

People of the Enlightenment -1600s & 1700s

Name From Wrote Main Ideas



Locke

England

Two
Treatises
on Gov't

-Observation: gov't exists to "preserve life, liberty, & property"
-Hypothesis: people should be sovereign (rule)
-Hypothesis: monarchs not chosen by God



Hobbes

England

Leviathan

-Observation: Life without gov't is "solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, & short."
-Hypothesis: Absolute gov't needed to control evil behavior (not divine right)



Montesquieu

France

The Spirit
of Laws

-Observation: "When the legislature & executive are united in the same person, there is no liberty (freedom)"
-Hypothesis: Gov't must have "*Separation of Powers*" -- 3 branches



Rousseau

France

The Social
Contract

-Observation: "man is born free, but everywhere he is in chains."
- Hypothesis: Gov't is contract between people & rulers. Gov't must be what people want.



Voltaire

France

-Observation: Life is better with liberty
-Hypothesis: Freedom of speech & religion, separation of church & state
-"I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it."