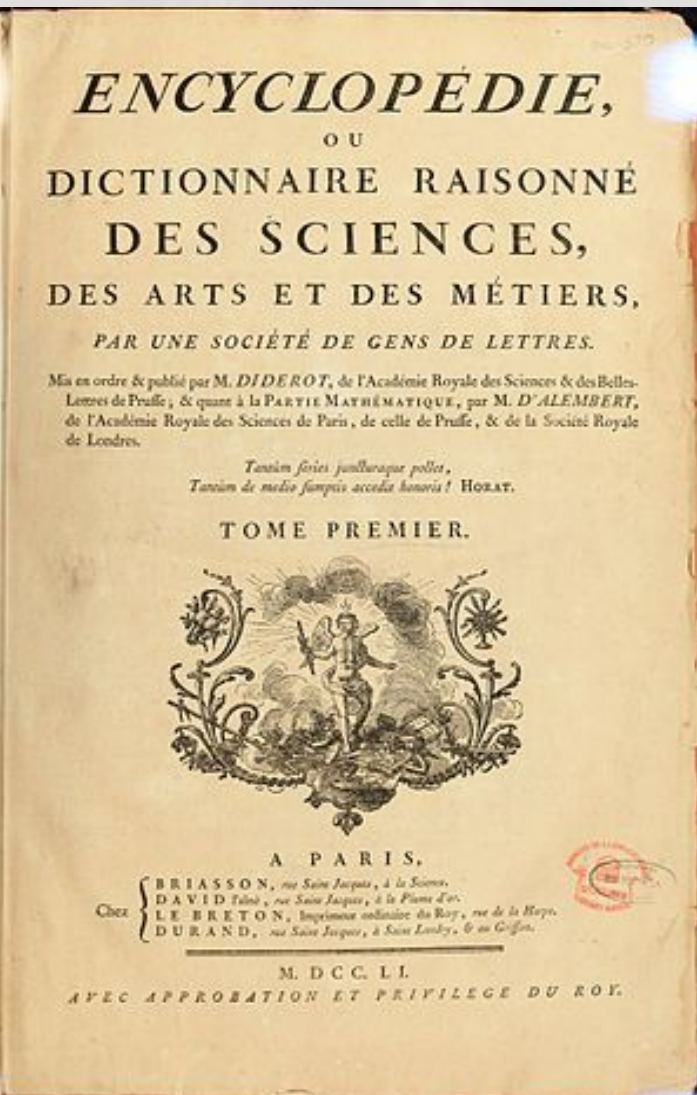
# Denis Diderot

## *The Encyclopedia*

\* The *Encyclopédie* was a **LIFE-LONG** work of Diderot (worked for 27 years and published the last volume, of 28, in 1772)

\* Articles written by greatest thinkers, philosophers and scientists of the day – they included:

- 1.) Attacks on religious superstition
- 2.) Social, legal and political reforms
- 3.) Supported tolerance
- 4.) New ideas about art, science and government



