

## The Scientific Revolution and the Enlightenment

### Lesson 2 The Enlightenment

#### ESSENTIAL QUESTION

*How do governments change?*

#### GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. *How did European thinkers apply scientific ideas to government?*
2. *How did French thinkers influence Europe during the Enlightenment?*
3. *How did European monarchs model their countries on Enlightenment ideas?*

#### Terms to Know

**Age of Enlightenment** a period of time in which a European philosophical movement developed, based on reason and experience rather than on traditional thinking

**absolutism** a political system in which a ruler has total power

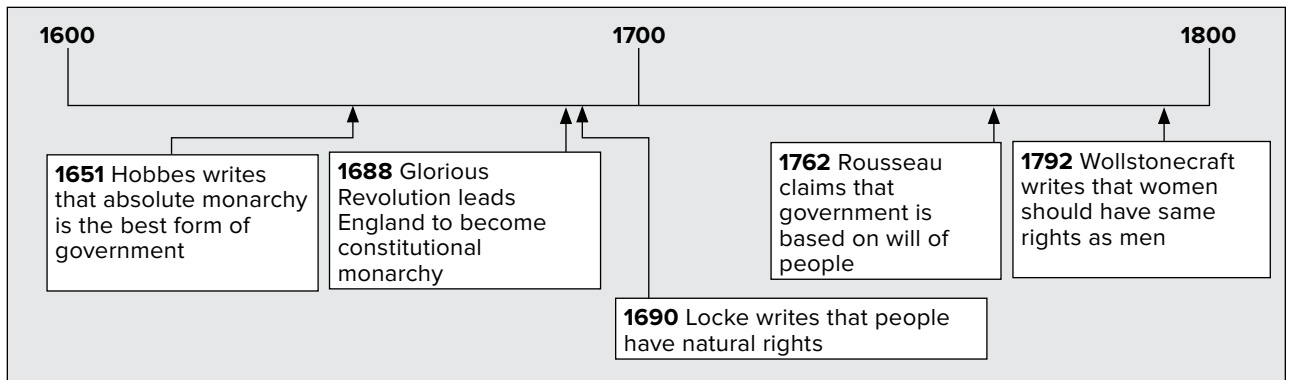
**social contract** an agreement between the people and their government

**Glorious Revolution** the overthrow of King James II of England

**constitutional monarchy** a political system in which a king or queen rules according to a constitution

**separation of powers** a government structure that has three distinct branches: legislative, executive, and judicial

### When did it happen?



### What do you know?

In the K column, list what you already know about the Enlightenment. In the W column, list what you want to know. After reading the lesson, fill in the L column with the information that you learned.

K	W	L

**The Scientific Revolution and the Enlightenment**

**Lesson 2** The Enlightenment, *Continued*

**Reason and Politics**

The Scientific Revolution used reason to solve problems. During the 1700s, educated Europeans saw reason as a “light” that could reveal truth. As a result, this time period became known as the **Age of Enlightenment**.

Some thinkers used reason to improve government. They claimed that government should be based on natural law. This is a body of law that applies to everyone.

The English thinker Thomas Hobbes wrote *Leviathan* in 1651. In this book, he argued that people were naturally violent and selfish. Hobbes believed that natural law meant people needed strong rulers to tell them what to do. His theory became known as **absolutism**, since it called for a ruler with absolute, or total, power.

John Locke was another English thinker. He believed that natural law gave all people basic rights from birth. These included the right to life, liberty, and to own property. Locke thought that government should protect people’s rights as part of a **social contract**. This is an agreement between the people and their leaders. If a government broke the contract, then the people had the right to replace that government. In 1690, Locke wrote his ideas in a book called *Two Treatises of Government*.

