

Chapter 11—Enlightenment and Rococo





The London fire in 1666 decimated the city, homes, churches, etc. 100,000 people were homeless, and yet in the midst of this tragedy, a new city was born.

**While it is important to understand
this tragedy, it is absolutely essential
that you understand this event
in your own lives.**

**Tragedy can produce triumph,
pain can produce promise,
and suffering can produce success.**

**The rebuilt London and along with Paris
were the cultural and artistic centers
of Europe and much of the rest of the world.**

**This was the time that became
the Age of Enlightenment.**

**Isaac Newton demonstrated
rational thought in science.**

The English Enlightenment

**Christopher Wren addressed
the Great Fire
of London as an opportunity
to redesign the city.
200 year later, Chicago had
a great fire also.**



University of Chicago's seal



**Wren redesigned
and built St. Paul's
from 1675-1710.**

**It contains all the various
architectural features
of the past:
Classical, Gothic,
Renaissance, and
Baroque.**









**St. Paul's survived WWII
and the Nazis' bombing of London.**



**Francis Bacon
used inductive
reasoning and
created the
empirical method.**

**He rejected the
notion of using
our senses.**

**He dissed the
“superstition, and
the blind and
immoderate zeal
of religion.”**

**Bacon's *Novum Organum Scientiarum* questions
four sets of mistakes or *Idols*.**

- 1. Idols of the Tribe—we put trust in our senses**
- 2. Idols of the Cave—we put trust in our background**
- 3. Idols of the Market—miscommunications with words**
- 4. Idols of the Theater—buying into philosophical mistakes.**



René Descartes and the Deductive Method

**Descartes had an
opposite opinion on
reasoning, which starts
with the general picture
and reduces it to
particular beliefs or
truths.**

**Descartes believed that
“I think, therefore I am.”**

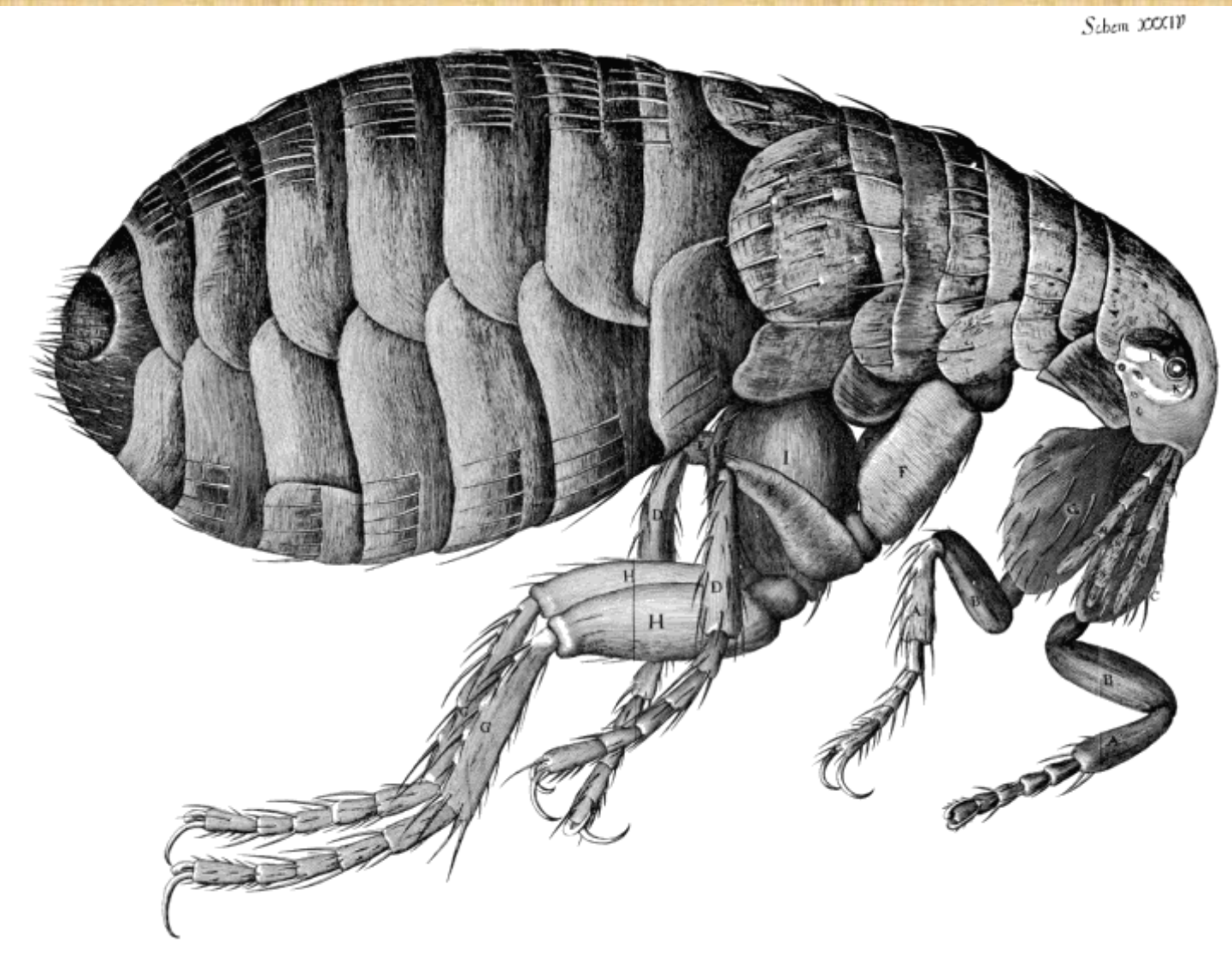
**Descartes and deism are linked.
He didn't buy the notion that God
was just a larger version of us.**

