

---

○Chapter 17:

# THE AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT

# The Enlightenment in Context

---

- Middle Ages established a set of values rooted in the Greco-Roman philosophy of Aristotle and Catholic Church reaffirmed this
- Renaissance saw introduction of other Classical viewpoints and new outlook on man
- Reformation took this and challenged practices of Catholic Church successfully
- Wars of Religion made people rethink religious intolerance, persecution, and even Christianity in some cases
- Scientific Revolution further dismantled traditional ways of thinking and viewing the physical world

# The Enlightenment in Context

---

- From here, a group of intellectuals known as **philosophes** spread the ideas of the S.R. beyond the physical world - now they were applied to the political, social and economic spheres.
- New emphasis on secular, rational and materialistic philosophies came to dominate the western world
- Interestingly, the appreciation of the secular and rational triggered a concurrent backlash
  - Artists and Musicians like **Bach** and **Handel** drew greatest inspiration from religion
  - **Revivalism** occurred in the form of Pietism on the continent, Methodism in England and the Great Awakening in America
  - **Mystification** also had an impact in theories of Mesmer and emergence of Freemasonry

# Enlightenment Defines Itself

---

I triple dog dare you to know!








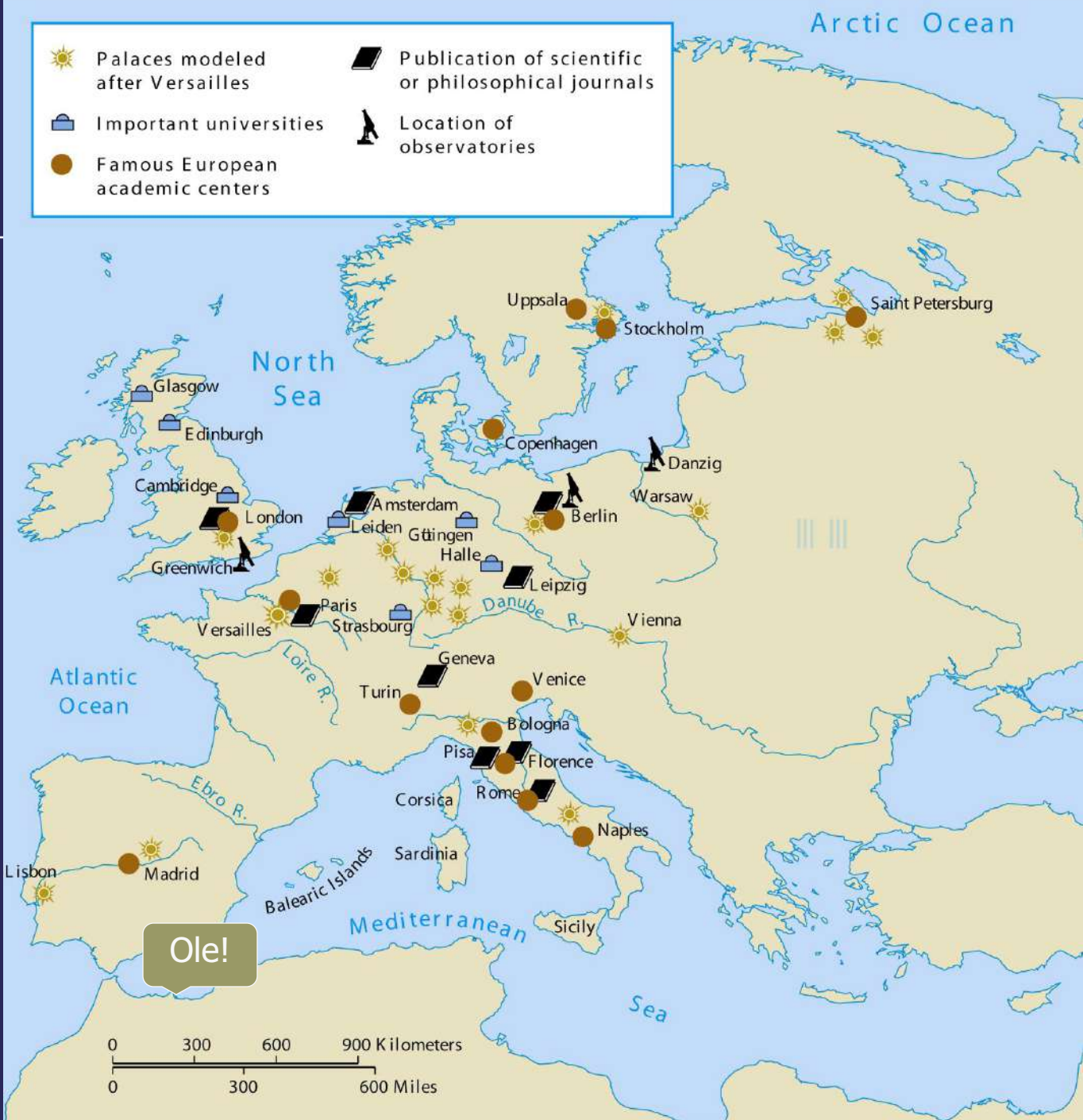
## ○ Immanuel Kant

- 1784 - Enlightenment was a period where people could be free to use their intelligence
  - **“Dare to Know”** was the defining phrase
- Intellectual movement that applied the findings of the Scientific Revolution to all things
- **Age of Reason**
- Abandon old traditions - ***seek the truth!***

