

The Philosophes and Their Ideas

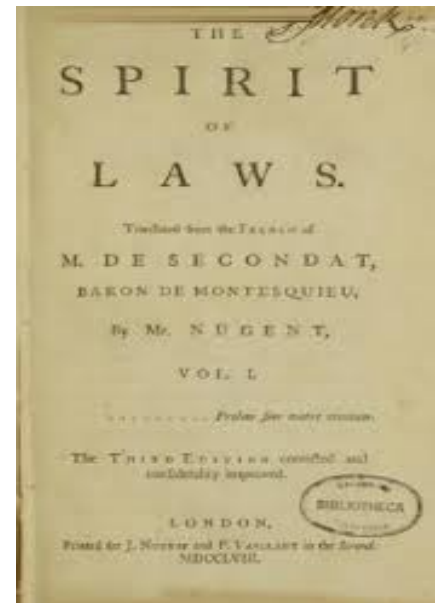
- The Philosophes
 - Diverse backgrounds, common bonds
 - Desire to change the world
 - Freedom of expression and a spirit of rational criticism



Question #1

- Describe what Montesquieu is most well-known for. Name one of his most famous works.

Montesquieu



Baron de Montesquieu (1689 – 1755), and Political Thought

Persian Letters, 1721

Attacks on traditional religion and slavery, advocacy
of religious toleration and reason

The Spirit of the Laws, 1748

“Separation of powers”

Question #2

What is Condorcet most well-known for? Who was he inspired by?

Condorcet (1743-1794)



- French philosopher and mathematician
- Influenced by Turgot and Voltaire - *Vie de M. Turgot 1786* and *Vie de Voltaire in 1789*.
- Educated at a Jesuit college
- Advocate of educational reform, religious toleration, legal reform such as the abolition of slavery and equal rights for women.

Question #3

- What did Voltaire believe was the best way to rule? Name one of Voltaire's most famous works.

Voltaire (1694-1778)



- French philosopher
- Voltaire (1694 – 1778) and the Enlightenment
 - *Philosophic Letters on the English* (1733)
 - Indictment of French absolutism
 - Criticism of traditional religion and intolerance
 - The Calas affair
 - *Treatise on Toleration*, 1763
 - Deism

Question #4

- What did John Locke believe the government should be responsible for? How did John Locke influence the American and French revolutions?

John Locke (1632-1704)



- English philosopher
- Influenced by Descartes and Bacon
- Govt. exists to preserve life, liberty and property. *Two Treatises of Government (1689)*
- Advocate of religious toleration
- People are born a blank slate (*tabula rasa*)

Question #5

- Who is known for being the chief editor of the *Encyclopedia*?

Diderot (1713-1784)

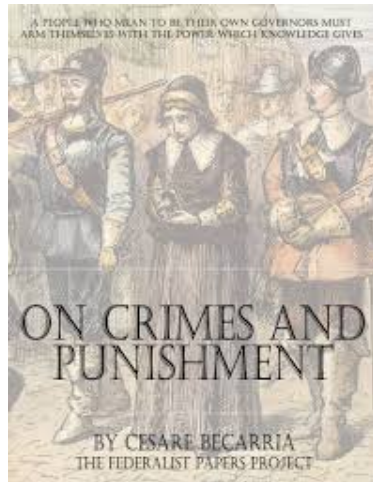


- French philosopher, art critic, and writer
- Best known for serving as co-founder, chief editor, and contributor to *Encyclopedie* (1745-1772)
 - Goal: “change the general way of thinking”
 - Contributors to 28-volume collection expressed major concerns
 - Attacks on religious superstitions
 - Advanced a program for social, legal, and political improvements
 - Lowered price helped spread Enlightenment ideas

Question #6

- What did Beccaria advocate within legal reform? Name his most famous work.