God was “the mathematical order of nature.”

Kepler advanced Copernicus' heliocentric theory over the geocentric cosmos theory held by much of the rest of the world and replaced the notion of the spherical orbits of the planets with the elliptical orbits.

Galileo believed that light traveled at a particular speed, all objects fall at the same rate of acceleration, and saw the much of our solar system via the telescope, etc.

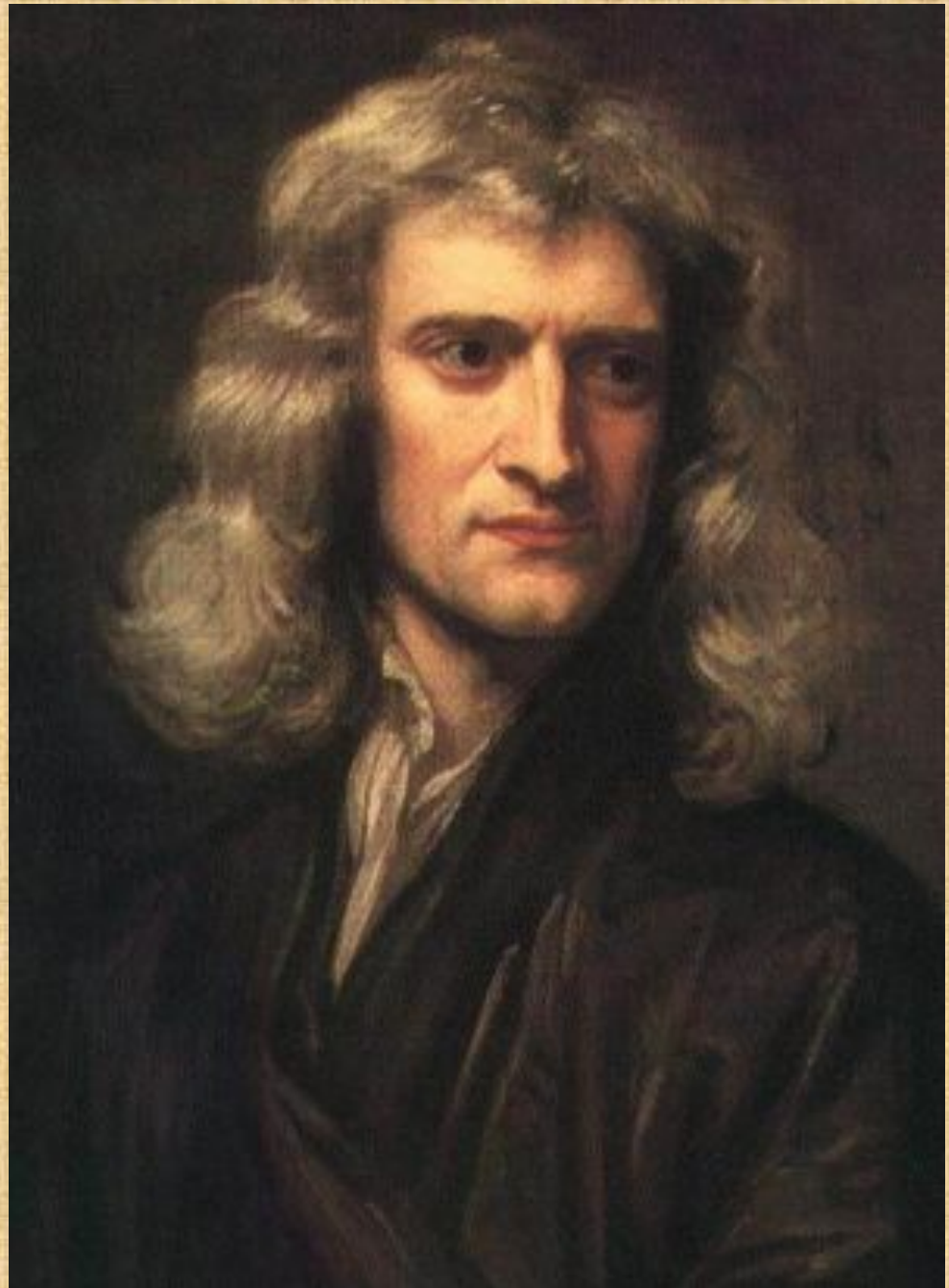
Urban VIII demanded Galileo recant his beliefs.



