

# THE AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT

HISTORICAL REFERENCE CHART 17TH - 18TH CENTURY EUROPE

Philosopher	Key Work	Core Concepts & Impact
<b>John Locke</b> 1632-1704	Two Treatises of Government	Natural rights (life, liberty, property); Tabula Rasa; Social contract theory influencing the American Revolution.
<b>Voltaire</b> 1694-1778	Candide / Letters on the English	Advocacy for civil liberties, freedom of speech, and separation of church and state; critique of religious dogma.
<b>Montesquieu</b> 1689-1755	The Spirit of the Laws	Theory of the separation of powers (executive, legislative, judicial) as a safeguard against tyranny.
<b>Jean-Jacques Rousseau</b> 1712-1778	The Social Contract	Popular sovereignty and the "General Will"; belief that man is born free but is "everywhere in chains."
<b>Adam Smith</b> 1723-1790	The Wealth of Nations	Laissez-faire economics; the "invisible hand" of the market; foundational principles of modern capitalism.
<b>Immanuel Kant</b> 1724-1804	Critique of Pure Reason	Synthesis of rationalism and empiricism; defined Enlightenment as "man's emergence from his self-imposed nonage."