7.62 Describe the accomplishments of major Enlightenment thinkers, including Locke and Charles-Louis Montesquieu

Background

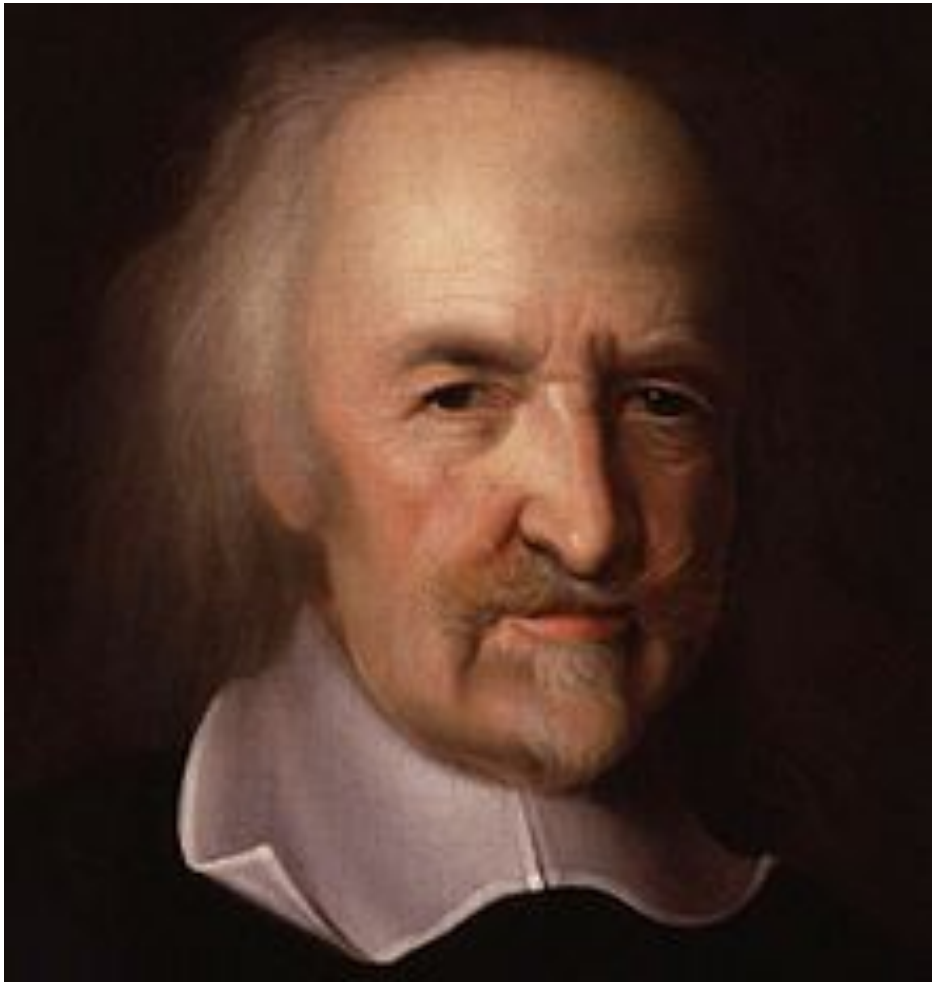
- Parliament vs the king:
  - 1520s: King Charles I refused to accept limits on power. Led to civil war and execution
  - 1688: King James II opposed Parliament trying to limit power; went to exile
  - 1689: William and Mary come to power in "Glorious Revolution"

