

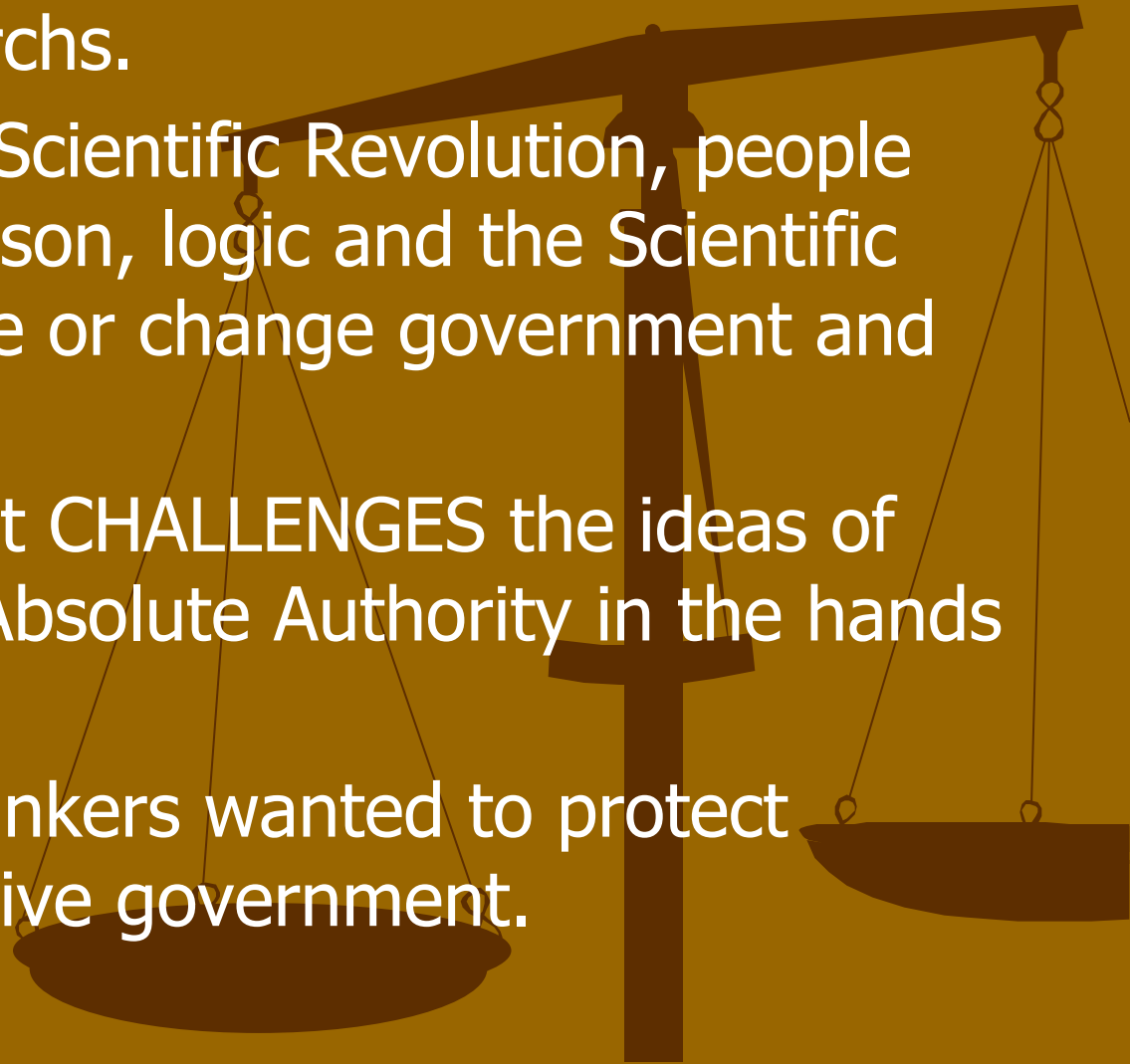
# The Enlightenment = The Age of Reason



- Applying Logic and Reason to Solve Society's Problems

# Changing Views of Society...

- The Enlightenment can be seen as a REACTION to Absolute Monarchs.
- As a result of the Scientific Revolution, people begin to apply reason, logic and the Scientific Method to improve or change government and society
- The Enlightenment CHALLENGES the ideas of Divine Right and Absolute Authority in the hands of one leader.
- Enlightenment Thinkers wanted to protect citizens from abusive government.