**Robert Hooke used a compound microscopic to look at nature and coined the word, *cell*.
This is what he saw—a flea.**

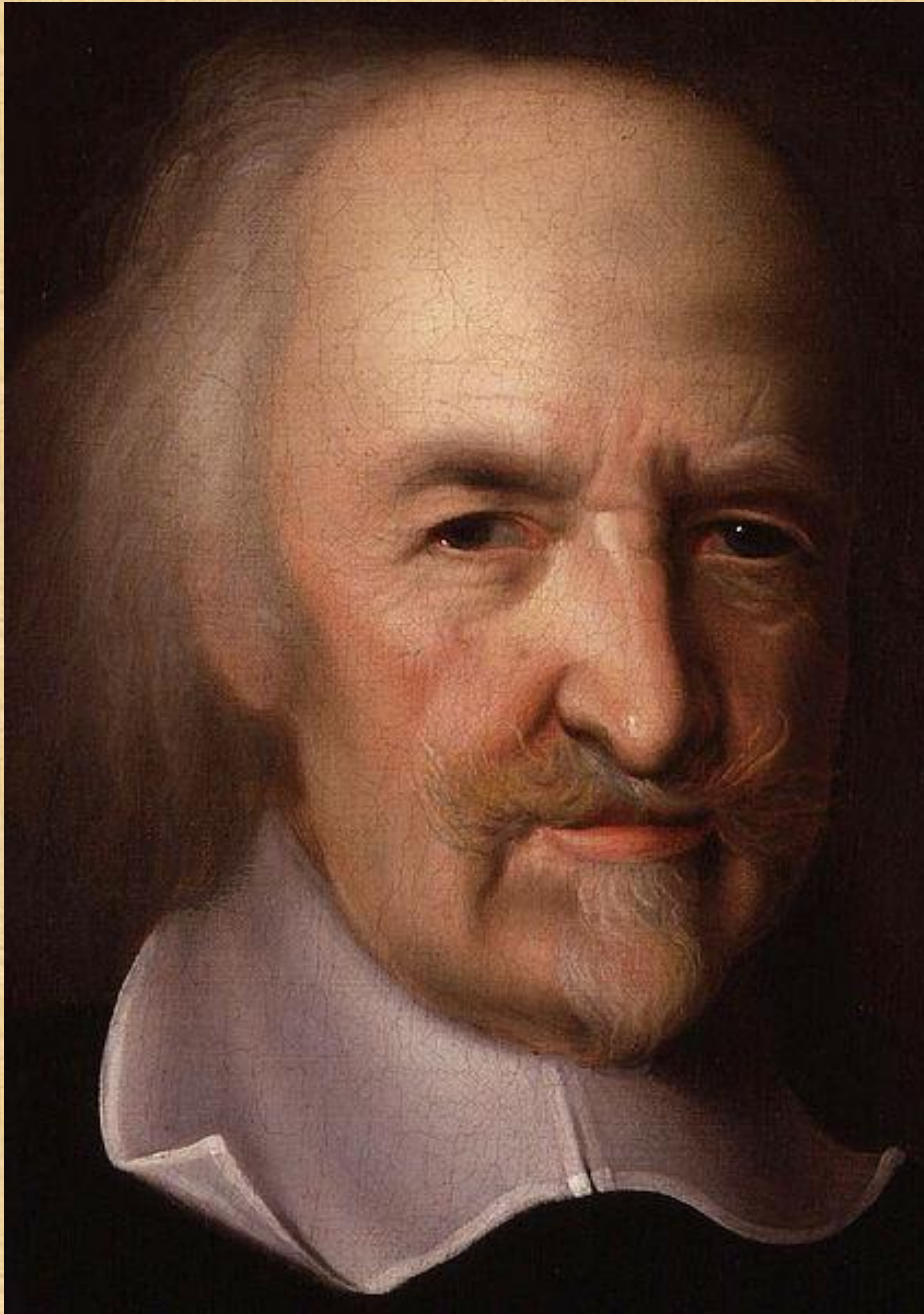
Isaac Newton understood physics and figured the gravitational pull of the sun and of planets.

His idea of order in the universe remained until Einstein first challenged that notion.





