Enlightenment Philosophers Chart

Philosopher	Biography: Date, Origin, Writing	Philosophical Ideas	Beliefs in Government
Thomas Hobbes	1588-1679 England <i>Leviathan</i>	 Human Nature was	 Social contract: give up their in return for the and order of an organized society. A gov't, like an absolute monarchy, was for society. Impose order, obedience, and suppress rebellion. power in a government.
John Locke	1632-1704 England Two Treaties on Government	 Believed in natural We are born with rights because they are a part of nature and existence – they come from god. At birth, people have the right to, and 	 Rulers/gov't have an obligation & responsibility to protect the of the people If the gov't, the people have a right to that gov't The best gov't is one which is by all the people and has power
Baron de Montesquieu	1689-1755 France The Spirit of the Laws	 and institutions are created by humans who are subjected to ignorance and error. can be avoided by political power among a diversity of and groups. 	 Strongly opposed
Jean-Jacques Rousseau	1712-1778 France The Social Contract	 People are inherently, but become corrupted by Social contract was the path to freedom: people should do what is best for their The general will of the people should direct the toward the common good. 	 Questioned authority – specifically

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Cesare Beccaria	1738-1794 France Crimes and Punishments	 Believed people who were accused of a crime should have The right to a trial. Punishment for the crime should be the same for everyone. 	 Government should work to prevent crime rather than focus on punishment. Rewarding good behavior was more effective than punishing bad. would reduce the crime rate.
Voltaire	1694-1778 France Candide	 Advocated freedom of	 Though he wanted everyone to be and, he believed a gov't would never succeed. He believed a gov't should have a monarch, and everyone would be under the ruler.
Mary Wollstonecraft	1759-1797 England A Vindication of the Rights of Women	Women had not been included as "and" Advocated for women's and for women to in gov't and politics.	 Believed in
Adam Smith	1723-1790 England The Wealth of Nations	 Advocated laissez faire or "free to do" Like natural laws in gov't, Smith believed in natural laws of Businesses should not be interrupted by gov't interference. 	 The gov't had a duty to society and to provide and public works. Free market should drive the All nations and economies will thrive if economies were free of regulation and markets could compete freely.

New Views on Society