Kantv-Pants

# Enlightenment in Europe

	Palaces modeled after Versailles		Publication of scientific or philosophical journals
	Important universities		Location of observatories
	Famous European academic centers		



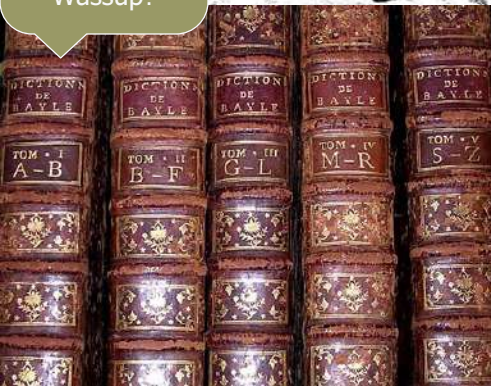


# Paths to Enlightenment



Chicks dig smart guys in the end...

I'm Bayle's Historical and Critical Dictionary! Wassup?



## ○ Immanuel Kant's "Dare to Know!"

- Philosophes align themselves with philosophers of antiquity and Italian Renaissance thinkers
- Ancients vs. Moderns debate - which was superior?
- Agreed: Middle Ages are officially termed "Dark Ages"

## ○ Popularization of Science

- **Bernard de Fontenelle** (1657-1757), *Plurality of Worlds*
- Makes achievements of S.R. accessible to laypeople

## ○ A New Skepticism - Religious Skepticism

- **Pierre Bayle's** (1647-1706) *Historical and Critical Dictionary*
- Attacked superstition, religious intolerance, and dogmatism
- Skepticism about religion and growing secularization

## ○ The Impact of Travel Literature

- Travel books became very popular (James Cook's *Travels*, *Literature on China*)
- Christianity not the only religion! Some lost their faith and opted to learn ABOUT religion instead
- **Cultural relativism** emerged

# Legacy of Locke and Newton

---

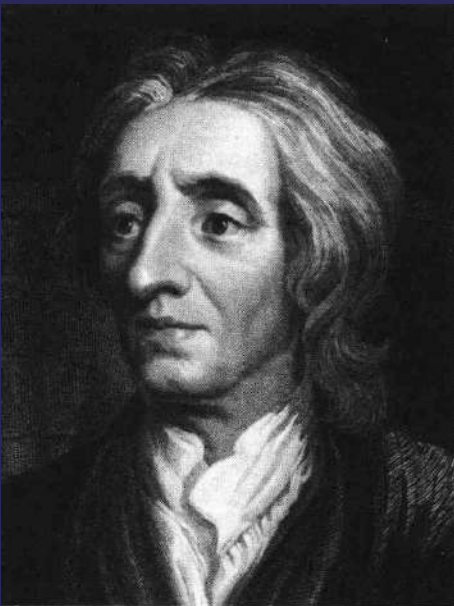


## ○ Sir Isaac Newton

- Reasoning could discover natural laws
- These laws also govern politics, economics justice, religion, and the arts
- **World Machine** approach

## ○ John Locke's *Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (1690)

- Knowledge is **LEARNED** not **INHERITED**
- “*Tabula Rasa*” or blank slate
- Denied Descartes' belief in innate ideas
- Improve the individual? Improve the **ENVIRONMENT!**