**Pritchard's Iron Bridge
1779**

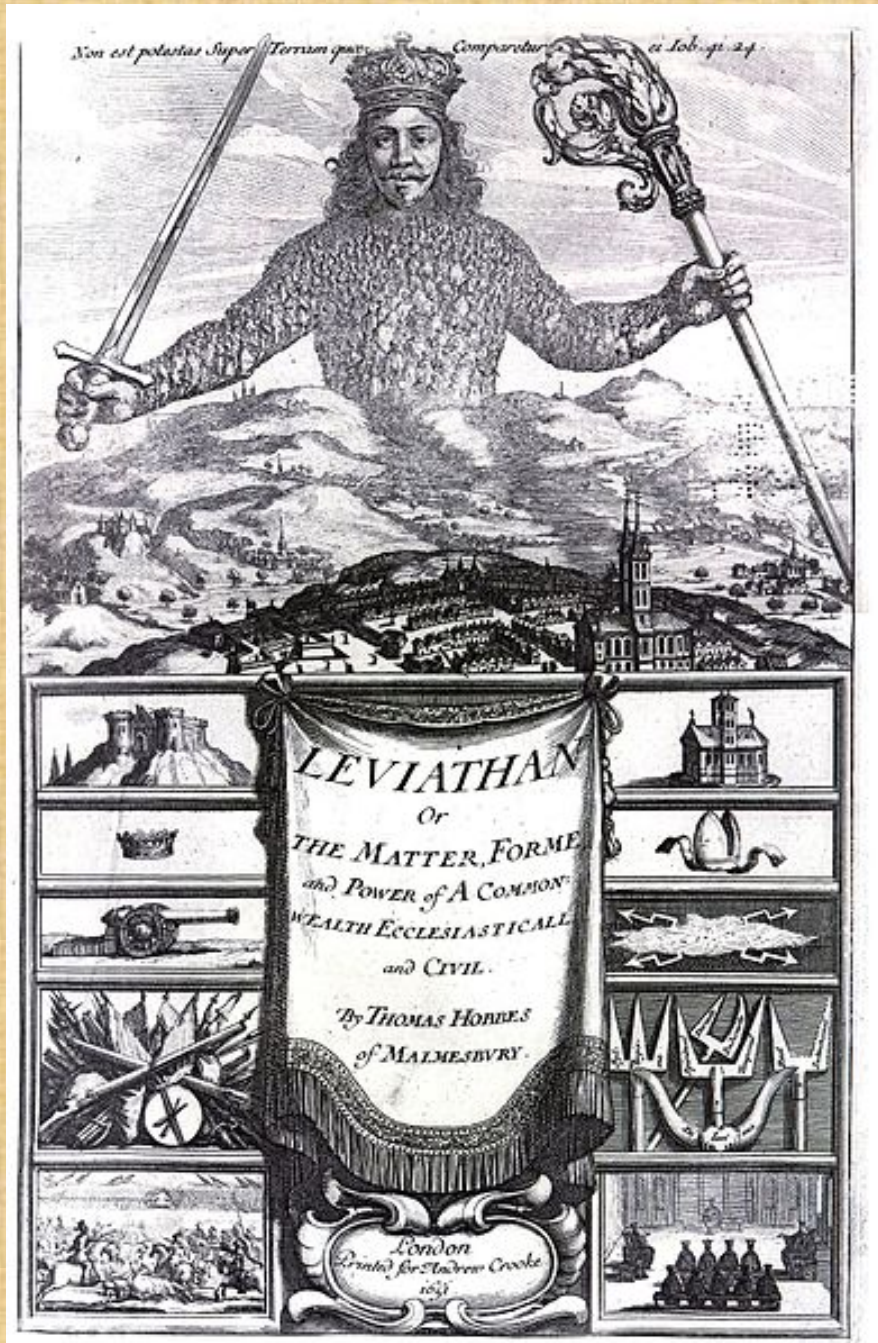


Thomas Hobbes paralleled Galileo's idea that planets rotated around the sun...in that people rotate around their ruler.

