

# The Age of Enlightenment

EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

BUOYANT  
OPTIMISM

REASON  
WILL DISPEL  
IGNORANCE,  
SUPERSTITION  
AND  
PREJUDICE

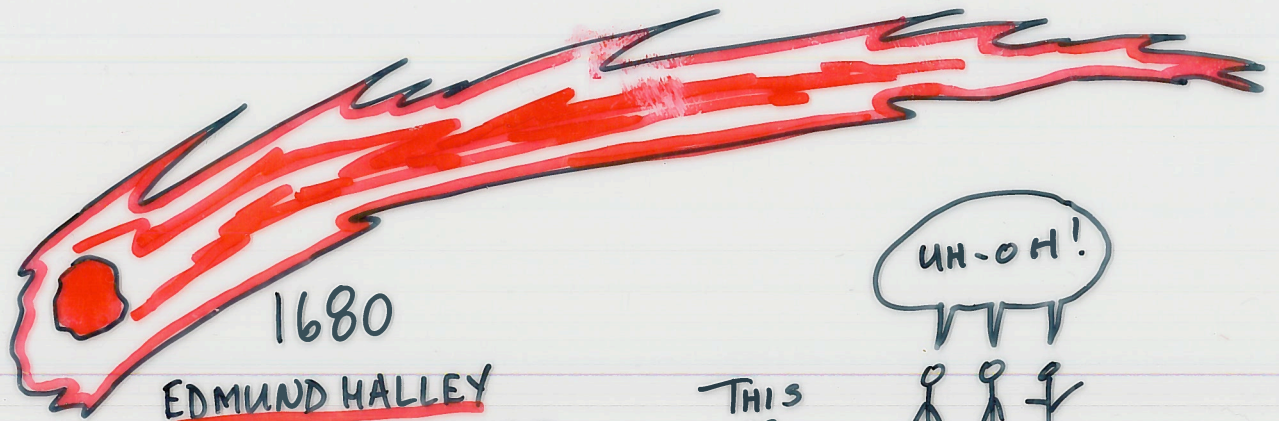
WE ARE THE  
MOST  
CIVILIZED  
PEOPLE IN  
HISTORY!