# The Philosophes

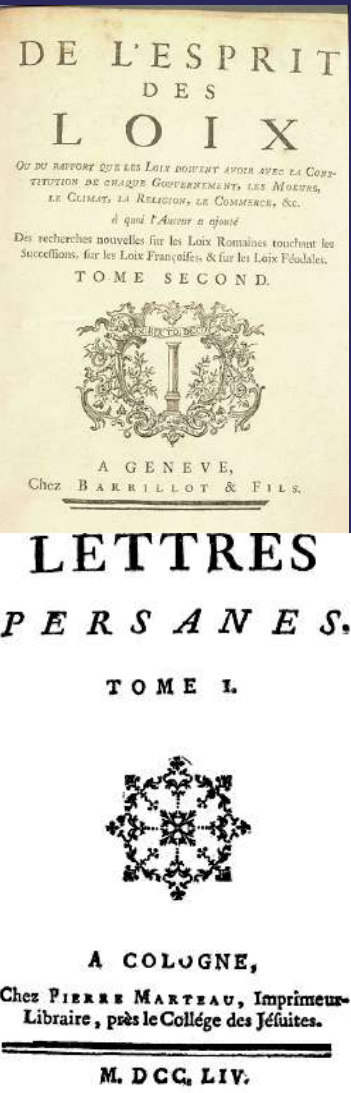
---

- These were the “enlightened intellectuals”
- Most were French (dominance of French Culture)
- Goal was to **spread knowledge** and **change** the world
  - Newspapers and magazines
  - Coffeehouses, salons and reading rooms
  - Encyclopedias and dictionaries
- **Censorship** was an issue
  - Heavy censorship in France and Spain
  - Had works published abroad or under pseudonyms
  - Used thinly veiled literary strategies to criticize the government or the Church
  - If book were censored, author could face prison or expulsion
  - Censored books were often more desirable!
  - Emergence of “ruler philosophes” like Frederick the Great, Catherine the Great, Joseph II and Maria Theresa





# Montesquieu (1689-1755)



- Charles de Secondat, Baron de Montesquieu - a nobleman
- Part of Anti-Absolutist movement!
- **Persian Letters (1721)**
  - Criticized France by writing about Persian despot who leaves his harem to explore the world
  - Attacked Church, slavery, religious intolerance, absolutism
- **Spirit of the Laws (1748)**
  - Used scientific reasoning to describe 3 types of governments and their appropriate uses
    - **Republics** for small states - grounded in civilian involvement
    - **Monarchies** for medium states - grounded in ruling class' adherence to uniform laws
    - **Despotism** for large empires - grounded in fear and obedience
  - Praised **England's limited monarchy** and constitutional system of **checks and balances**
  - Best system had legislative, judicial and executive branches in balance
  - Inspired Americans - most influential work in writing Constitution



# Voltaire (1694-1778)

---

- Francois Marie Arouet - Bourgeois background
- Initially achieved fame as a writer with pen name, *Voltaire*
- Master of irony and ridicule - repeatedly got himself into trouble for this and was imprisoned at the Bastille and later forced out of France
- ***Philosophical Letters (1733)***
  - Written after spending 2 years in exile in England
  - Glorified English system of government - slighted France's
  - This got him kicked out of Paris - resided 15 yrs. with his well-educated noble lover the **Marquise du Chatelet**
  - They were well-matched intellectually
  - Marquise's death brought Voltaire to the court of **Frederick the Great** and later to Geneva, but he offended many in both places and was forced to flee
- ***Candide (1759)***
  - Inspired by tragedy of 1755 Lisbon earthquake and the 7 Years' War
  - Rejects **optimism** - how could all be good under these circumstances
- ***Treatise on Toleration (1763)***
  - Inspired by case of Jean Calas, tortured to death on the wheel for allegedly murdering his son for suspected conversion to Catholicism
  - Calas was a Protestant; proved innocent after his death

# Voltaire



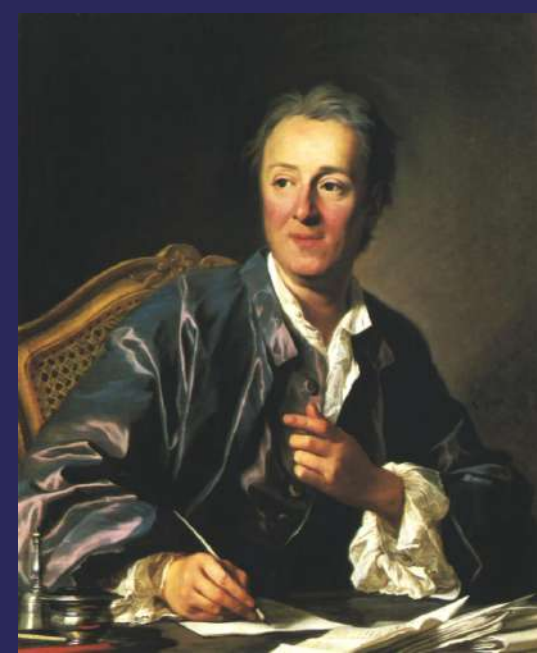
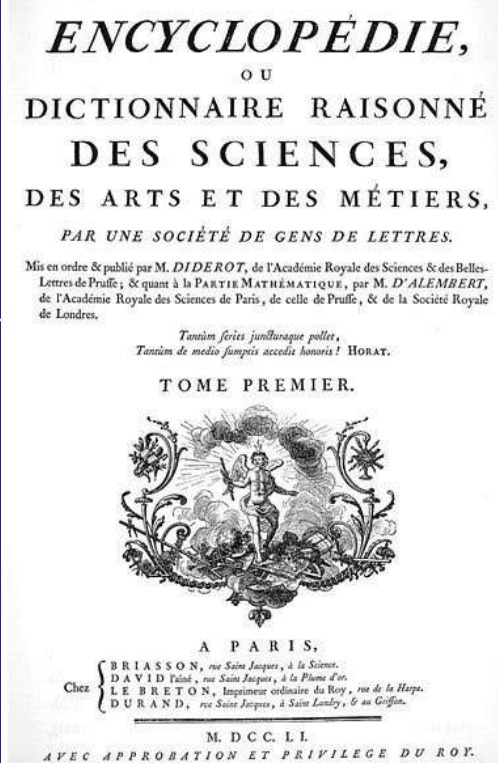
Voltaire! You have  
pissed me off once and  
for all!  
Get OUT!



