

# Influence of Enlightenment Thought

Author	Publication	When	Ideas	Impact
<b>Thomas Hobbes</b>	<i>Leviathan</i>	1640s	It contained Hobbes' ideas about the absence of government which would be "war against all" in a "state of nature." (anarchy, everyman for himself, no law and order, chaos) In order to escape this terrible state, men entered into a " <b>social contract</b> " in order to establish a "civil society."	The idea of social contract was embraced by revolutionaries, but accepting abuses was not. This idea is the foundation of John Locke's later philosophies which had a much greater impact on revolutionary thinking.
<b>John Locke</b>	<b>Two Treatises on Government</b>	1689	Contained two works. The first criticized the ideas of patriarchalism and declared that no government could be justified by the appeal of the "divine right" of kings to rule. The second shows a theory of civil society in which he claims that all men are created equal. He further elaborates by then saying that governments can only exist by the consent of the governed, and if the government doesn't protect the rights of the people, it can be overthrown. Developed further the concept of <b>natural rights</b> ; and that government did not have the right to take them away.	The very ideas that John Locke proposed on civil societies are woven into the DOI, the very document that officially severed the ties of Britain and the 13 colonies. Revolutionaries took the ability to overthrow the government to make their own start.
<b>Charles de Secondat</b> And <b>Baron de Montesquieu</b>	<i>Persian Letters</i>	1721	The letters contained criticism of French society. They were published secretly because people were punished for criticizing the king.	These letters encouraged people to embrace the idea of <b>freedom of speech</b> and the idea of criticizing government. American revolutionaries were engaged heartily in criticizing British political actions in the colonies.
<b>Voltaire</b>	<i>Multiple documents</i>	1700s	Voltaire was the pen name of Francois-Marie Arouet. He opened people's eyes to the corruption by officials and aristocrats through his writings. He covered topics like <b>slave trade</b> and <b>religious intolerance</b> . He also defended <b>Freedom of Speech</b> . He was supposed to have said, "I do not agree with a word that you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it."	Our Declaration of Independence also reflects British government corruption which hurt the American colonies. Our Bill of Right also stands for freedom of speech.
<b>Montesquieu</b>	<i>The Spirit of the Laws</i>	1748	The work formed the basis for the governmental idea of <b>separation of powers</b> . It explained how a government with it could function in a fairer manner. It called for other actions that would eventually come true like the <b>abolition of slavery</b> and the preservation of <b>individual rights</b> .	The revolutionaries were inspired by the idea of <b>separation of powers</b> . The new American government (after the first failure) includes <b>three branches</b> .
<b>Denis Diderot</b>	<i>Encyclopedia</i> (28 volumes)	1751	His purpose was to explain the new thinking and developing ideas on government, philosophy, and religion. These encyclopedias were translated into other languages and spread Enlightenment ideas to the rest of the world and the American colonies.	Diderot's ideas could have helped form the ideas for our government, because colonists had access to them. Revolutionary thought included forward thinking on topics he covered.
<b>Jeanne Jacques Rousseau</b>	<i>The Social Contract</i>	1762	This work argues if there can be a legitimate political authority. His ideas stem from the idea that mankind must enter a " <b>social contract</b> " with others in order to achieve more. He claims that a man would not sell his freedom for slavery, so participants in government had to be free. He proceeds to then say that a government in any form should have two parts: the sovereign and the government. The sovereign would act as the legislative body of the state, and the government would handle the rest.	The piece argues against the idea that monarchs have the <b>divine right to rule</b> . This is one of the basic ideas of the Revolutionary War, and revolutionaries took the works of Rousseau as support for their cause.

This chart is also located in your Period 2 Term Review.