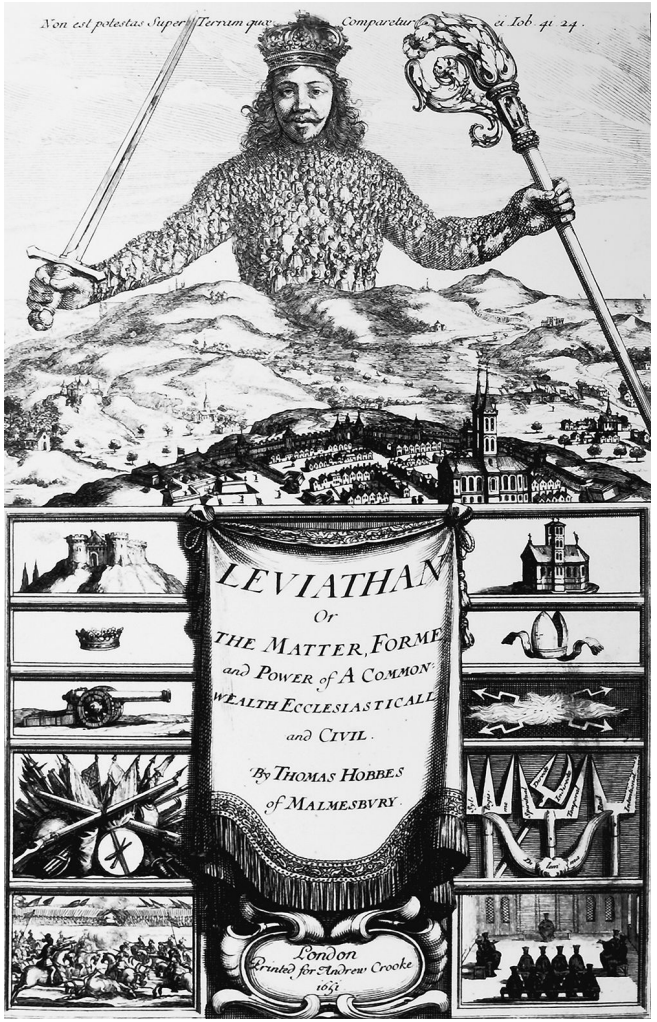
Background

- The Glorious Revolution
  - Resulted in England becoming a Constitutional Monarchy
  - Created “Bill of Rights”
  - Monarch must follow the laws made by Parliament
  - English people now had a right to a jury trial, freedom from cruel and unusual punishment

Enlightenment Thinkers

- Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679)
  - Shocked by the execution of King Charles I
  - Supported monarchy
  - Humans are naturally selfish and violent and live in a primitive “state of nature”
  - Humans cannot make wise decisions
  - Powerful leader needed to maintain order and control



