

**The Enlightenment:  
The Triumph of Rationalism and the Bankruptcy of Reason**

I. Philosophy of Enlightenment—Significant Concepts

A. Reason is the only infallible guide to wisdom, and the challenge to it

1. Senses and Reason vs. Inborn Ideas and Belief
2. For Toleration; Against Prejudice

B. Universe is a Machine Governed by Inflexible Natural Laws

1. Deism—God does not interfere
2. Against Organized Religion; Against Superstition

C. Simplest and Most Natural Structure of Society is the Best

1. Nature Is Best; Society Corrupts
2. Against Torture

D. Individuals Are Perfectible—No Such Thing as Original Sin

1. Knowledge → Happiness
2. Against Fanaticism

II. Eighteenth-Century Science

A. Scientists: A Comparison

1. Benjamin Franklin (1706–1790)
2. Mikhail Lomonosov (1711–1765)
3. Marquise du Châtelet (Émilie de Breteuil)(1706–1749)

B. Scientific Patronage

1. Royal Society of London—“Nothing on Authority”
2. French Academy of Sciences

III. Three Phases of the Enlightenment

A. Rational and Optimistic

1. John Locke (1632–1704)
  - a. *Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (1690)
  - b. *tabula rasa*

2. Gottfried von Leibnitz (1646–1716)
  - a. *Monadology* (1714): “A monad is simple substance”
  - b. *Principles of Nature and Grace* (1714)
3. Frances Hutcheson (1694–1746)
  - a. *Inquiry into the Original of Our Ideas of Beauty and Virtue* (1726)
  - b.  $M = (B+S) \times A = BA + SA$
4. Carolus Linnaeus (1707–1778)
  - a. *Systema naturae* (1738)
  - b. *Philosophia botanica* (1751)
  - George Louis Buffon (1707–1788)
  - William Smith (1769–1839)
  - Georges Cuvier (1769–1832)
  - William Buckland (1784–1836)
5. Charles-Louis de Secondat, baron de Montesquieu (1689–1755)
  - a. *Persian Letters* (1721)
  - b. *The Spirit of the Laws* (1748)

## B. Challenge to Reason and Optimism

1. Voltaire (1694–1778)
  - a. *Elements of the Philosophy of Newton* (1738)
  - b. *Zadig, or The Destined One* (1747)
  - c. Lisbon earthquake November 1, 1755
  - d. *Candide, or Optimism* (1759) — “tend your own garden”
2. David Hume (1711–1776)
  - a. *Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (1748)
  - b. Hume’s Fork
3. Jean Jacques Rousseau (1712–1778)—“ignore the facts”
  - a. *Discourse on the Moral Effects of the Arts and Sciences* (1750)
  - b. *Emile, Social Contract* (1762)
  - c. *Confessions* (completed by 1769)
4. Cesare Beccaria (1738–1794)—*On Crimes and Punishments* (1764)

## C. Counter-Responses to the Challenge—Emancipation of Reason or of the Passions?

1. Immanuel Kant (1724–1804)
  - a. *Critique of Pure Reason* (1781)
  - b. Categorical Imperative
2. Marquis de Sade (1740–1814)
  - a. *Justine, or The Misfortunes of Virtue* (1791)
  - b. Active pursuit of personal pleasure
3. Giovanni Jacopo Casanova (1725–1798)
4. Johann Wolfgang Goethe (1749–1832)
  - a. *Sorrows of Young Werther* (1774)
  - b. Sentimentalism—precursor of Romanticism
5. N. M. Karamzin (1766–1826)
  - a. *Poor Liza* (1792)
  - b. *History of the Russian State*, 12 vols. (1816–1829)