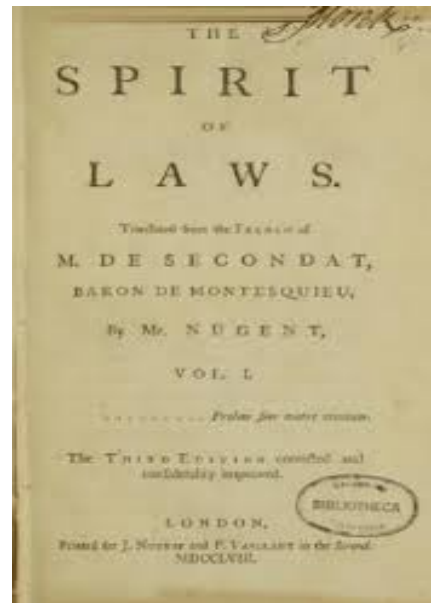


The Philosophes and Their Ideas

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



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”

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, women's rights, religious toleration, legal reform such as the abolition of slavery and equal rights for women.

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

John Locke (1632-1704)



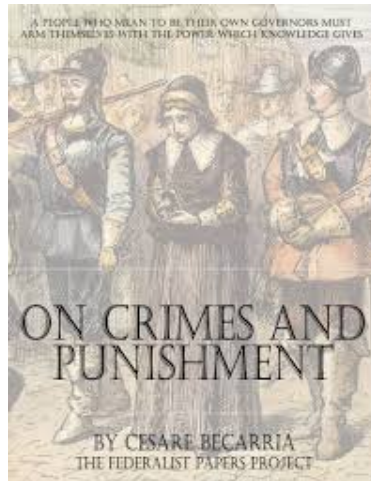
- English philosopher
- Influenced by Descartes and Bacon
- Govt. exists to preserve life, liberty and property. *Two Treatises of Government* (1689)
- Advocate of religious toleration
- People are born a blank slate (*tabula rasa*)

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

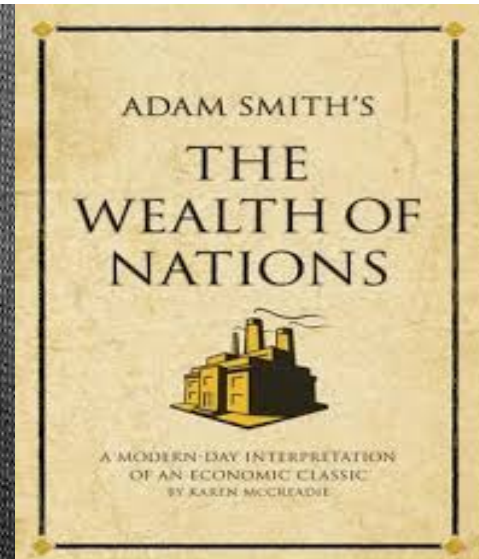
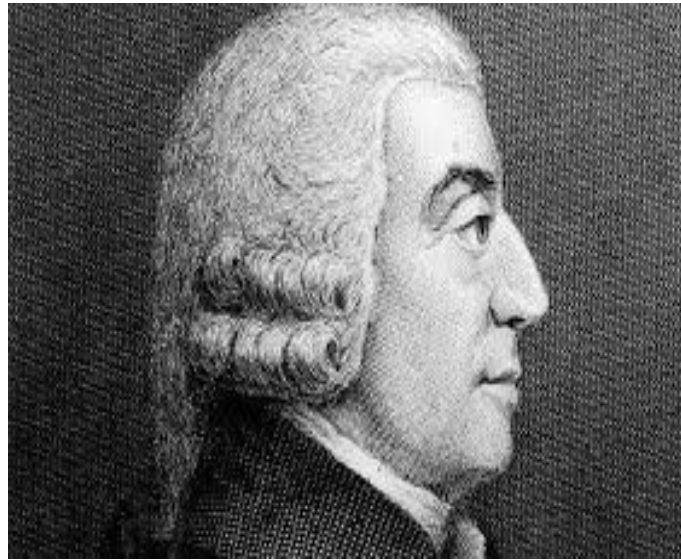
Cesare Beccaria (1738-1794)