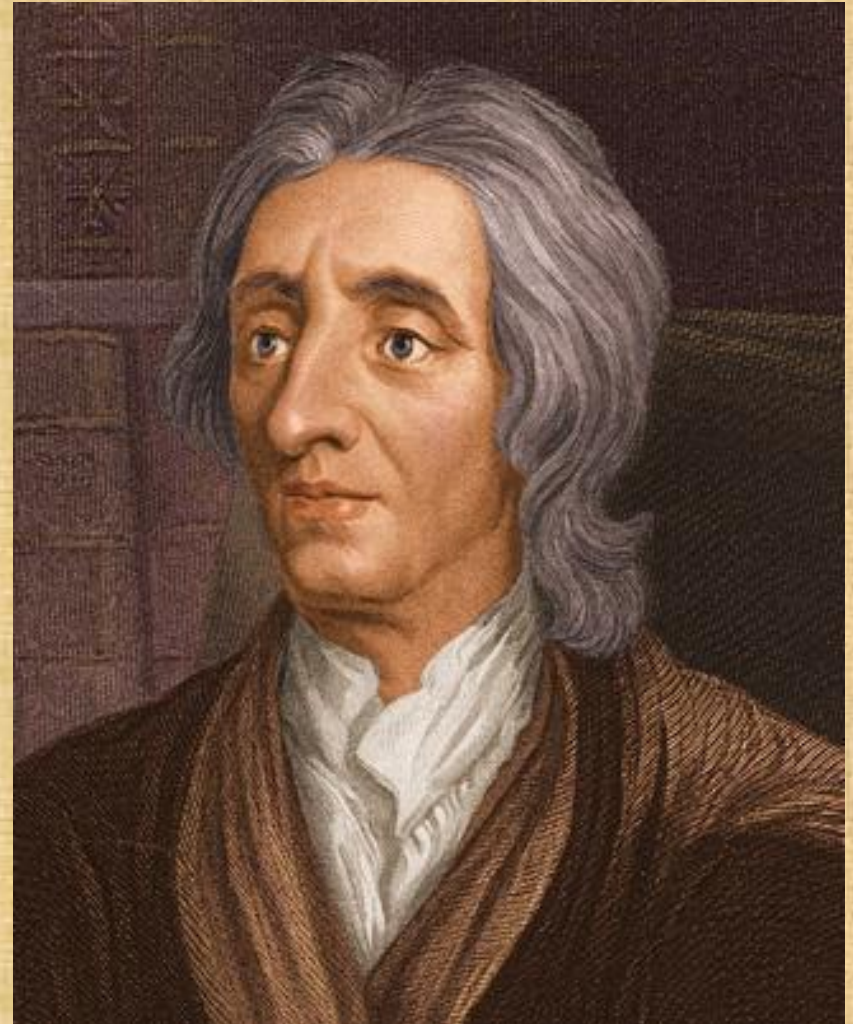
Hobbes pushed for the notion that people fear getting killed and want power. For Hobbes, government stops both.

**Leviathan lays out
Hobbes' social contract
theory...the need for a
strong central
government to avoid
things like the civil
war in England.**

**Without the Leviathan
controlling humans, there
would be a “war of all
against all” or bellum
omnium contra omnes.**

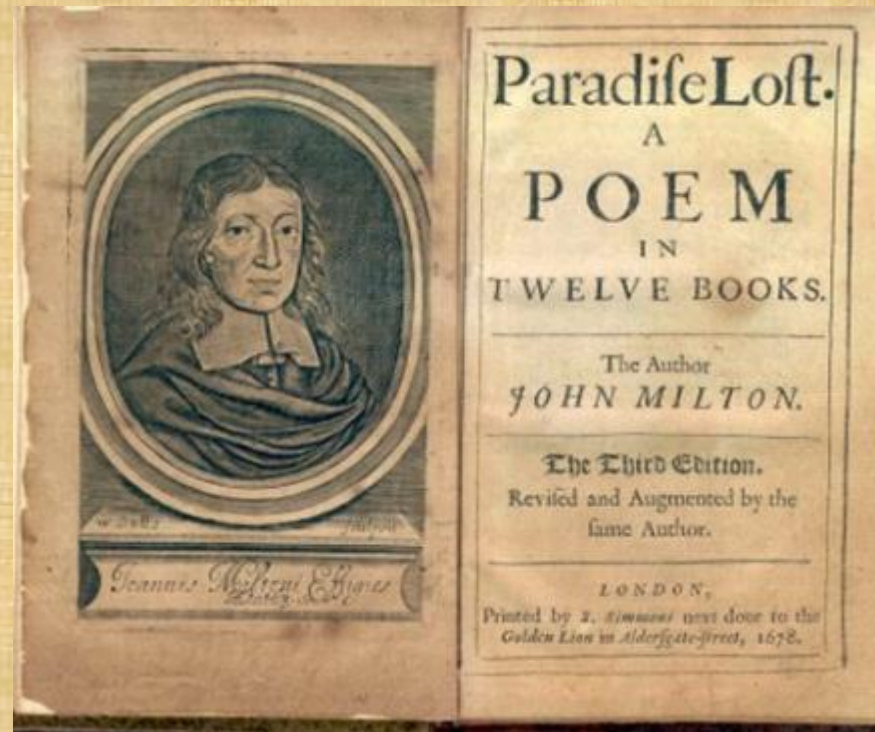


John Locke dealt the concern of Hobbes from a totally different position. Locke's contention was that we enter the world with a *tabula rosa*...and life will write upon it, and that humans have the right to revolt against unfair governments.