Cesare Beccaria (1738-1794)

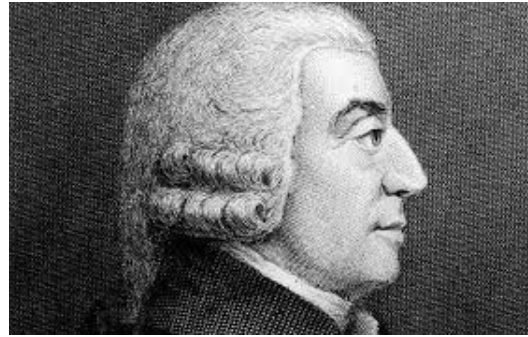


- Italian criminologist, influenced by Montesquieu
- Govt. policy should seek the greatest good for the greatest number.
- Against torture and secret proceedings, and brutal punishments. *On Crimes and Punishment*. 1764.

Question #7

- Describe the economic philosophies of Adam Smith. What is his most famous work?

Adam Smith (1723-1790)



- English economist

- Rejection of mercantilism in favor of supply and demand

- *laissez-faire* economics

- *The Wealth of Nations*, 1776

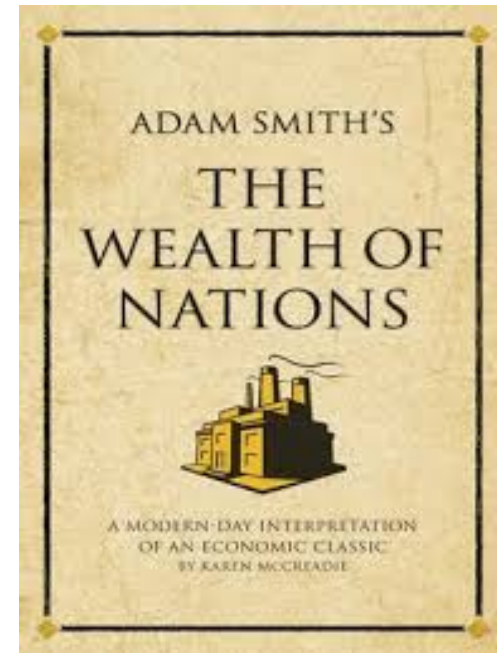
- Promotion of free trade

- Government has only three basic functions

- » Protect society from invasion

- » Defend individuals from injustice and oppression

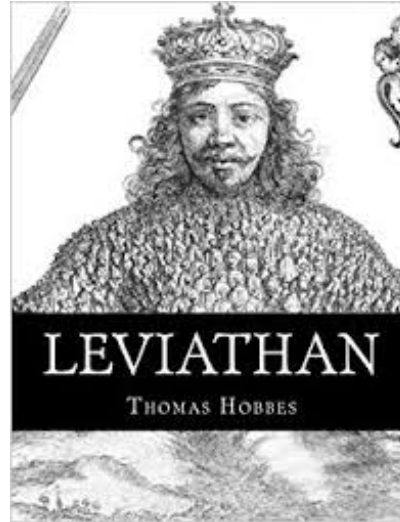
- » Keep up public works



Question #8

Who wrote Leviathan and believed people were inherently bad and selfish.

Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679)

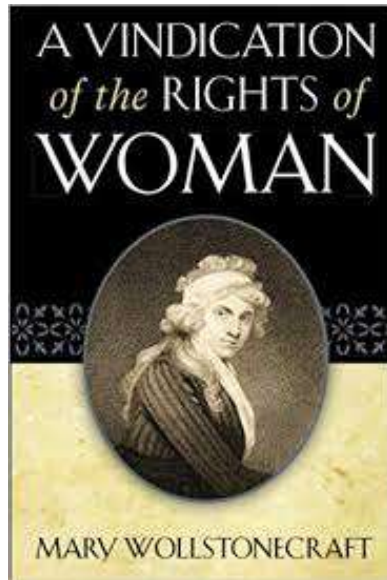


- English philosopher – worked for the Cavendish family and traveled Europe, meeting Galileo and Descartes.
- Humans are selfish and absolute monarchy was the best way to rule.
- *Leviathan, 1651*

Question #9

- Who was the founder of modern Feminism?
What is her most famous work?