LITERACY  
BECOMES  
WIDESPREAD

NEWSPAPERS,  
NOVELS  
AND  
SYMPHONIES  
ARE  
POPULAR

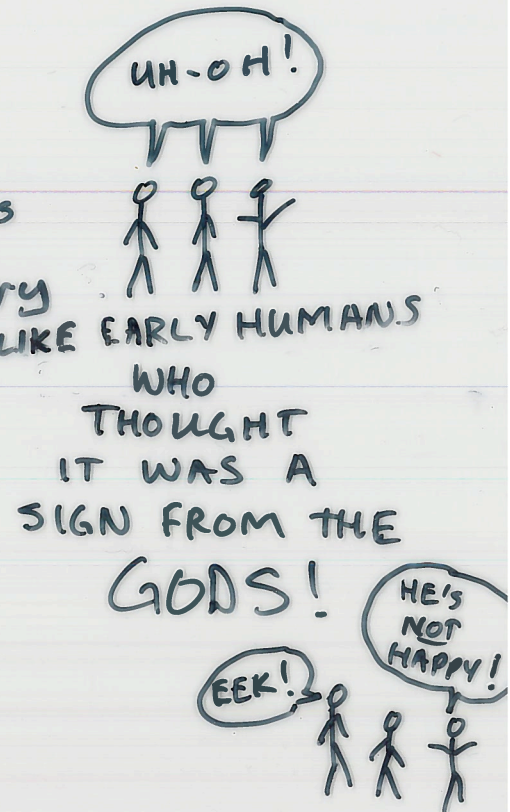
THE UNIVERSE  
IS LIKE  
A MACHINE  
THAT  
RUNS ACCORDING  
TO NATURAL  
LAWS





1680

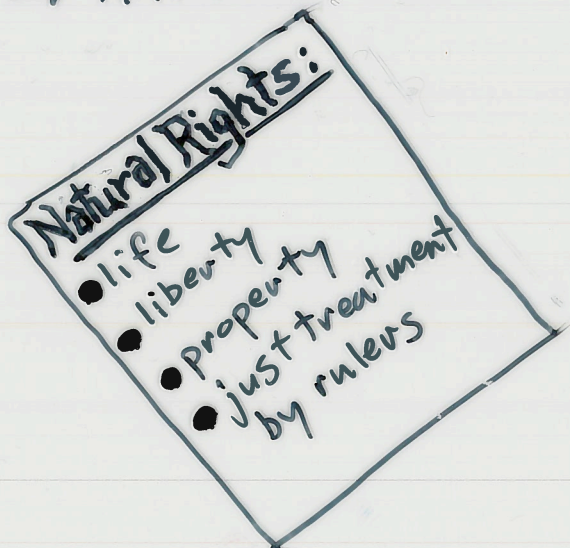
EDMUND HALLEY  
OBSERVES A COMET  
AND PREDICTS ITS  
FUTURE APPEARANCES.



THIS IS CHARACTERISTIC  
OF THE  
ENLIGHTENMENT  
(1687-1789)

THEY SEEK ⇒ LAWS OF NATURE TO EXPLAIN THE NATURAL WORLD

THEY ALSO SEEK ⇒ NATURAL LAWS TO EXPLAIN HUMANS AND SOCIETY





# NEW WAYS OF THINKING ABOUT GOD + HUMANS

**DESCARTES** - DEISM → GOD ISN'T REDEEMER  
↓  
GOD SETS UNIVERSE IN  
MOTION THEN STEPS ASIDE

**BARUCH  
SPINOZA**

- "GOD EXISTS ONLY PHILOSOPHICALLY
- GOD IS IDENTICAL WITH NATURE

**BLAISE  
PASCAL**

CHECK HIS WAGER

- RELIGION AND SCIENCE IRRECONCILABLE
- CONVERTS TO CATHOLICISM
- GOD IS A ♥ THING, NOT A HEADTHING

**JOHN  
LOCKE**

- ALL KNOWLEDGE IS THROUGH  
SENSORY EXPERIENCE
- NO INNATE MORAL KNOWLEDGE

we are  
all born  
as blank  
slates

"tabula  
rasa"





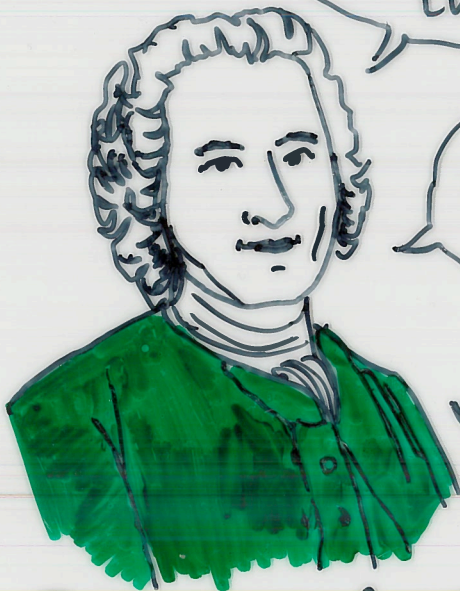


ROUSSEAU SEES  
CONTRADICTIONS IN  
SOCIETY AND SEES  
THE "NOBLE  
SAVAGE" AS A  
MODEL OF AN  
UNCORRUPTED  
INDIVIDUAL.

GOD MAKES  
ALL THINGS GOOD,  
MAN MEDDLES  
WITH THEM AND  
THEY BECOME  
EVIL.

MAN IS BORN  
FREE, AND EVERYWHERE  
HE IS IN CHAINS.

THE STATE IS THE  
"GENERAL WILL" OF  
THE CITIZENS.



JEAN-JACQUES ROUSSEAU

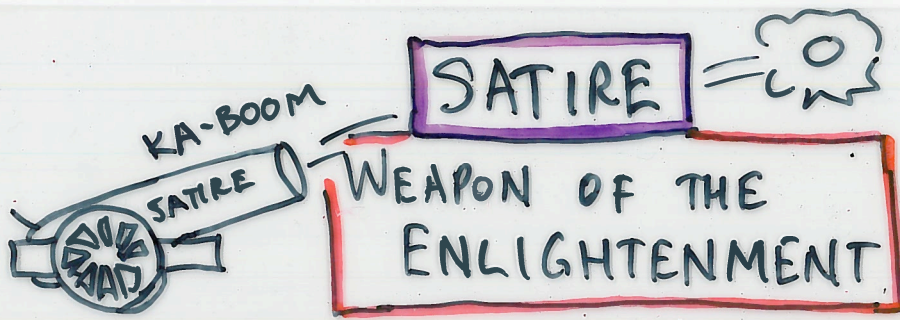
HIS IDEAS INVOLVE A  
NEW APPRECIATION  
OF NATURE AND THE  
NATURAL

(LOOK FOR THIS IN  
FUTURE CHAPTERS ON  
ROMANTICISM)