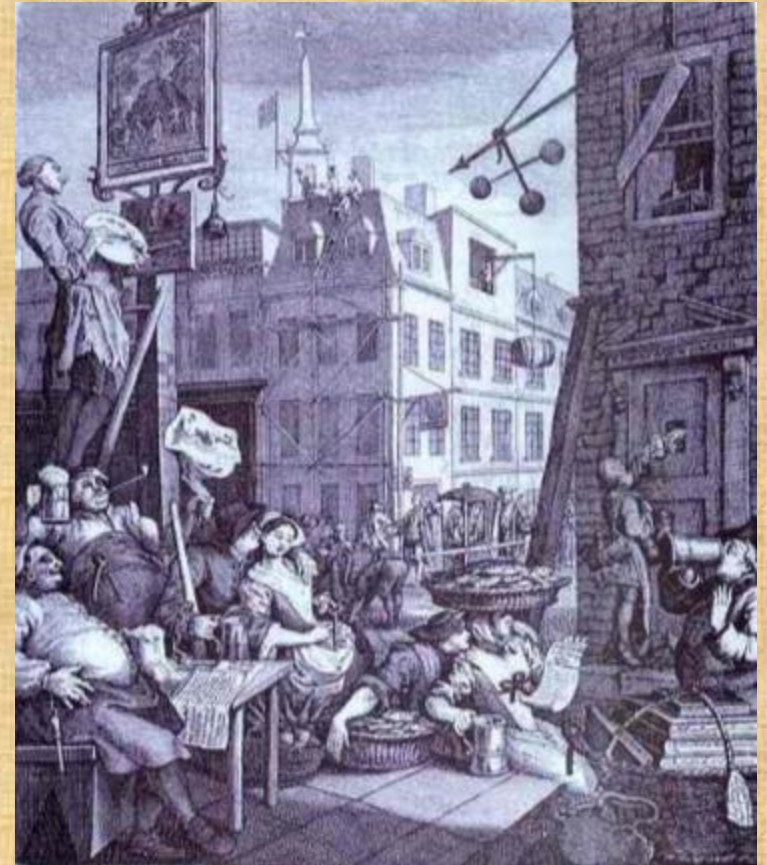


John Milton's *Paradise Lost*



**Milton's *Paradise Lost* attempts
to deal with the absolutism and liberty.**

Hogarth, Swift, and Pope were political satirists of English Enlightenment.



William Hogarth etched all sorts of social concerns: alcoholism, womanizing, poverty, etc.

Hogarth *Cruelty*



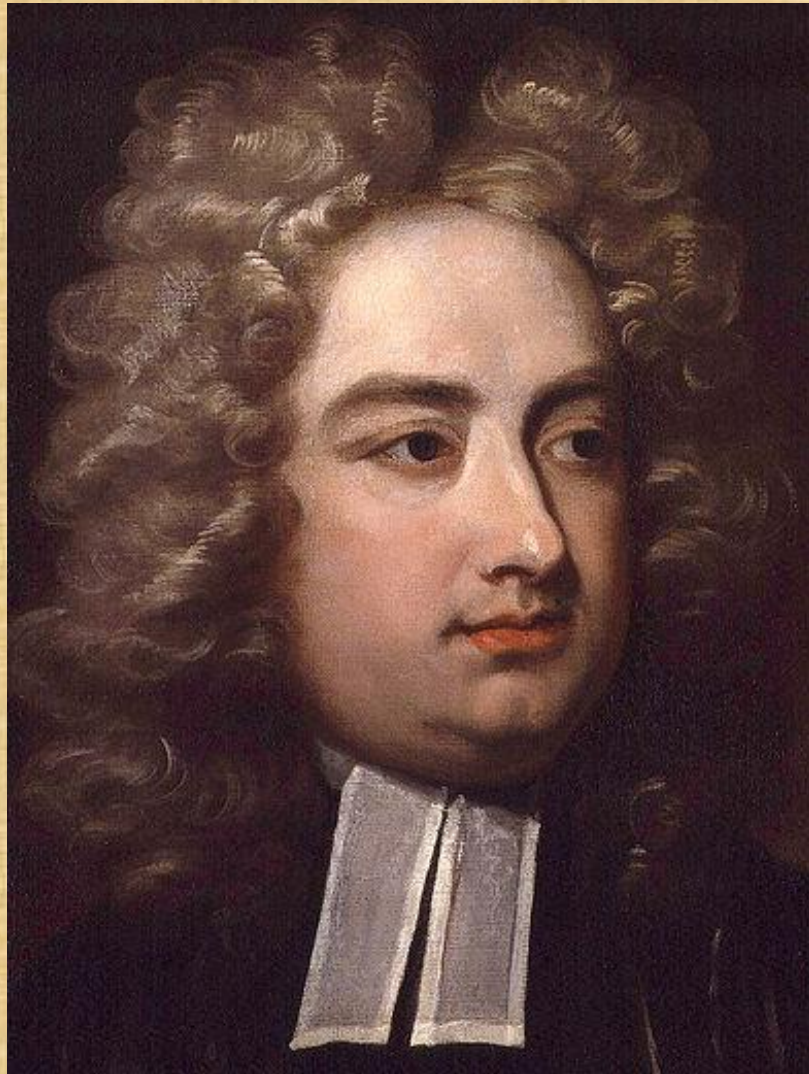
*The English executioner and his wife
With all the wretched wretches
Who are brought to this place to die
By the English law.*