Mary Wollstonecraft (1759-1797)

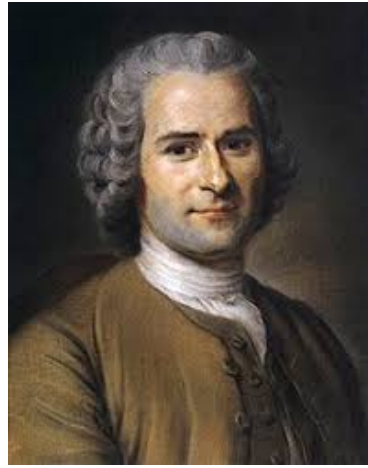
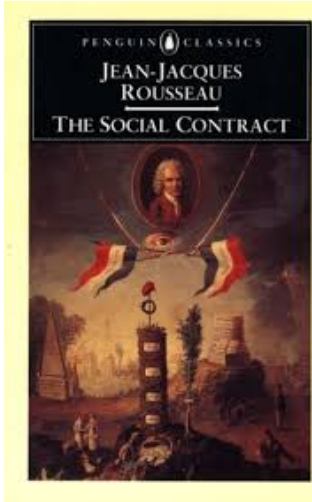


- English writer and passionate advocate of educational and social equality for women.
- Founder of modern feminism
- *Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792)
- Subjection of women by men wrong

Question #10

- What is Rousseau known for?

Jean Jacque Rousseau (1712-1778)

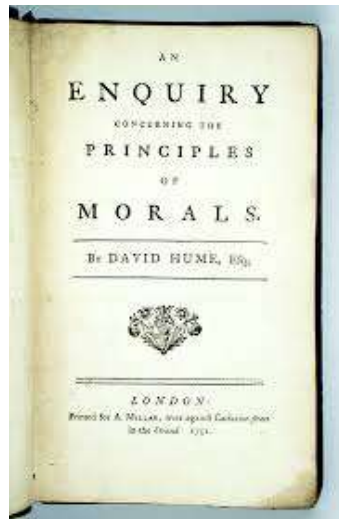


- Swiss-born philosopher, writer, and political theorist.
- Treatises and novels inspired leaders of the French Revolution
- *The Social Contract (1762)* and *the Discourse of the Origin of Inequality (1755)*
- People are generally good but become corrupted by society
- Legitimate government only comes from consent of the people

Question #11

- What did David Hume apply to acquiring knowledge on human nature?

David Hume (1711-1776)



- Scottish philosopher, historian, economist
- Influenced by Newton and Locke
- Applied the scientific method to acquire knowledge of human nature. (*Social Sciences*)
- *Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals* -human morality and sympathy.

Question #11

- Describe at least three characteristics of “enlightened absolutism”.

Enlightened Absolutism

- **T**oleration of religious minorities
- **R**eform of institutions (legal reform)
- **A**bsolutism
- **P**atronage of the philosophes



Question #12

- Provide at least one example of how Catherine the Great displayed characteristics of enlightened absolutism and at least one example of how she did not.

Catherine II or Catherine the Great (1729-1796)



- Empress of Russia (1742-1796)
- Overthrew her husband, Peter III.
- Dependence on nobility led to little reform
- Purchased Diderot's library and made him librarian.

Question #13

- Provide at least one example of how Frederick the Great displayed characteristics of enlightened absolutism and at least one example of how he did not.

Frederick II (the Great) of Prussia (1712-1786)



- “First servant of the state”
- Anti-Machiavelli - govt. should be concerned with the well-being of the population.
- Religious toleration but favored Protestants.
- Civil service reform - people promoted on merit, not family ties.

Question #14

- Why was Joseph II unsuccessful in creating permanent reforms throughout Austria?

Joseph II of Austria (1741-1790)



- Most radical but least effective “enlightened absolute leader”.
- Religious toleration policy - allowed private worship of Jews.
- Attempted to centralize, challenged by nobles and multi-ethnic empire.
- Reform - abolished “serfdom” and granted more rights than before.