Voltaire and Frederick the  
Great

# Denis Diderot (1713-1784)

- Jesuit education, trained as a lawyer
- Condemned Christianity as fanatical
- ***Encyclopedie* (1750-1765)**
  - 28 volumes he edited
  - Many philosophes contributed to “change the common way of thinking”
  - As price of printed books went down, more people read it - ideas spread





# Rousseau (1712-1778)



- Swiss, lower middle class
- An “outsider” to high society
- ***Discourse on the Origins of Inequality (1754)***
  - Society is artificial and corrupt while Nature is a pure, good state
  - Emotion and impulse trump rational thought - paves way for the Romantics of the 19th century?
  - This separated him from the philosophes
- ***Social Contract (1762)***
  - People surrender individual liberty for **General Will**
  - **General Will** is only true power - Kings are only delegates of the people
  - Everyone will be free because all forfeit the same amount of freedom and impose the same duties on all
  - Democrats and Totalitarians alike have embraced him
- ***Emile (1762)***
  - Proper method of education - foster natural instincts
  - Though banned, formed basis of public education system later

## É M I L E, O U D E L'É D U C A T I O N.

Par J. J. R O U S S E A U,  
C i t o y e n d e G e n è v e.

Sapientibus negotium multo est ipseque nos in rebus  
naturae gentes, si emendari velimus, juvat.  
Sen : de iul. L. II. c. 17.

T O M E P R E M I E R.



A L A H A Y E,  
C h e z J E A N N É A U L M E, L i b r a i r e.

M. D C C. L X I I.

Avec Privilège de Nosseign. les Etats de Hollande  
& de Westfise.



# Condorcet (1743-1794)

---



- Marie-Jean de Condorcet (cone-door-SAY)
- Extreme optimist
- Stood in stark contrast with Voltaire
- Humans were moving into a new stage of history: perfection!
- With this belief he ironically died in a prison during the French Revolution
- His wife, 20 years his junior, was well known for her salon and for her own intellect - as well as her great beauty

# Toward a “New Science” of Man

---

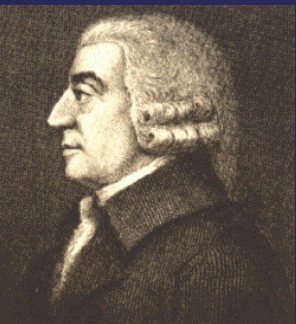


## ○ David Hume

- *Treatise on Human Nature*
- Truth can only come through evidence and factual observation

## ○ Immanuel Kant

- Science and morality are separate branches of knowledge
- Science can describe the material world; morality guided by “categorical imperative” – intuitive instinct implanted by God in conscience



## ○ Physiocrats - *natural* economic laws

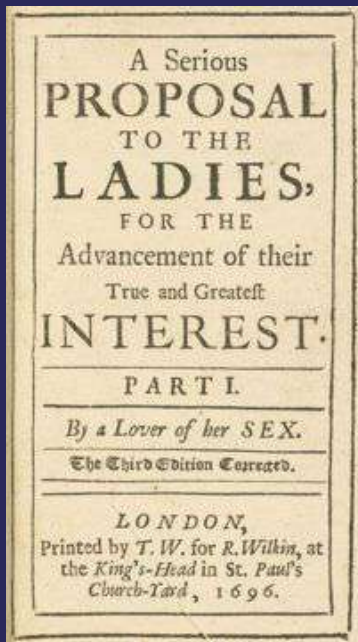
- founders of modern economics
- François Quesnay (“kay-nay”) and Jacques Turgot (“tear-go”)
- Reject mercantilism - *land* is source of wealth, not gold
- Supply and demand; free market economy; *Laissez faire*

## ○ Adam Smith’s *Wealth of Nations* (1776)

- “Invisible Hand” - Early capitalist ideas formulated
- self interest is OK!
- Government - STAY OUT of it!