\* Rousseau, Diderot and Montesquieu were notable contributors \*

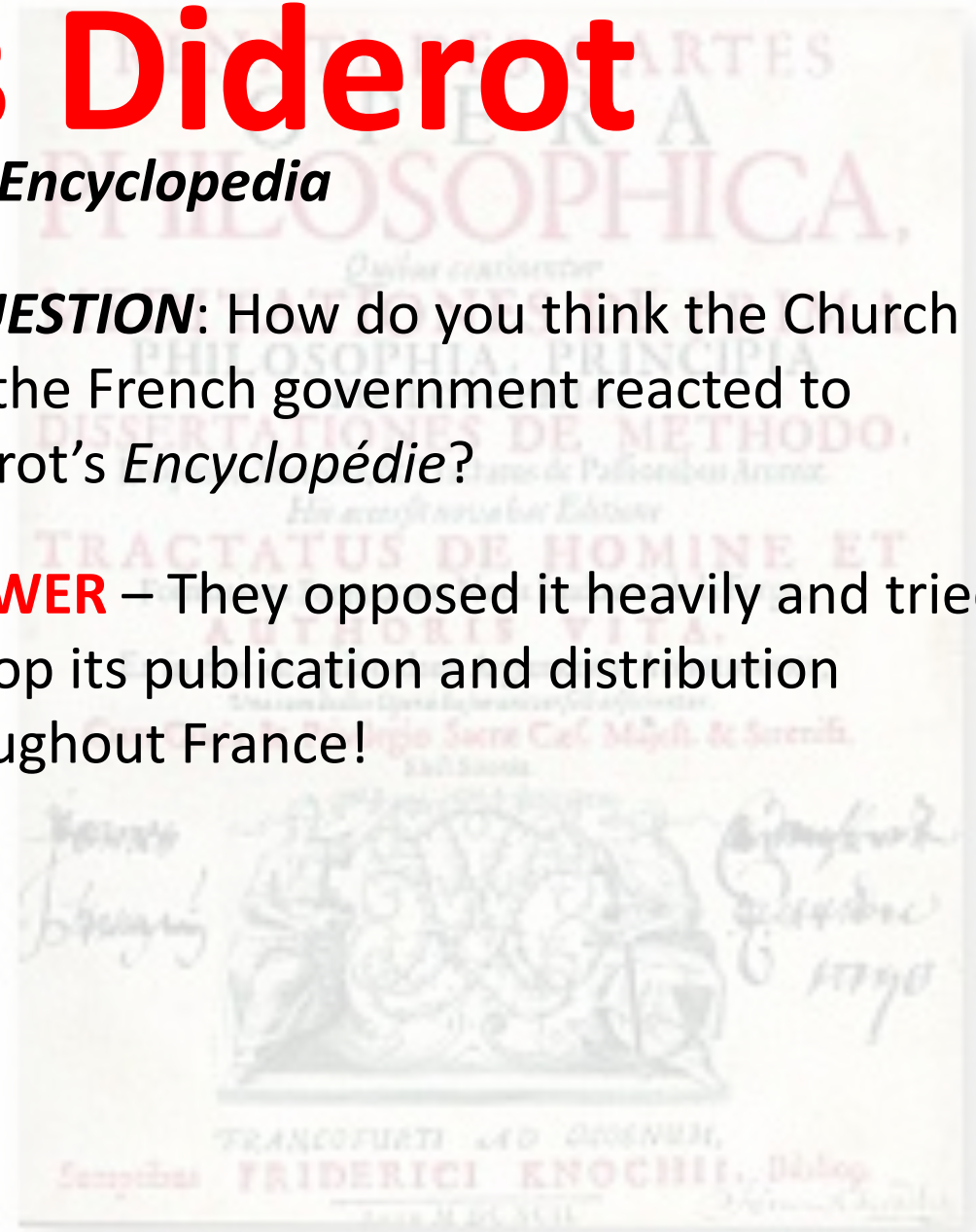
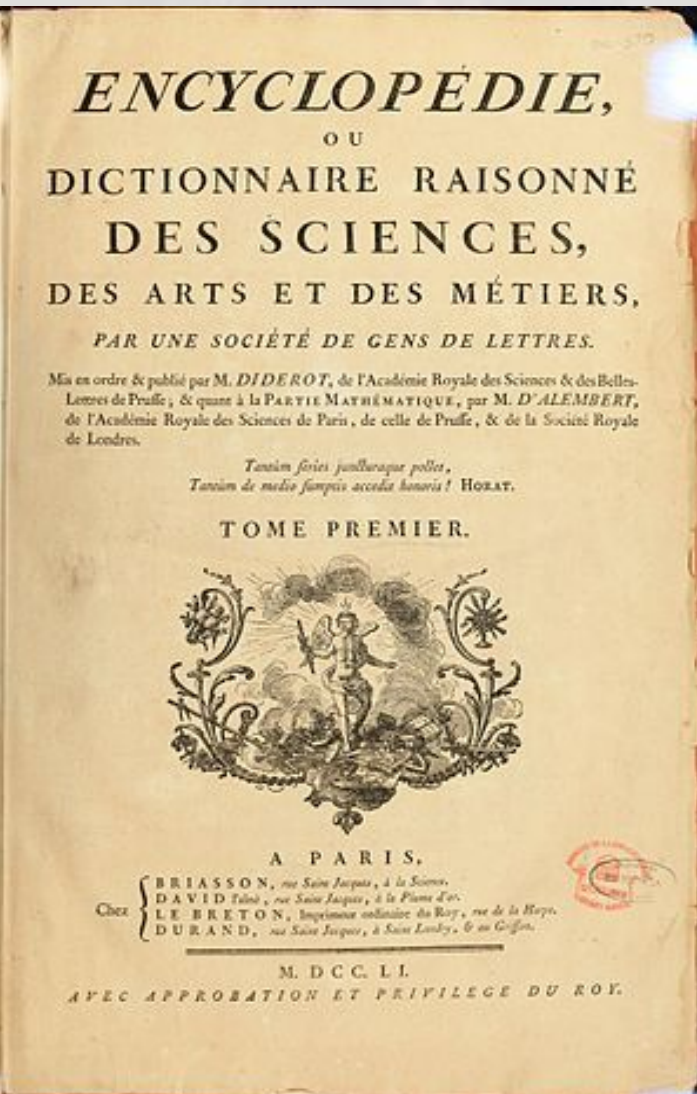


