

# Philosophers

## Machiavelli

- Italian
  - o 1469-1527
- 1<sup>st</sup> political scientist
  - o Reacting to chaos in Italy
    - City-States were losing power
  - o Admired and studies successful rulers
    - Ideal = Caesar Borgia
  - o Separated politics and religion
    - What strong rulers do, not what they should do
- **The Prince**, 1513
  - o Most lasting book of the Renaissance
  - o Strong rulers
    - Act in their own self-interest
    - Both ruthless and merciful
    - Both forthright and shy
    - Both feared and loved
    - Break promises and treaties
- **Significance:**
  - o Paved way for absolute monarchs
  - o Similar to realpolitik of the 19<sup>th</sup> century
  - o Interested in the ends not the means



## Rene Descartes

- French
  - o 1598-1650
- Deductive reasoning
  - o General to specific
- Mathematical
  - o Inventor of coordinate geometry
- **Discourse on Method**
  - o Doubted all previous knowledge
  - o Cogito ergo sum
    - **"I think, therefore I am"**
    - How to prove what we know
- Paved way for scientific revolution



## Sir Frances Bacon

- English
  - o 1561-1626
- **Scientific method**
- Inductive reasoning
  - o Detail to general
- *Insauratio Magna*
  - o Great renewal
- *Did not understand mathematics*
  - o Reject everything unless you can prove it
  - o Little influence on later scientists
    - But changed the thought process



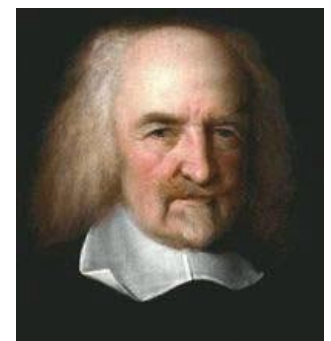
## John Locke

- English
  - o 1632-1704
- Political scientist
  - o [Basis of democracy](#)
- **State of nature**
  - o Man without governments (positive)
  - o Man has basic rights
    - Life
    - Liberty
    - Property
- **Social contract**
  - o Government
  - o To protect the rights of man
  - o People
    - Have right to overthrow the government
- **Two treaties on government**
  - o Book about principle of government
- **Essay Concerning Human Understanding**
  - o When we are born our brain is a “**tabula rasa**”
    - “Clean slate”
    - No innate ideas (nothing before birth)
  - o **Empiricism**
    - Environment shapes experience
    - All knowledge comes from sense experience
    - Idea of equity
- **Beginning of liberalism**
  - o Improve human nature by changing society
  - o Confidence in social programs
    - All able to learn
- **Natural law**
- 17<sup>th</sup> century
- Right vs. wrong (right = natural)
- Universal
  - o No matter of heritage, customs, traditions
  - o Discover natural law through reason
- Law of Nation
  - o Idea used by both Locke and Hobbes



## Thomas Hobbes

- English
  - o 1588-1679
- **State of nature**
  - o Nasty, brutish, quarrelsome and short tempered
  - o No capacity for self-government
  - o Conditions so bad that they led to social contract with the ruler
  - o Chaos
- **Social contract**
  - o Surrender rights and freedom to ruler
  - o Ruler protects from fear and gives order



- Absoluter ruler

### - **Leviathan, 1651**

- Opposed to Glorious Revolution
  - Once a man gives up rights he can never get them back
  - Man cannot overthrow the government because he accepted social contract
    - Not allowed to overthrow
- Disagrees with Glorious Revolution
  - Opposed to the fact that people overthrew James II
  - Government created by man NOT GOD
    - Man gives power to the government
- Absolutist