The “Invisible Hand” will lay the smack-down!

# The “Woman Question”



- Most agreed that the nature of women made them inferior
- There were some exceptions, for example Diderot - but most vehement opposition came from the women themselves
- **Mary Astell (1666-1731)**
  - *A Serious Proposal to the Ladies, 1697*
  - Better education and equality in marriage
  - If men are born free, how are all women born slaves?
- **Mary Wollstonecraft (1759-1797)**
  - *Vindication of the Rights of Woman, 1792*
  - Subjection of women by men wrong
  - Used Enlightenment arguments against absolutism and slavery to justify equality of the sexes
  - *Taught from infancy that beauty is woman's sceptre, the mind shapes itself to the body, and roaming round its gilt cage, only seeks to adorn its prison -MW*



# Social Environment of The Philosophes



Ya. I'm hot.

- While no class was barred, mostly the aristocratic and upper middle class urban elite were involved
- Books spread ideas but so did **salons**
  - **Women** were very influential
  - Women hosted these gatherings and could participate and learn, though guests were typically all men
    - **Marie-Thérèse de Geoffrin** (1699-1777)
    - **Marquise du Deffand** (1697-1780)
    - **Madame Roland** (1754-1793k.)
    - **Sophie de Condorcet** (1764-1822) - invited other women as guests, such as revolutionary Olympe de Gouges!
- Because women had so much input, salons were eventually replaced by learned societies, run by and for men only

Madame Roland and Sophie de Condorcet



# Salon of Madame Geoffrin





# Culture and Society in the Enlightenment: Art

---

○ Neoclassical and Baroque of earlier 18th century now faced competition from **Rococo**

○ **Rococo**

- Ornate, curvy lines, graceful; glorified the pursuit of love and pleasure
- Antoine **Watteau** (AHN-twan wah-TOE) emphasized beauty and its fleeting nature
- Giovanni Battista **Tiepolo** (tee-AY-po-lo) painted exuberance and enchantment - ceiling of Bishop's palace at Wurzburg

**Watteau's  
*Love Song*  
and  
Tiepolo's  
Wurtzburg  
Palace:  
WHOA,  
Rococo!**



Dude...this  
decor looks  
like a clown  
threw up

# Culture and Society in the Enlightenment: Art

---

- Versailles inspired many ornate palaces which blended neoclassical, baroque and rococo styles
  - Balthazar **Neumann** (NOI-mahn) the architect of **Vierzehnheiligen** (feer-tsun-HILE-uh-gun) or Church of 14 Saints in Bavaria
  - Domenikos **Zimmermann's** **Pilgrimage Church of Wies** - uplift the pilgrim!