Ideas of Hobbes	Ideas of Locke
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government should be based on natural law.</li> <li>• Natural law supports having an absolute ruler.</li> <li>• People by themselves cannot make good decisions.</li> <li>• People need to obey a wise, powerful ruler.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government should be based on natural law.</li> <li>• All people have basic rights from birth, including right to life and liberty.</li> <li>• Government should protect people’s rights.</li> <li>• If government fails to protect these rights, it can be replaced.</li> </ul>

In the late 1600s, King James II of England wanted to be a total ruler. He left the country when civil war threatened. Parliament replaced him with a new king and queen. This event became known as the **Glorious Revolution**. The new rulers, William and Mary, agreed to a Bill of Rights. They made England a **constitutional monarchy**, a form of government in which laws limit the power of the ruler.

**? Determining Cause and Effect**

1. What effect did the Scientific Revolution have on thinkers during the 1700s?

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**Explaining**

2. How did Thomas Hobbes view people?

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**Defining**

3. What is a *constitutional monarchy*?

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## The Scientific Revolution and the Enlightenment

### Lesson 2 The Enlightenment, *Continued*

#### Reading Check

4. How did Hobbes and Locke differ in their ideas about government and the people?

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#### Summarizing

5. Who were the philosophes and what did they believe?

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#### Identifying

6. Who wrote *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*?

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#### Reading Check

7. What was Diderot's *Encyclopedia*?

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In France, Baron Montesquieu wrote a book called *The Spirit of Laws*. Montesquieu said England had the best government because it had a **separation of powers**. Separation of powers means that the government's power should be divided into three equal branches.

- Legislative branch—makes laws
- Executive branch—puts the laws into effect
- Judicial branch—interprets the laws

Separating these powers stops any one part of government from getting too powerful.

### The Philosophes of France

During the 1700s, France became the center of the Enlightenment. Thinkers in France and elsewhere were called philosophes. *Philosophe* is a French word that means “philosopher.” A philosopher is a person who searches for wisdom. Philosophes wanted to use reason to improve society. They supported science and freedom of speech. Their ideas spread across Europe.

#### The Philosophes

Voltaire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wrote plays, novels, and essays</li> <li>• Supported freedom of religion</li> <li>• Supported deism, a religious belief based on reason</li> </ul>
Denis Diderot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wanted to spread Enlightenment ideas</li> <li>• Created a 28-volume encyclopedia, which covered religion, government, the sciences, history, and the arts</li> </ul>
Mary Wollstonecraft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wrote <i>A Vindication of the Rights of Woman</i></li> <li>• Believed that women should have the same rights as men</li> <li>• Started the modern effort for equal rights for women</li> </ul>
Jean-Jacques Rousseau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wrote <i>The Social Contract</i></li> <li>• Believed that government comes from what the people want</li> </ul>

## The Scientific Revolution and the Enlightenment

### Lesson 2 The Enlightenment, *Continued*

#### Absolute Monarchs

In the 1600s and 1700s, some kings and queens liked Enlightenment ideas. They used these ideas to improve their societies. Yet, they refused to give up any power.

In 1643 Louis XIV became the king of France. Known as the Sun King, he fought wars that gained land for France. However, the great cost of fighting weakened his country.

Other Enlightenment rulers supported a variety of reforms inspired by Enlightenment ideas.

Country	Absolute Monarch	Enlightenment Ideas
Prussia	Frederick the Great	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dedicated himself to the good of his people</li> <li>Allowed some freedom of speech and religion</li> </ul>
Austria	Maria Theresa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set up schools</li> <li>Tried to make the lives of serfs better</li> </ul>
Austria	Joseph II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Freed the serfs</li> <li>Tried to reform taxes</li> </ul>
Russia	Peter the Great	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Made reforms to government and military</li> </ul>
Russia	Catherine the Great	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supported some Enlightenment ideas</li> <li>Considered freeing the serfs</li> </ul>

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#### Comparing

8. How were the reforms of Maria Theresa similar to the reforms of Joseph II?

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#### Reading Check

9. How was Frederick the Great influenced by the Enlightenment?

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10. Place a one-tab Foldable along the dotted line to cover the Check for Understanding. Write *The Enlightenment* on the anchor tab.

Use both sides of the tab to list words and phrases you remember about how governments changed during the Enlightenment.

#### Check for Understanding

**Name two ways the Enlightenment changed the government of England.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

**List two ways absolute monarchs responded to the Enlightenment.**

3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_