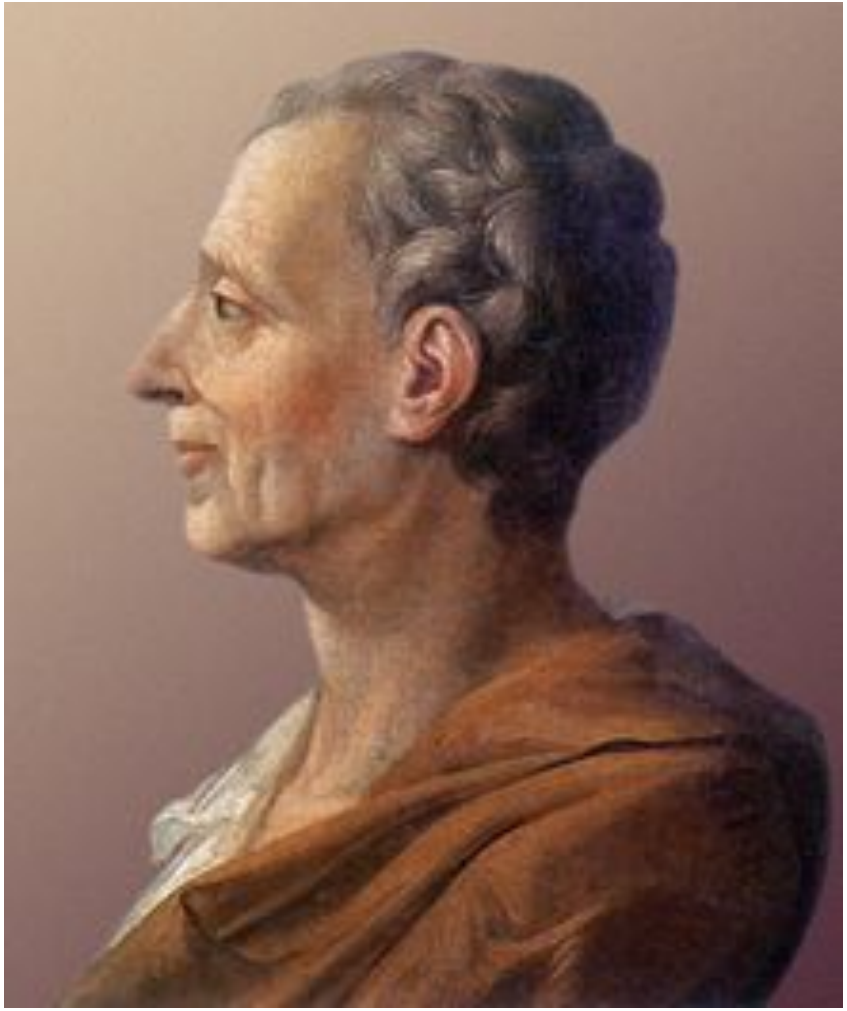

Non est potestas Super Terram quae Comparetur ei Iob. 41. 24.
LEVIATHAN
Or
THE MATTER, FORME
and POWER of A COMMON-
WEALTH ECCLESIASTICALL
and CIVIL.
By THOMAS HOBBES
of MALMESBURY.
London
Printed for Andrew Crooke
1651

Enlightenment Thinkers

- John Locke (1632-1704)
  - Inspired by Glorious Revolution
  - Government has to answer to its citizens
  - People have natural rights (life, liberty, property)
  - Government should be based on a social contract: agreement between a government and its people

Enlightenment Thinkers

- Baron Charles-Louis Montesquieu (1689-1755)
  - *The Spirit of the Laws* (1748)
  - Political power should be shared among classes
  - Argued for separation of powers
  - Admired British government
  - Influence in France and US



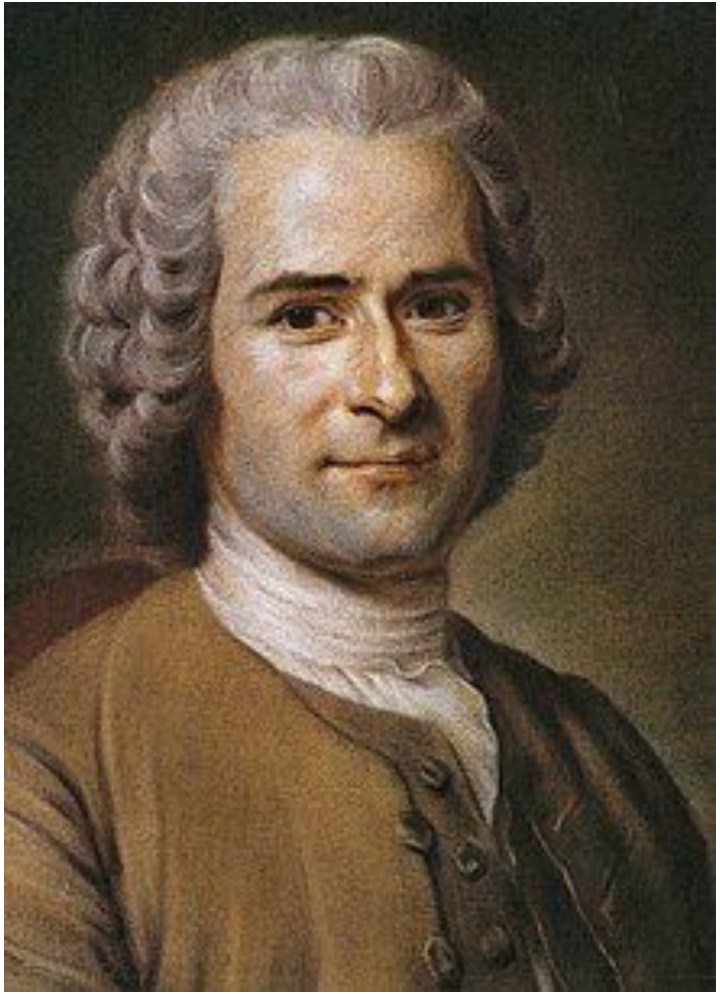
Enlightenment Thinkers

- Voltaire (1694-1778)
  - Enthusiasm for English institutions
  - Wrote plays, essays, and novels
  - Supported freedom of religion
  - Deism: religion based on reason (God set everything in motion and then natural law set in)

CANDIDE,
OU
L'OPTIMISME,
TRADUIT DE L'ALLEMAND.
DE
Mr. le Docteur RALPH.

MDCC LIX.

Seaton 3° Mss. 5.9

Enlightenment Thinkers

- Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778)
  - Swiss
  - Government should be based on the will of the people
  - Wrote *The Social Contract*
  - What society wants should be law