

# The Enlightenment



The new ways of thinking developed during the Scientific Revolution began to extend into other areas of life beyond that of just science. Scholars and philosophers began to re-think the old ideas about religion, economics, and education.

In France, these social critics were known as “*Philosophes*”. For the most part, they were not professional philosophers, but rather self-appointed critics who believed that it was their duty to think critically. These thinkers were optimistic and believed that they lived in an exciting era of great change for humanity.

**Five concepts formed the core of their beliefs:**

DIRECTIONS: use the pictures to explain what you think each means in your own words

|               |       |
|---------------|-------|
| 1. Reason-    | _____ |
| 2. Nature-    | _____ |
| 3. Happiness- | _____ |
| 4. Progress-  | _____ |
| 5. Liberty-   | _____ |

**Hobbes and Locke**

The Enlightenment started from key ideas put forth by two English political thinkers of the 1600’s, Thomas Hobbes and John Locke. Both men experienced hardships in England early in that century (in the English Civil War) but as a result, they developed very different ideas about government and human nature.



Thomas Hobbes expressed his views in a book called *Leviathan*. The horrors of the English Civil war convinced him that all humans were selfish and wicked.



John Locke wrote his views in a book called *The Two Treatises on Government*. Locke took on a more positive view of human nature. He believed that all people are born with three natural rights- life, liberty, and property.

**With a partner, examine the views of Locke and Hobbes and decide who you agree with more.**

**Why do people join society?**

Hobbes

When men live without common power (order in society) to keep them all in order, they are in a condition which is called war... every man against every man. In such conditions, there is fear of danger, violent death, and the life of men is poor, nasty, brutish, and short.

Locke

The reason men enter into society is the preservation of their property; and the reason they make a government is so laws can be made, and rules set, to limit the power of every member of society.

**Explain each view of Locke and Hobbes in your own words:**

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**We agree more with... (include your reason in the box)**

| Hobbes | Locke |
|--------|-------|
|        |       |

**The Ideal Government**

Hobbes- The Social Contract

The only way to create a government is to give the power and strength to one man... men will give up their right of governing oneself to this man. This is more than just giving up their individuality; it is the real unity of them all. This done, so united in one person, is called a commonwealth.

Locke- Protection of the peoples Natural Rights

Whenever the government tries to take away the property of the people, or to reduce them to slavery, they put themselves into a state of war with the people who are then freed from any further obedience. People are right to put the laws in the hands of a government which will protect their rights.

**Explain each view of Locke and Hobbes in your own words:**

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**We agree more with... (include your reason in the box)**

| Hobbes | Locke |
|--------|-------|
|        |       |

**Discussion: Who ideas most reflects our government in America today: Hobbes or Locke? Why?**

**What would Locke and Hobbes think of us today?**

Look at the different issues below and with your group, decide how Locke and Hobbes would answer the question.

| Issue   | Hobbes | Locke |
|---|--------|-------|
| 1. Should there be a military draft?<br>   |        |       |
| 2. Should the government censor obscenity and violence in our music and movies?<br>                                |        |       |
| 3. Should the police use any means necessary to prevent crime?<br>   |        |       |
| 4. Should the government eavesdrop on our phone calls, text messages, and email in order to prevent terrorism?<br> |        |       |