# Denis Diderot

## *The Encyclopedia*

\* **QUESTION:** How do you think the Church and the French government reacted to Diderot's *Encyclopédie*?

**ANSWER** – They opposed it heavily and tried to stop its publication and distribution throughout France!



# Cesare Beccaria

## *Justice and the Law*

- \* By 18<sup>th</sup> century, European states had developed BRUTAL justice system to deal with inadequate policing powers... (PUNISH and PREVENT)
- \* **Cesare Beccaria**, Italian philosopher and politician – *On Crimes and Punishments* (1764) – condemned *torture* and the *death penalty*
- \* In *On Crimes and Punishments*, Beccaria argued:
  - 1.) Punishment should NOT be excessive – SHOULD be proportionate to the crime
  - 2.) The death penalty does NOT deter crime – *the STATE does not have the right to take lives*
  - 3.) Procedures of criminal convictions and punishments should be PUBLIC and PROMPT
  - 4.) ...for overall reform of the legal system



# Adam Smith

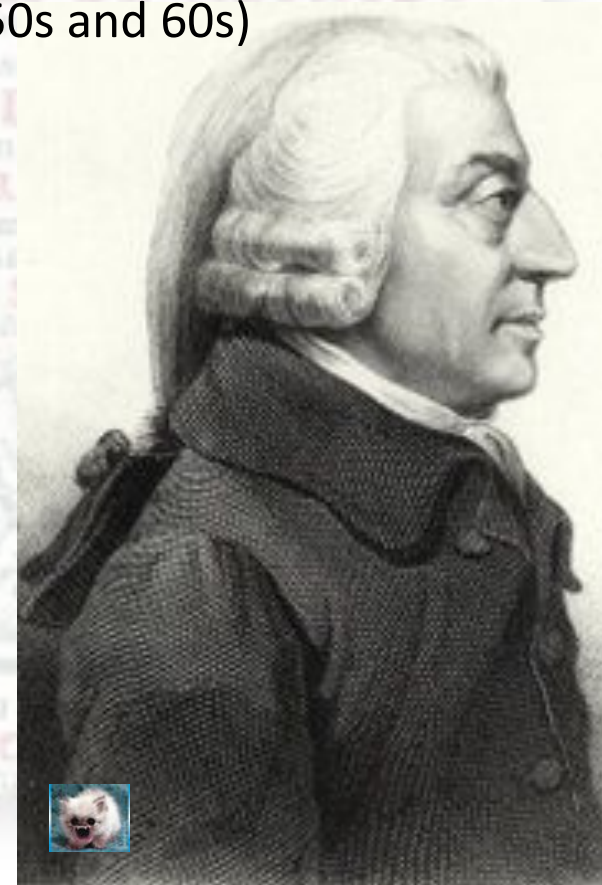
## *Economics and the Physiocrats*

1.) The **PHYSIOCRATS** were a group of **French economists** who believed that the wealth of nations was derived from the *agriculture and natural resources of that nation...* (1750s and 60s)