### IDEAS ABOUT EDUCATION

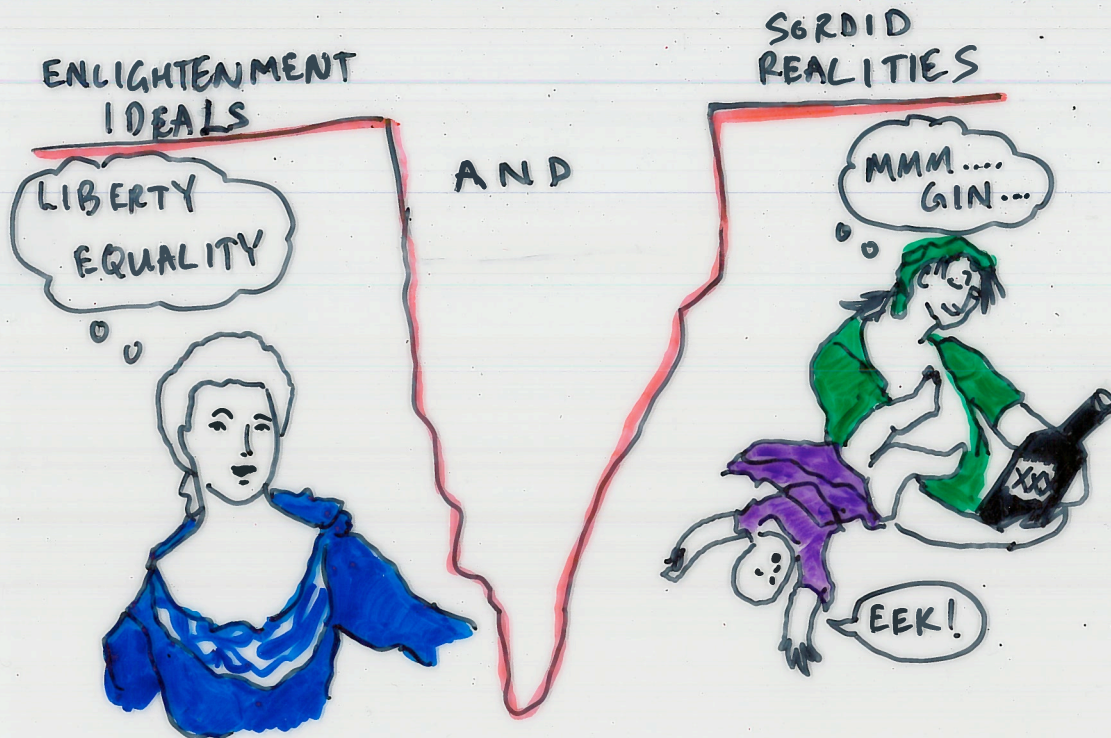
- WRITES EMILE (1762)
- EDUCATION BEGINS  
AT BIRTH
- DIFF. MODELS FOR MEN  
AND WOMEN
- NATURAL CURIOSITY  
OVER POTE LEARNING





18TH CENTURY  
GREATEST AGE  
OF SATIRE

POINTS OUT THE GAP BETWEEN



### SOME SORDID REALITIES

THE  
DIRT ON  
18TH C  
SOCIETY

- Rousseau describes PARIS as dirty, stinking, filthy + slovenly
- Industrialisation + exploitation of labourers (♂ & AND KIDS)
- Slave trade
- Ignorance + Prejudice



# SATIRE

JONATHAN SWIFT - A MODEST PROPOSAL  
(1667-1745)  
EAT BABIES ?!!

VOLTAIRE - CANDIDE

THIS IS THE BEST OF ALL  
POSSIBLE WORLDS ?!

WM. HOGARTH - PAINTER + PRINTMAKER

"THE HARLOT'S PROGRESS"  
"THE RAKE'S PROGRESS"  
"GIN ALLEY"  
"MARRIAGE 'A LA MODE"

NOTE: HAPPENS IN CHINA TOO!

See

LI RUZHEN'S FLOWERS IN THE MIRROR

ABOUT THE ROLE OF WOMEN.