



Man was born free,  
and everywhere he is in chains.  
Jean-Jacques Rousseau,  
*Social Contract* (1762)

<b>Politics</b>  Adherence to social contract theory of government, in lieu of royal absolutism and aristocratic privilege.	<b>Religion</b>  Emphasis on toleration of various religions (instead of persecution); deism became more prominent.
<b>The Enlightenment</b>	
<b>Economics</b>  Adoption of free markets ( <i>laissez-faire</i> ) in lieu of mercantilism.	<b>Human Psychology</b>  Emphasis on <i>tabula rasa</i> , and the role of reason and education. Only this could create people who would not be dominated by superstitions and religious fanaticism.

*The Enlightenment was not merely a new way of looking at things; it was also a drive to reform the world.*

#### **Major Enlightenment figures**

Adam Smith—proclaimed the superiority of *laissez-faire* (free market) economics over mercantilism; provided the image of the Invisible Hand to illustrate how free markets can work to supply people's needs.

John Locke—promoter of the social contract theory. He also argued other Enlightenment points, such as religious toleration and the *tabula rasa* theory.

Voltaire—French writer who promoted religious tolerance

The two major American enlightenment figures would have to be Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson.

#### **Major Enlightenment Projects**

American Revolution (Declaration of Independence and Constitution are documents written from the standpoint of social contract theory)

French Revolution (eliminated aristocratic and royal power, as well as the power of the church)