2.) **Adam Smith** was a Scottish economist who is most well-known for writing **AN INQUIRY INTO THE CAUSE OF THE WEALTH OF NATIONS** (1776 – *The Wealth of Nations*)

\* **French Physiocrats AND Adam Smith** acted as the *founders of modern economics* as they maintained that:

**“individuals should be free to pursue their own economic self-interest – which would benefit society as a whole!”**



# WHY should *individuals be free to pursue their own economic self-interest?*

\* Because, *according to Smith:*

1.) The **desire for personal gain drives economic activity, which leads to competition...**

2.) And **competition would benefit economy as a whole...**  
(competition keeps prices lower, makes production more efficient, labor and capital are directed to profitable industries)

3.) **THUS, individuals who pursue their own economic self-interests ultimately benefit society!**

\* This *free-market system*, was known to the **PHYSIOCRATS** and **ADAM SMITH** as ***Laissez-faire*** economics (French for “to let do”)

\* The government would NOT interrupt the FREE-MARKET through regulations and restrictions!

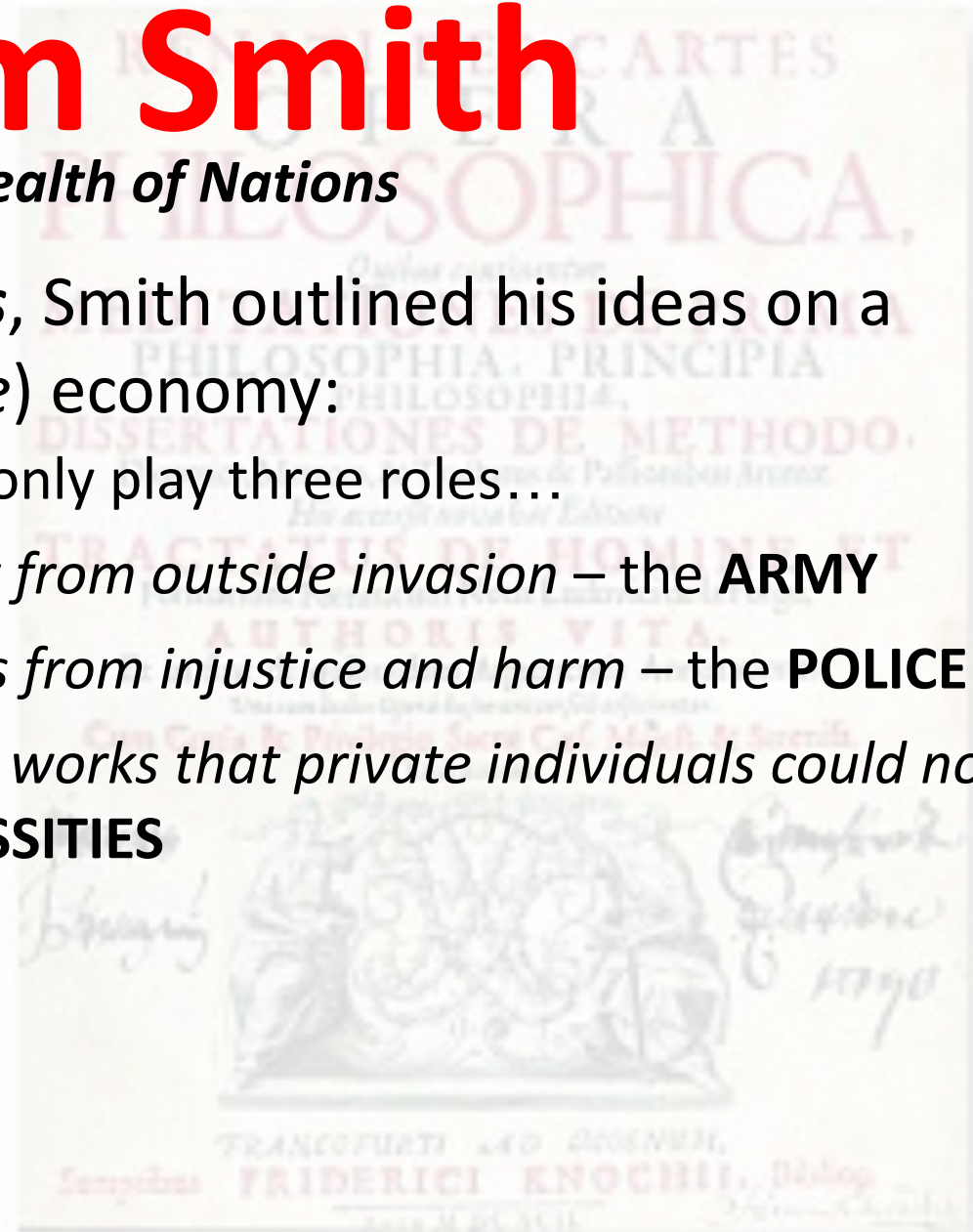
# Adam Smith

## *The Wealth of Nations*

\* In *The Wealth of Nations*, Smith outlined his ideas on a FREE-MARKET (*laissez-faire*) economy:

\* The Government should only play three roles...

- 1.) *Protect society from outside invasion* – the **ARMY**
- 2.) *Defend citizens from injustice and harm* – the **POLICE**
- 3.) *Keep up public works that private individuals could not afford* – the **NECESSITIES**



