

The Enlightenment



Consumer Society



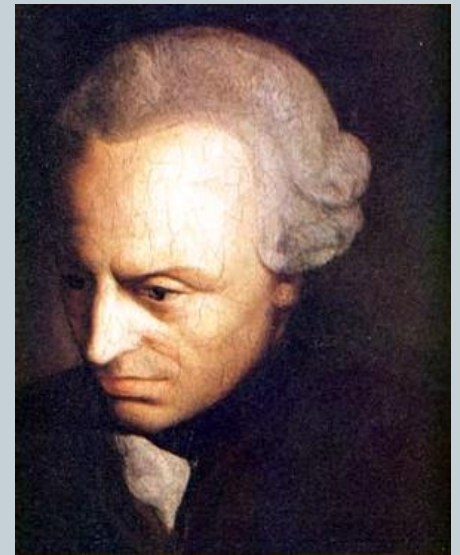
- Growing middle class = interest in political philosophy
- More people living, and living longer
- Cultural Changes
 - Larger houses
 - More goods
 - Service sector
 - Advertising



Intellectual Origins of Enlightenment



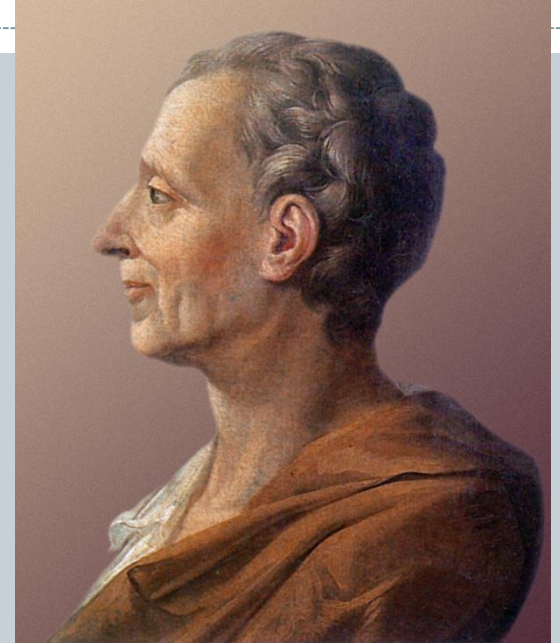
- Belief in reason . . .
 - . . . And a distrust of tradition
- Isaac Newton & David Hume
 - Advocates of skepticism
- 1784 = Immanuel Kant's "What Is Enlightenment?"
 - "Have the courage to use your own reason!"
- John Locke's politics
 - Politics = grounded in reason & self-interest
 - "tabula rasa" ("blank slate")



The Philosophes



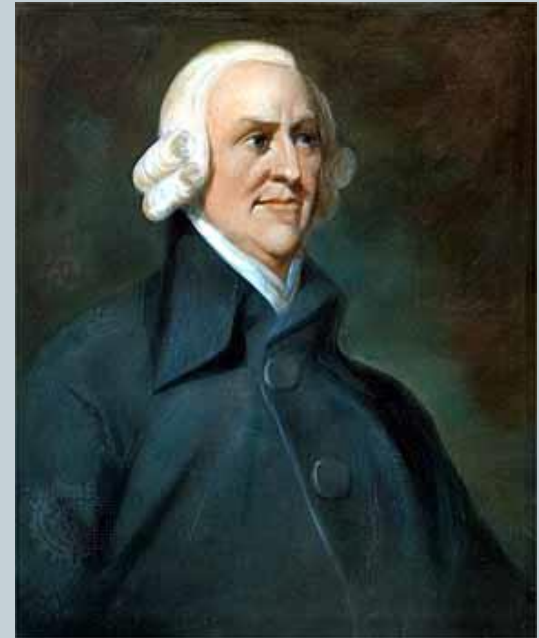
- “philosophe” = “free thinker”
- Voltaire (1694-1778)
 - Praised English politics
 - Consulted by “enlightened” monarchs
- Montesquieu (1689-1755)
 - 1748 = *The Spirit of the Laws*
 - Importance of a “balance of power” in politics
- Diderot (1713-1784)
 - *Encyclopedia* (1751-1772)



Enlightenment Thought



- Law & Punishment
 - Cesare Beccaria (1738-1794)
 - ✦ 1764 = *On Crimes and Punishments*
 - ✦ Against torture, death penalty
- Religious tolerance
 - Enlightenment deism
 - ✦ Deism = God as “clock-maker”
- Government & Economics
 - Adam Smith (1723-1790)
 - ✦ 1776 = *The Wealth of Nations*
 - ✦ “laissez faire” economics



Enlightenment Thought



- **Empire & Colonialism**
 - Belief in Native American “natural liberty”
 - Louis-Antoine de Bouganville (1729-1811)
 - ✦ Discovered Tahitians in the South Pacific
- **Slave Trade**
 - 18th century = peak of slave trade
 - Enlightenment thinkers condemned slavery . . .
 - ✦ . . . But still believed Africans were inferior . . .
 - ✦ . . . And defended property rights of slave owners

The Radicals



- Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778)

- 1762 = *The Social Contract*

- ✦ Private property corrupts
- ✦ Gov't according to the “general will”

- 1762 = *Emile*

- ✦ Less reason in education; more study of nature
- ✦ Education of women = good mothers/wives

- Mary Wollstonecraft (1759-1797)

- 1792 = *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*

- ✦ Applied Enlightenment thought to gender and the family



Enlightenment Culture



- Increase in literacy
 - Increase in print culture
- Importance of coffeehouses, clubs, academies, lodges
- “Grub Street”
 - Irreverent political ideas/writings
- Different national approaches:
 - United States
 - France

