

THE AGE OF REASON

Core Figures & Philosophical Contributions (1685-1815)

PHILOSOPHER	KEY WORK	CENTRAL IDEOLOGY
John Locke	Two Treatises of Government	Natural rights (Life, Liberty, Property); Tabula Rasa.
Voltaire	Candide	Civil liberties; freedom of speech and religious tolerance.
Montesquieu	The Spirit of the Laws	Separation of powers; checks and balances in government.
Jean-Jacques Rousseau	The Social Contract	General Will; popular sovereignty; individual vs. collective.
Immanuel Kant	Critique of Pure Reason	Categorical imperative; "Sapere Aude" (Dare to know).
Adam Smith	The Wealth of Nations	Laissez-faire economics; the "Invisible Hand" of the market.
Mary Wollstonecraft	A Vindication of the Rights of Woman	Equality of education; rationalism applied to gender.