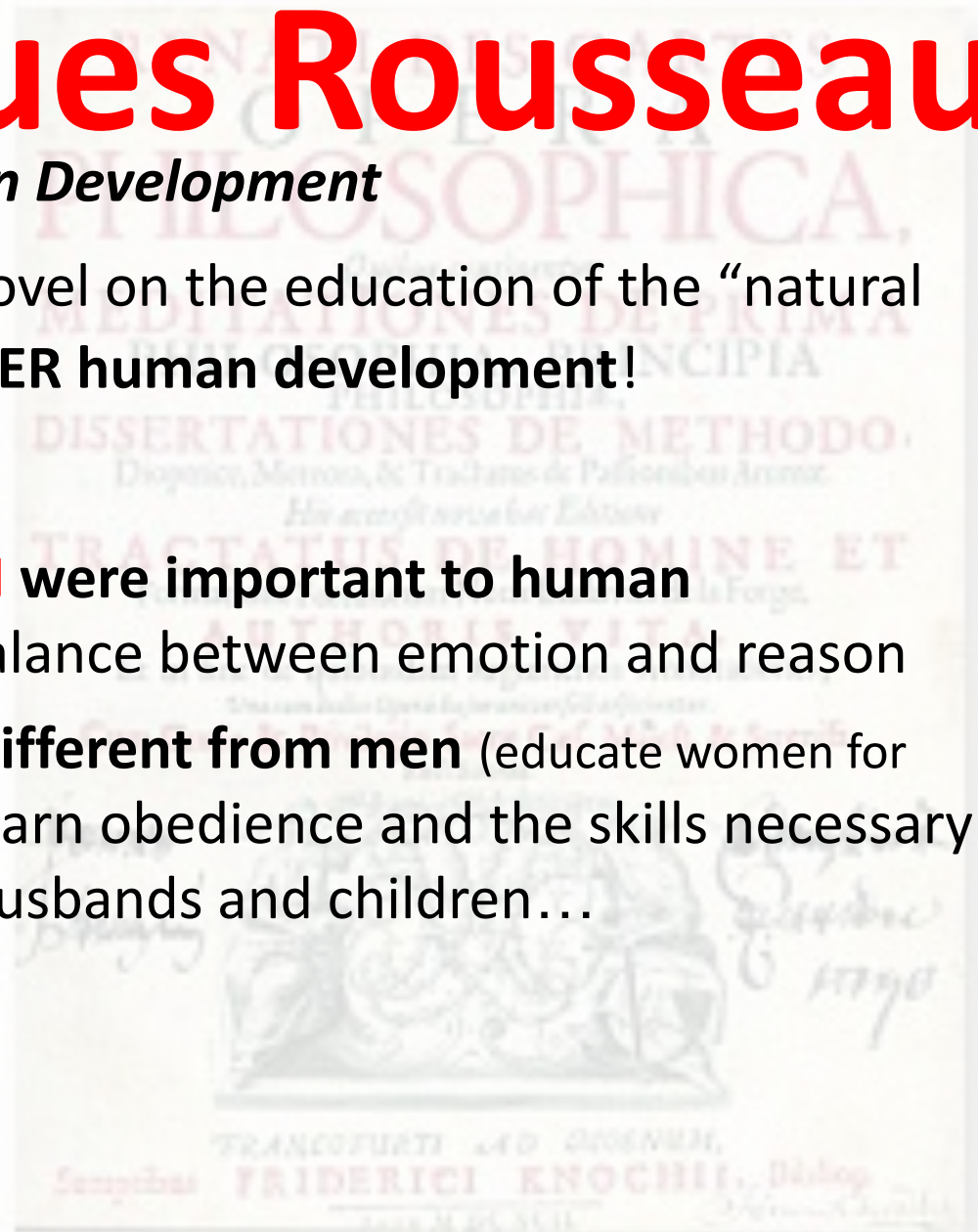
# Jean-Jacques Rousseau

## *Human Development*

\* ***Emile*** (1762) – a *TREATISE*/novel on the education of the “natural man” – education should **FOSTER** human development!

\* In *Emile*, he argued:

- 1.) **EMOTION** and **REASON** were important to human development – sought a balance between emotion and reason
- 2.) **Women are naturally different from men** (educate women for roles as wives and mothers) – learn obedience and the skills necessary to provide loving care for husbands and children...



# The Social Contract

*Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau*

\* ***The Social Contract*** (1762)

theorized about the *best way in which to set up a government in the face of the problems throughout society...*

\* **Inspired political reforms in Europe** – (WHY? ...argued

against the idea that monarchs had the *DIVINE RIGHT* to govern)

...the **PEOPLE** are the **SOVEREIGN!**

	<b>Hobbes (1588-1679) England</b>	<b>Locke (1632-1704) England</b>	<b>Rousseau (1712-1778) France</b>
<b>Human Nature</b>	People are inherently evil and need to be protected from themselves with a government	People are inherently good but corrupted by society	Life is purest in nature and civilized man is corrupted and unequal
<b>Basic Human Rights</b>	Natural rights go only so far as is necessary for survival	All people are born equal and have the right to basic natural laws of life, liberty, and property	In nature, individual needs are met by the group and thus noble and perfect; civilization corrupts natural law
<b>Social Contract</b>	People give up some of their rights for government protection of order	Government offers services and protection but the people have the right to change it if government does not serve the people	Social contract is between people, not the government and give up their rights to the General Will
<b>Role of State</b>	The state prevents chaos	The state protects a person's natural rights	The state serves the General Will
<b>Religion</b>	Nation can only have one unified	Religious toleration	Against organized religion but not God
<b>Best type of Govt</b>	Monarchy	Representative government: republic, democracy, constitutional monarchy	Dictatorship reflecting the General Will

\* **What type of gov't is ideal for Rousseau?**

# Mary Wollstonecraft

## *Women's Rights*

\* ***A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*** (1792) – made three important arguments:

- 1.) Men arbitrarily ruling women was similar to gov't arbitrarily ruling people – both are wrong!
- 2.) Humans have ability to reason... women are humans... women should have the same rights as men!
- 3.) Women are NOT naturally inferior to men!

