

# The Enlightenment



# Consumer Society



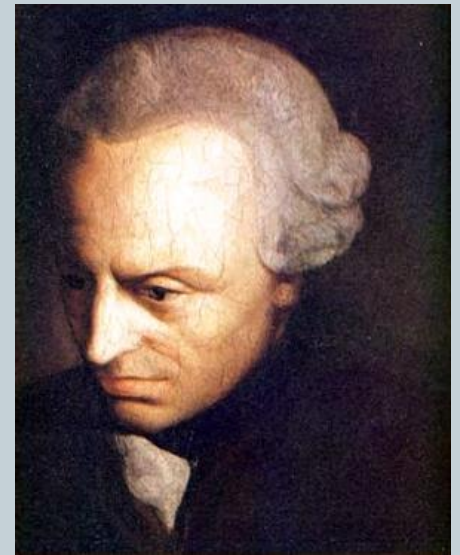
- Growing middle class = interest in political philosophy
- More people living, and living longer
- Cultural Changes
  - Larger houses
  - More goods
  - Service sector
  - Advertising



# 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")

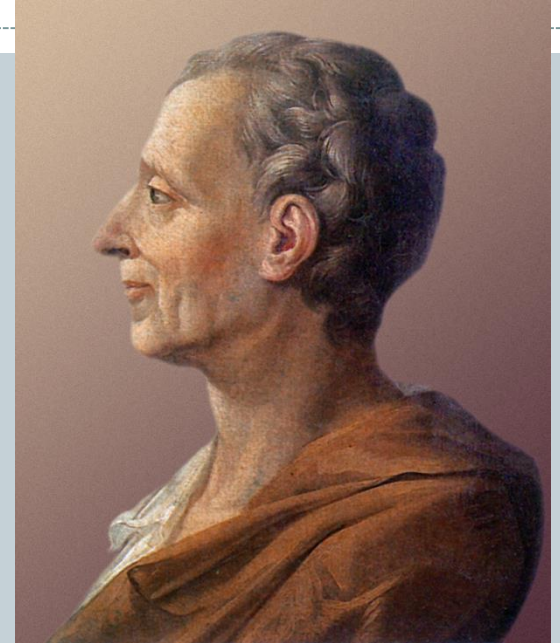




# The Philosophes



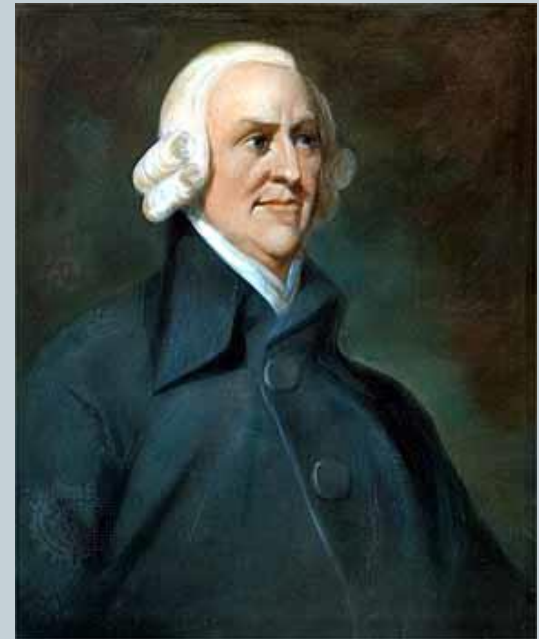
- “philosophe” = “free thinker”
- Voltaire (1694-1778)
  - Praised English politics
  - Consulted by “enlightened” monarchs
- Montesquieu (1689-1755)
  - 1748 = *The Spirit of the Laws*
  - Importance of a “balance of power” in politics
- Diderot (1713-1784)
  - *Encyclopedia* (1751-1772)



# 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**
  - 18<sup>th</sup> 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