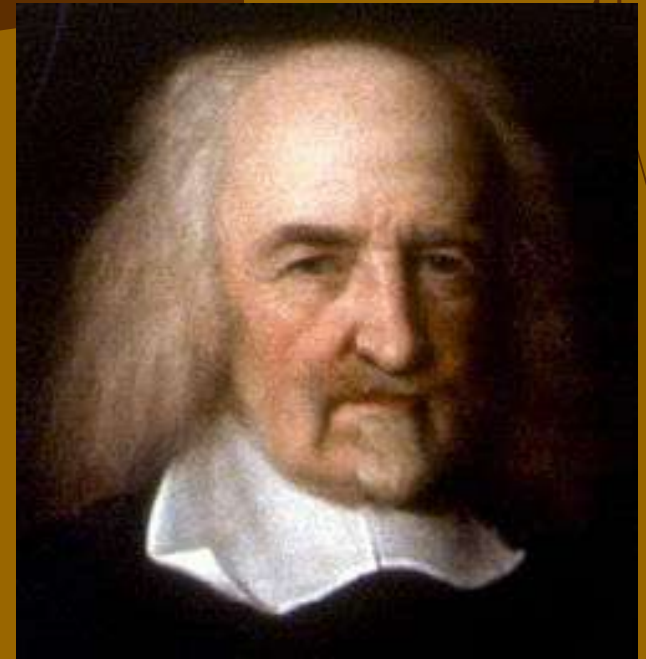


# Hobbes (1588-1679)

## ■ “Leviathan”

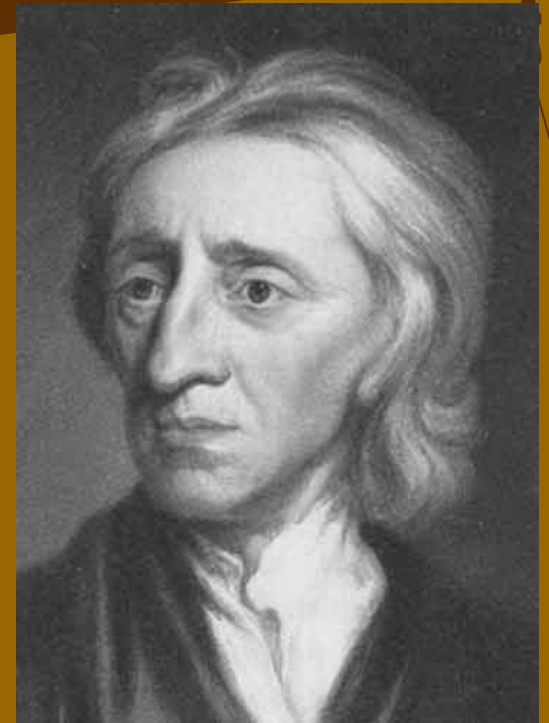
- People are cruel, greedy, selfish, give up their rights to a powerful government
- That powerful government provides “peace and stability”

## ■ Social Contract: People give up their rights to the government in exchange for peace and stability.



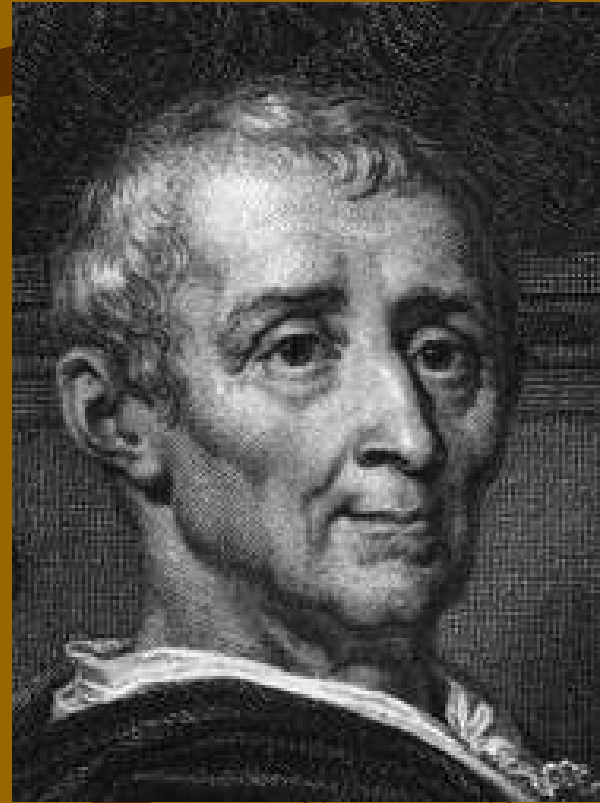
# John Locke (1632-1704)

- “Two Treatises on Government”
- Concept of Natural Rights (Life, Liberty, Property)
- Government is established in order to protect people’s Natural Rights – if it does not, overthrow it.
- English, supported the Glorious Revolution in England



# Montesquieu (1689-1755)

- “The Spirit of the Laws”
- Scientific Method applied to politics
- Divide the government to prevent consolidation of power (“separation of powers”)
- Checks and Balances limits power of each branch



# Voltaire (1694-1778)

- “Candide”
- Concept of Free Press and Free Speech
- “My trade is to say what I think”
- Spent lots of time in jail for saying what he thought (criticizing government).
- Poked fun at French officials, preferred Constitutional Monarchy as in England – not a supporter of Democracy – “I would rather obey one Lion than two hundred Rats of my own species.”



# Rousseau (1712-1778)

- “The Social Contract”
- People are naturally good in their natural state – human nature is corrupted by the evils of society
- Limits on people’s behavior should be minimal but are necessary
- Government power comes from the consent of the governed – “Power to the people”



# Wollstonecraft (1759-1797)

- “A Vindication of the Rights of Woman”
- Equality for women through education
- Need education to participate equally in society (gov’t., jobs, schools, in the family)