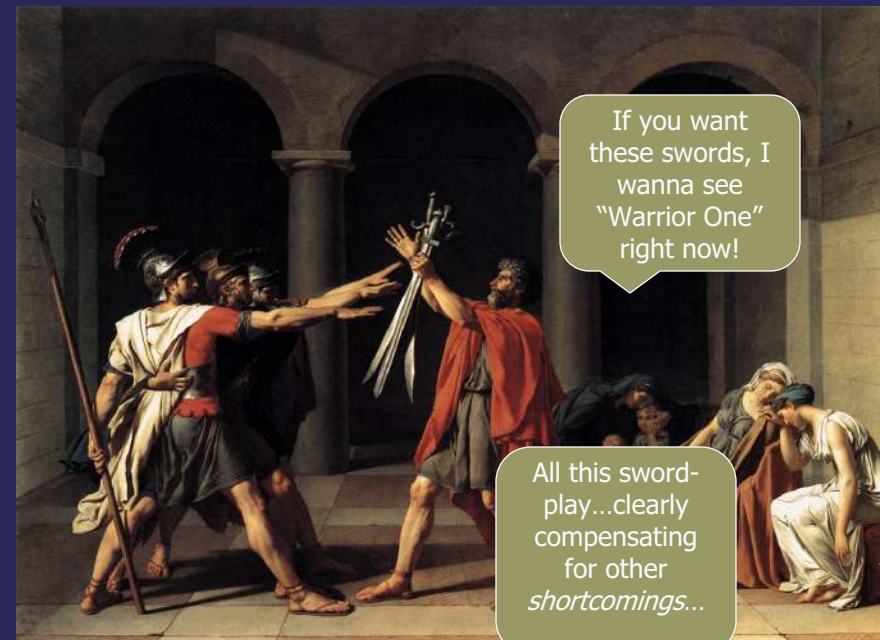


Vierzehnheiligen  
and the  
Pilgrimage  
Church of Wies

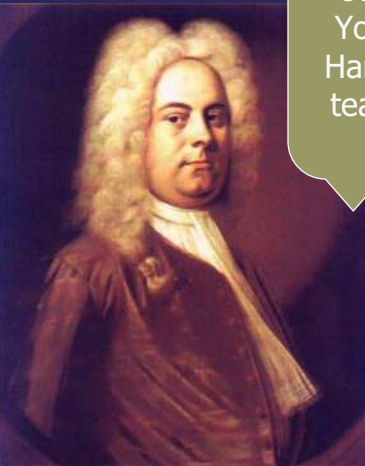


# Culture and Society in the Enlightenment: Art

- Neoclassical style still persisted
- Jacques-Louis David
- Glorified classical themes
- Popular during French Revolution
- Inspired many American history painters like Benjamin West (*Death of Wolfe*) and G. W. Peale (Geo. Wash as we know him)



# Culture and Society in the Enlightenment: Music



Hey  
Johann!  
You can't  
Handel my  
teased up  
wig!

- New genres of music emerged in 17th and 18th century: Opera, Sonata, Concerto, Symphony
- Composers dependent on patrons
  - Italians and Germans led the way with numerous bishops and princes
  - **J.S. Bach (1685-1750)**
    - composed religious and secular music with ease
    - Started as an organist
    - Music was a means of worshipping God
  - **Georg Friedrich Handel (1685-1759)**
    - Composed operas such as Orfeo and oratorios such as [Messiah](#)
    - Both secular and religious music
- These composers did NOT have a pianoforte and could not vary loudness or sustain a note on a harpsichord or glockenspiel - this had an impact on their compositions

**Bach and Handel**

# Culture and Society in the Enlightenment: Music

---



- Classical period is born with spread of the pianoforte, or early piano
- **Classical Period** 1750-1820, between Baroque and Romantic era
- Classical Composers

- **Franz Joseph Haydn (1756-1809)**

- Worked for Hungarian princes
- Went to England to work “for the people” composing for public concerts
- Very prolific

- **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)**

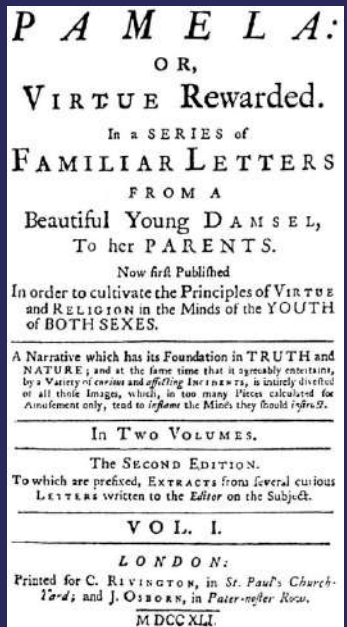
- Child prodigy who toured Europe with father and sister Nannerl
- Played harpsichord blindfolded
- As an adult, defied father and moved to Vienna in search of a patron
- Failed to find steady money and died a pauper
- Composed some of the world’s best-known pieces
- His operas continue to be performed every year - [Don Giovanni](#), [Le Nozze di Figaro](#), [The Magic Flute](#), [Cosi fan Tutte](#)



**Wolfie and the pianoforte**



# Culture and Society in the Enlightenment: Literature

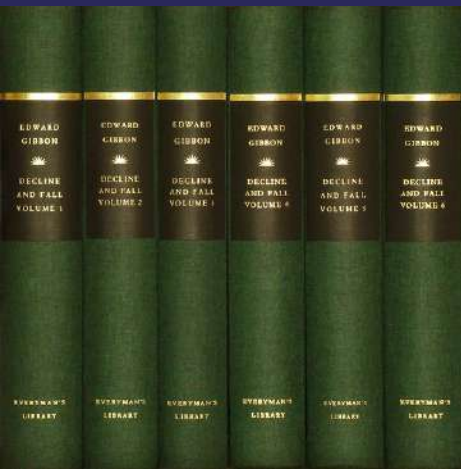


## ○ Birth of the Novel

- Stemmed from Medieval romances and began in England
- No rules governed structure
- Became most popular genre for fiction
- Women especially liked novels
- **Samuel Richardson's *Pamela* aka *Virtue Rewarded***
- **Henry Fielding's *History of Tom Jones: A Foundling***

## ○ Historical Writing

- **Voltaire**
  - Wrote about many monarchs of his age
  - Tried to remove influence of religion on his histories
- **Gibbon's *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire***
  - Claims Christianity is to blame for the fall of Rome
  - Disdain for Middle Ages