*It is a cruel and barbarous sight
To see all the wretched wretches
Who are brought to this place to die
By the English law.*

*The English executioner and his wife
With all the wretched wretches
Who are brought to this place to die
By the English law.*

Printed according to an Act of Parliament in 1752.

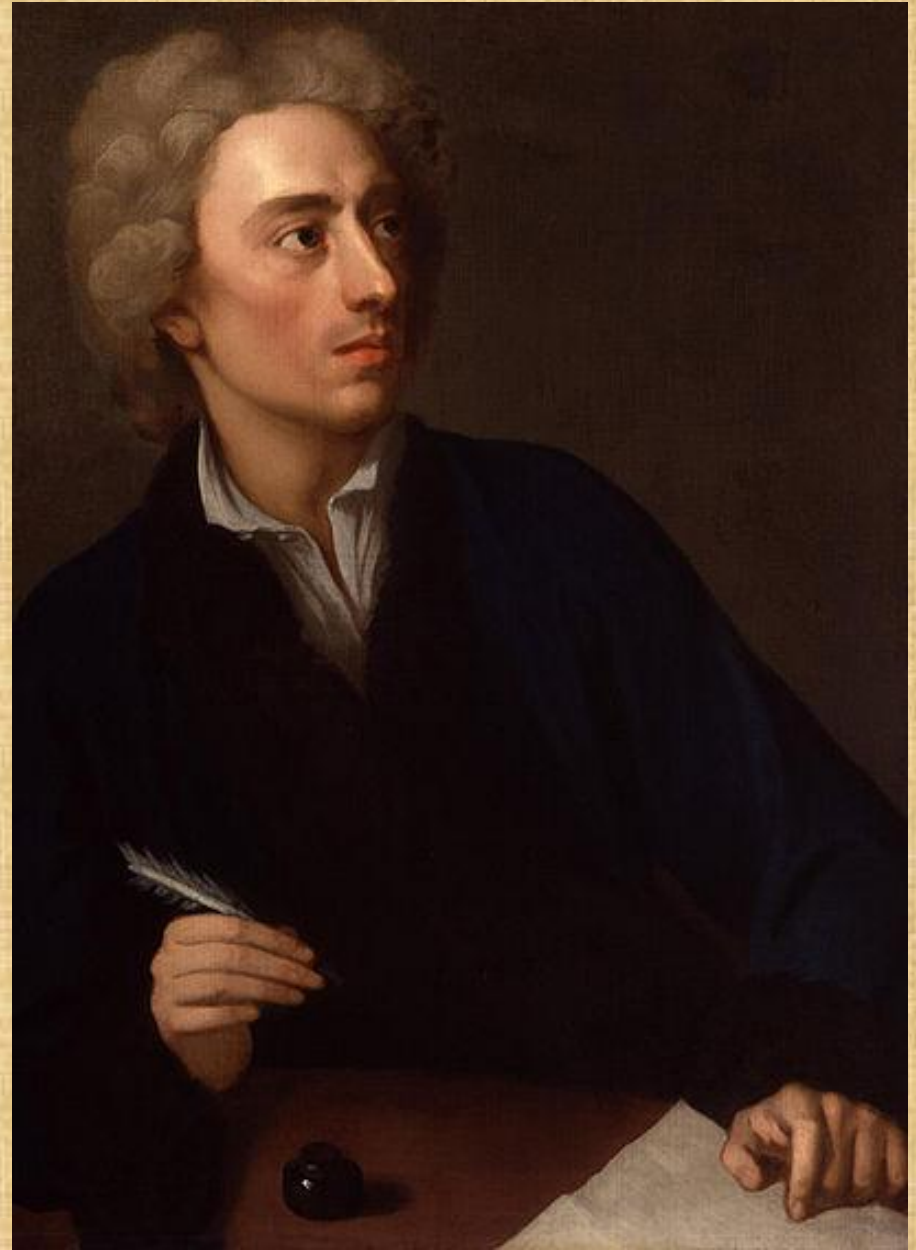
Designed by W. Hogarth



Jonathan Swift in *Gulliver's Travels* and *A Modest Proposal* addressed social issues within England and the problems in Ireland with the British.

