

12.4

The Enlightenment

Scientific Revolution to Enlightenment

The Enlightenment- Thinkers emphasizing natural laws & human rights

Natural Laws- Unchanging principles, discovered through reason, that govern all human conduct

Time period looked to address secular thoughts & government separate from religion

Hobbes & Locke

Thomas Hobbes- Wrote *Leviathan* about how people were naturally greedy & cruel & needed control

Social Contract- Agreement that people give up a bit of freedom for an organized society.

John Locke- Argued that people formed government to protect rights & government has obligation to protect people

Natural Rights- God given rights that we all have from birth. Life, Liberty, & Property

Philosophes

French philosophers who felt nothing was beyond the reach of human reason

Baron Montesquieu proposed the theory that government should have 3 branches: Legislative, Executive, & Judicial

Voltaire spoke out about inequality, injustice, & superstition & fought for the freedom of thought

Denis Diderot produced a series of books called the *Encyclopedia*

More Ideas

Jean-Jacques Rousseau believed that people were naturally good & promoted Social Contract.

Women had some rights, but limited to the home.

Mary Wollstonecraft argued that women needed to be educated & decide their own interests.

New Economic Ideas

Laissez Faire- Allowing business to operate with little to no government interference

Free Market- Natural forces of supply & demand that allowed operation of business

Free Enterprise System- Commerce & business compete for profit with little to no government interference

Spread of Ideas

Government & church felt they had to defend order & fought against the Enlightenment

Censorship- restricting access to ideas & information.

Salons- informal social gatherings which writers, artists, philosophes, & others exchanged ideas

Soon enlightened ideas began to spread through Europe

Art & Literature



Baroque paintings glorified historic battles or the saints in a huge colorful style

Rococo art was lighter, more personal, & elegant

Ballets & Operas were performed & opera houses sprang up around Europe

Johann Sebastian Bach composed new theories & wrote many religious works



Art & Literature

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart became a prodigy & wrote many new forms of music & operas, died at 35

Novels, such as Robinson Crusoe, populated the world & prose fiction because popular

Enlightened Despots

Absolute rulers who used power to bring about political & social change

Frederick the Great improved Prussian government to be more efficient

Catherine the Great abolished torture & granted some religious tolerance

Joseph II of Austria ended censorship & brought the Catholic Church to trial