# High Culture of the 18th Century

---

- High Culture = Culture of the intellectuals and privileged class
- Salons and academies drove spread of learning
- Growth of reading and publishing - magazines and newspapers for men and women
  - Joseph Addison and Richard Steele's *Spectator*
  - *Female Spectator* - edited by a woman, **Eliza Haywood**
- Public libraries circulated books
- Education and Universities
  - Education was elitist and maintained social hierarchy rather than encourage mobility - philosophes agreed
  - University system was criticized for its emphasis on Aristotelian philosophy and tradition
  - Many universities reformed and some new ones developed around new physical sciences and natural philosophy
- Massive expansion of bourgeoisie (middle class)
  - Masonic lodges allowed middle and upper classes to socialize
  - Middle class both resented and aspired to be like aristocrats

# Popular Culture of the 18th Century

---

- Popular Culture = Culture of the masses
- More of an oral tradition in learning - resistant to change
- Masses maintained superstitious beliefs, belief in witchcraft much later than elite
- **Carnival** - between Christmas and Lent - Big Fest
  - Carne (meat) Vale (farewell) is one explanation for term's origin since one could not eat meat during Lent
  - People ate a lot, drank a lot, and engaged in other aggressive and lewd acts
  - **“Day turned upside down”** - dress in clothes of those of opposite station, male and female role reversals, animal and human reversal
  - Incidence of murder and conception way up during this time...
  - Once a time where masses and elites came together in 1600s, by 1700, the elites just watched from afar
- Rift between masses and elites grew during this time

# Popular Culture of the 18th Century

---

## ○ Common Literature

- **Chapbooks** - simple literature on cheap paper for the common folks
- Indicated that literacy was spreading
- Eventually allowed commoners to move away from oral traditions

## ○ Education for all?

- Frederick II (the Great) made school compulsory for ALL kids
- Many feared compulsory education would allow commoners to challenge their “superiors”

## ○ Alcoholism took new forms!

- Gin-n-Vodka hit the common scene and taverns became popular
- In England, poor drank Gin like ale and became drunken degenerates
- In Russia, same was true of vodka
- This prompted English government to pass strict laws on gin consumption
- Indicated again, the rift between rich and poor as the wealthy drank as well - they just drank brandy and port - and plenty of it!

# Popular Culture of the 18th Century

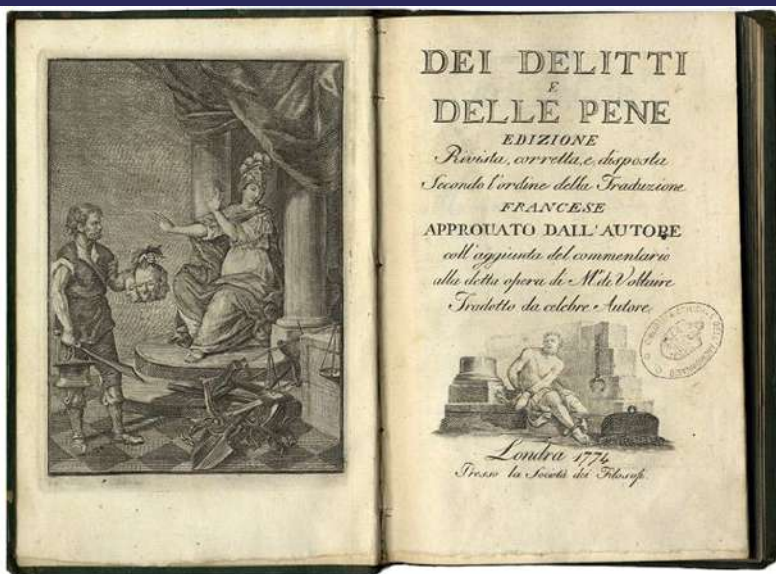
---

William Hogarth depicted the problem in his infamous pieces, *Gin Lane* and *Beer Street* (1750)





# Crime and Punishment



Beccaria wrote in defense of humane treatment for criminals



- Public executions and torture sessions were common at the beginning of this period
- Philosophes spoke out against this
  - More humane treatment was necessary!
  - **Cesare Beccaria (1738-1794)**
    - *On Crimes and Punishments* (1764)
    - Punishments should serve only as a deterrent
- Punishment moved away from spectacle towards rehabilitation by later Enlightenment period