**Alexander Pope said
of the two George kings,
“Dunce the second rules
like Dunce the first.”**

**Pope saw failure lurking
in society, but along
with that he also saw
the possibility of success.**





Daniel Defoe wrote several novels. The best known were *Robinson Crusoe* and *Moll Flanders*.



Clark & Powell

THE
L I F E
AND
STRANGE SURPRIZING
ADVENTURES
OF
ROBINSON CRUSOE,
OF *YORK*, MARINER:

Who lived Eight and Twenty Years,
all alone in an un-inhabited Island on the
Coast of *AMERICA*, near the Mouth of
the Great River of *OROONOQUE*;

Having been cast on Shore by Shipwreck, where-
in all the Men perished but himself.

WITH
An Account how he was at last as strangely deli-
ver'd by *PYRATES*.

Written by Himself.

L O N D O N:
Printed for *W. TAYLOR* at the *Ship* in *Pater-Noster-*
Row. **M D C C X I X.**

Defoe based Robinson Crusoe on a Scottish castaway by the name of Alexander Selkirk. He was on Juan Fernandez Island for a handful of years before being rescued.

The actual title of Robinson Crusoe was...

The Life and Strange Surprizing Adventures of Robinson Crusoe, of York, Mariner: Who lived Eight and Twenty Years, all alone in an uninhabited Island on the Coast of America, near the Mouth of the Great River of Oroonoque; Having been cast on Shore by Shipwreck, wherein all the Men perished but himself. With An Account how he was at last as strangely delivered by Pirates.



This is Selkirk's statue in his hometown of Lower Largo, Scotland.

The Enlightenment in France

The salon of the *philosophes* gathering places for thinkers and artists of the time to meet.





Enlightenment and Rococo

- Enlightenment/Rococo started in France in 1715 with the death of Louis 14th and continued for 100 years. It was characterized by dealing and/or not dealing with social issues. Rococo was a developing style during the time since the Late Renaissance and Michelangelo to 18th century.
- Revolutions often occur when things are getting better.
- Technological advancements characterized the period—especially the steam engine, metallurgy, and tools for measurement both here and astronomy.

Enlightenment and Rococo (cont.)

- **Philosophy—Kant, Diderot, Voltaire, Rousseau, and deists**
- **Economics—laissez-faire, Adam Smith**
- **Rococo was art over the top with frolicsome art often tied to sex and related pleasures.**

Enlightenment and Rococo Visual Arts

- **After-thought of the Baroque**
- **Often superficial in theme and style**
- **Aristocracy driven art...graceful, fluffy, pursuit of pleasure, overstated, and out of touch with reality and the world that was about to explode....**

Enlightenment and Rococo Visual Arts

(cont.)

- **In England, it was not so fluffy.**
- **Neo-Classicism was a response to the excavation of Herculaneum and Pompeii. In addition, the ideals of the Roman Republic underpinned the philosophy of Neo-Classicism.**



Watteau *A Embarkation for Cythera* 1717



Fragonard
The Swing



Fragonard
Love Letters
1173

Boucher
The Toilet of Venus
1751





Boucher Diana Leaving the Bath 1742



Denis Diderot

**Of Boucher, Diderot wrote:
“I don’t know what to say about
this man. Degradation of taste,
color, composition, character,
expression, and drawing have
kept pace with moral depravity.
What can we expect this artist
to throw onto canvas? What he
has in his imagination. And
what can be in the imagination
of a man who spends his life
with prostitutes of the basest
kind? ”**



**Diderot liked
Chardin's paintings.**

Jean-Baptiste-Siméon Chardin's self-portrait



Chardin *Woman Cleaning Turnips* 1738



Chardin

Still Life with a Pan, Pepper Pot, Leek and Three Eggs



Chardin
The Water Tank



**Diderot and the rest
of the Philosophes
were desists.**

**He said, “Man will never
be free until the last king
is strangled with the
entrails of the last priest.”**

Chardin A Philosopher Occupied with his Reading 1734

**Jean-Jacques Rousseau
wrote *The Social
Contract* and the concept
of the *noble savage*.**

**His understanding
of slavery was that
monarchs enslave
his/her people.**

**“Man is born free,
and everywhere
he is in chains.”**





Voltaire pushed the notion of an enlightened monarch, but he also satirized many monarchs, which wound him up in prison several times.

**Captain Cook and others
explored the world
unknown to the
Europeans...China,
South Pacific islands, etc.**

**This also included India
and their interest in the
West.**