- 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.*

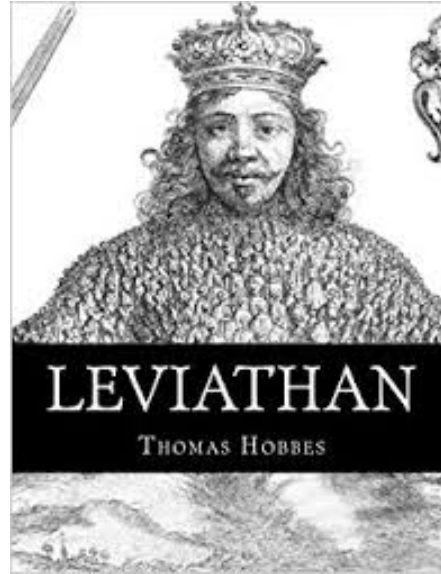
Adam Smith (1723-1790)

- English economist



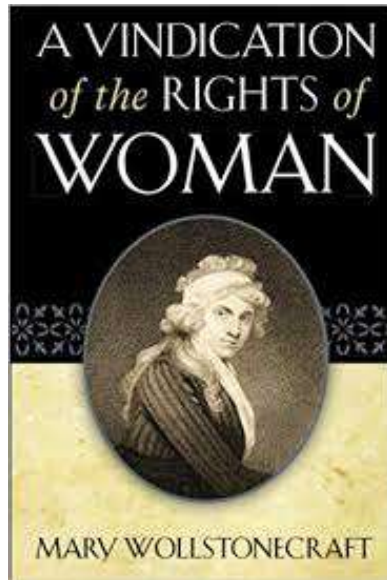
- Rejection of mercantilism in favor of supply and demand
 - laissez-faire economics
- *The Wealth of Nations*, 1776
 - Promotion of free trade
 - Government has only three basic functions
 - » Protect society from invasion
 - » Defend individuals from injustice and oppression
 - » Keep up public works

Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679)



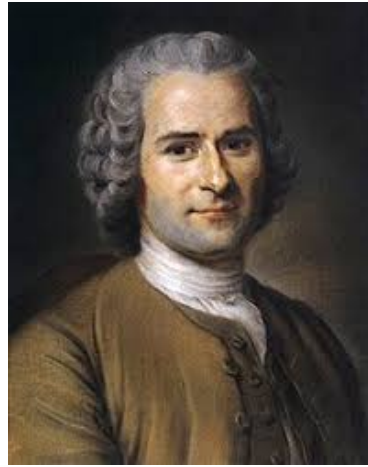
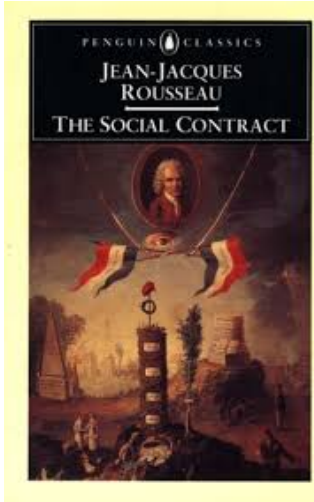
- English philosopher – worked for the Cavendish family and traveled Europe, meeting Galileo and Descartes.
- Humans are selfish and absolute monarchy was the best way to rule.
- *Leviathan, 1651*

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

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

Enlightened Absolutism

- Toleration of religious minorities
- Reform of institutions
- Absolutism
- Patronage of the philosophes



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.

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



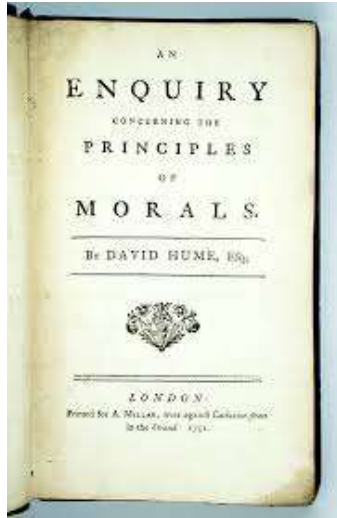
- “First servant of the state”
- Anti-Machiavelli - govt. should be concerned with the well-being of the population.
- Religious toleration but favored Protestants.
- Civil service reform – people promoted on merit, not family ties.

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.

David Hume (1711-1776)



- Scottish philosopher, historian, economist
- Influenced by Newton and Locke
- No reality is possible; there can be no knowledge of anything beyond experience.
- *Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals* –human morality and sympathy.