# Medicine

- Scientific Revolution and drive to reform university system paved the way for development of **medical hierarchy**
  - **Physicians** at top - graduated from university and were certified in order to charge outrageous fees
  - Under them were the **surgeons** or “**barber-surgeons**” who cut hair...and appendages!
  - For the common folks, **apothecaries, faith healers, and midwives** were common
  - Eventually, midwives and female healers were cut out by physicians
- Hospitals were heinous into late 18th century
  - Diseases spread in shared hospital beds
  - Unsanitary conditions - no understanding of infection or proper methods of sterilization



# Religion in the 18th Century

- Skepticism and secularism gave rise to new forms of religion

- **Deism**

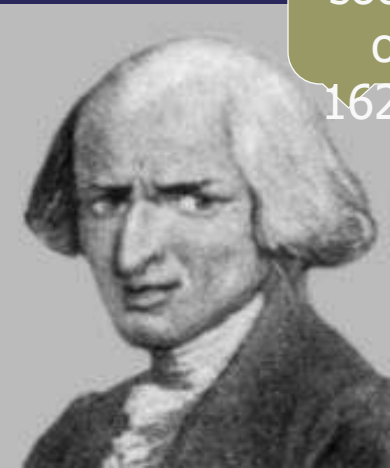
- Challenged the idea of “God the Father”
- Replaced with idea of “God the Watchmaker”
- Basically, God created the world and left it to be governed by natural laws discovered by Scientific Revolution

God is  
soooo  
o

1620s.

- **Atheism**

- An extreme movement that attracted few - God does not exist
- **Baron D’Holbach’s *System of Nature***
  - All the world is matter in motion
  - God is a product of the human mind



D’Holbach

- Despite this trend, most Europeans were still Christians

# Religion in 18th Century - Church and State

---

- Reformation established state control over Protestant churches
  - These churches flourished in 18th century
  - Lutheranism, Calvinism, Anglicanism
- In 1700, Catholic Church still controlled Catholics in Portugal, Spain, Italy, Poland, Hapsburg Empire, S. German States, and to a lesser extent, France.
  - These Catholic states wanted more control and many attempted to nationalize church
  - Jesuits reigned in by states
  - Papacy declined further as a result of nationalization of Church - played minimal role in state affairs
  - Monastic Orders also suppressed
    - Joseph II of Austria passes **Edict of Idle** (1782) banning and repossessing land of all contemplative orders in favor of only service orders
    - This lost him the support of the peasants, who remained devoted to their saints and traditions



# Religion in 18th Century - Popular Religion

---

- Skepticism, state control of churches, and emphasis on secular thinking created a backlash among devout believers
- **Revivalism** resulted!



- Catholics
  - Confraternity Societies - lay people devoted to charity/good works
  - Pilgrimages, relic and saint worship and cult of the Virgin persisted
  - Roman Catholic Jansenism argued against an impersonal God
- Protestant Revival
  - Many protestants found state control of church made it too mechanical
  - They longed for more mystical experience
    - In Germany, **pietism** took root
      - Grew from desire to have deeper personal devotion to God
      - **Count Zinzendorf** started **Moravian Brethren**
      - Opposed new “rationalistic” approach to Lutheranism
    - In England, **Methodism** drove the revivalist movement
      - **John Wesley** started the movement
      - Emphasized personal experience with God
      - Believed in lay preachers spreading Gospel to masses
- For Jews, Hasidism emerged in eastern Europe

# Religion in 18th Century - Religious Minorities

---

- Philosophes called for religious toleration
- Out of political necessity, many rulers complied to a certain degree, but with difficulty
  - Louis XIV had turned back clock on tolerance of Huguenots and many monarchs believed their duty was to enforce one true faith
  - The last burning of a “heretic” took place in 1781
- Some rulers set an example of toleration
  - Joseph II of Austria passed **Toleration Patent of 1781**
    - Recognized Catholicism’s public practice
    - Also gave Lutherans, Calvinists, and Greek Orthodox right to worship privately
    - This also allowed non-Catholics to hold professorships, become civil servants, own property and become master craftsmen
  - Frederick II was somewhat tolerant of religious minorities – as long as it served the state

# Religion in 18th Century - Religious Minorities

---

- Jews remained a despised minority
  - **Ashkenazic** Jews in Eastern Europe faced harsh discrimination and occasional **pogroms** where their communities were looted and massacred
  - **Sephardic** Jews, originally expelled from Spain in 15th c. and scattered throughout Turkish lands, Amsterdam, Venice, London and Frankfurt, enjoyed greater freedom, but lived in fear of sudden backlash
- Some Enlightenment thinkers favored acceptance of Jews and argued against this discrimination, but advocated ridiculous solutions such as conversion to Christianity
- Joseph II attempted to curb discrimination by ending taxes and restrictions on Jews, but still prohibited them from owning land and public worship.
- Joseph encouraged Jews to learn German, adopt German names and assimilate into Austrian society