

SSWH13: Examine the intellectual, political, social, and economic factors that changed the European worldview from the 16th century to the late 18th century



Element B: Identify the major ideas of the Enlightenment from the writings of Locke, Voltaire, and Rousseau, and their relationship to politics and society

Overview

□ *Students should explain how the ideas of Enlightenment philosophers were a radical deviation from traditional 17th and 18th century political theory and how it laid the groundwork for modern republican, federal, and democratic forms of government.*

John Locke

- English philosopher who lived through the English Civil War, argued that a contract existed between government and people.
 - In this contract, the people gave up some rights to the government, but kept their "natural rights" of life, liberty, and property.
 - The government, in turn, existed to protect these natural rights, which were superior to all laws and governments.
 - Accordingly, Locke rejected absolute monarchy as a form of government.
- He believed individual rights are the foundation of society, argued for private property, and stood against taxation without representation.
- He also believed that subjects had the right to overthrow an oppressive government.



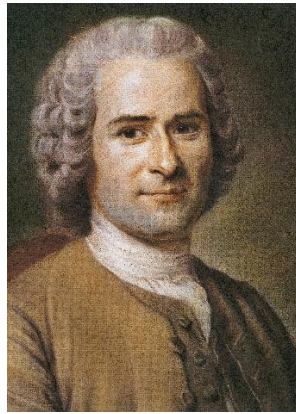
Voltaire

- ❑ Voltaire, a French writer, used wit and satire to criticize the French monarchy, nobility, and church control.
 - He wrote against the slave trade, inequality, prejudice, and bigotry.
 - He vigorously defended religious freedom and the freedom of speech.



Rousseau

- ❑ In contrast to other Enlightenment thinkers, Jean-Jacques Rousseau did not trust reason.
 - He also stood against strong governments.
 - He argued that while some government control is necessary, such rule should be kept to a minimum.
 - Moreover, governments should be freely elected, and the collective good should be valued above that of individuals.



The Enlightenment's Impact

- ❑ These Enlightenment thinkers heavily influenced revolutionaries around the world, including in America and France.