### **Voltaire**

- French
  - 1694-1778
- **Very popular**- witty, optimistic, **sarcastic**, easiest to read
- **Bourgeois**
- **Accomplishments:**
  - Wrote 70+ books
- **Candide**
  - Mocked nobility and philosophers
  - “Tend your own garden”
  - Religious view:
    - **Deist...**
      - Great watchmaker in the sky
      - God made a watch (earth)... stuck it out and left it alone
        - God made it but is not involved in daily affairs
    - Does not believe in worship
    - Believed in religious tolerance
    - Criticized organized church
      - *Christ* = religious fanatic
      - *Bible* = bunch of lies
      - *Miracles* = bunch of lies
      - Clergy was more concerned with privilege and power than morals
      - *Christianity* = history of religious persecution in the name of god
- **Political views:**
  - BEST government = **Enlightened monarchy**
  - Need strong government
    - People too stupid to rule themselves
  - Ruler should be enlightened
  - Democracy is okay... but not for France
    - Government should fight stupidity and laziness
  - Keep church weak
  - Protect freedom of thought, religion, and press
- **Social views:**
  - Source of problems = nobility
    - Get rid of titles of nobility
  - Opposed to slavery
  - Freedom of thought and press



- Opposed to censorship
  - “I do not believe in what you say, but I will defend to the death, for your right to say it”

## Montesquieu

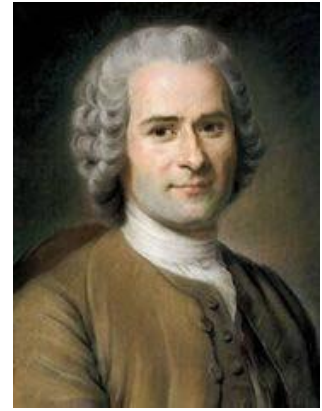
- French
  - 1689-1755
  - **Aristocrat**
- **Political scientist**
  - Studied different governments and culture
    - Concluded that none of them were perfect, but all have good characteristics
  - Critical of absolute monarchy
    - *Admired **British** (**constitutionalism** – law is the highest, not the king or ruler)*
  - Balance of power
    - Wanted to have a little of every government
- **Separation of power** (“**Spirit of the Laws**” 1748)
  - COMPARED GOVERNMENTS, needs branches
    - Legislative
    - Executive
    - Judicial
    - To prevent abuse of power (balance of powers)
      - **Constitution of USA**
- Very interested in law
  - Everybody must obey law (even king)
    - “Liberty is doing whatever the laws allow”
- “**Persian Letters**” ...book
  - Criticized nobles
  - Men are better... **but women are capable** ... good or separation of power
    - Travel log
      - Persians traveling throughout Europe sending letters back home
      - Escapes censorship this way
- Forms of government may vary with climate???
  - Despotism – hot climate
  - Democracy – cooler climates
- **Social views:**
  - Opposed to slavery
  - Violated natural laws
- **Religious views:**
  - Not very religious
  - Church useful for balance of power
    - Pope = magician
  - AGAINST DIVINE RIGHT
    - Power comes from the people



## Rousseau

- Swiss
  - Lived in France
  - 1712-1788
- Very poor
  - Misfit, not very popular
  - Sold his kids and wife for cash

- **Publications:**
  - o “Emile” – life, education (**empirical**)
  - o “Confessions” – society (1782)
  - o “Social Contract” – government
- **Religious views:**
  - o Catholic/ protestant (**religious**)
  - o Not Deist
  - o Tolerant
  - o Believed in empiricism
- Political views:
  - o Most democratic
    - Man is capable of ruling himself
    - Faith in common man
  - o Government should reflect the “**general will**” - majority
    - Pure democracy – everyone would directly participate
  - o Separation of powers
    - Some separation



### Robert Owen

- British
  - o 1771-1858
- Owned a cotton factory
  - o 2 Goals
    - Make a profit
    - Treat workers well
- *New Lanark, Scotland*
  - o Experimental industrial community
  - o Textile mill
  - o Good working conditions
    - High wages
    - Decent housing
    - Schools
    - Stores (buy goods at fair prices)
  - o Successful for short time only
    - Later on it fell apart
  - o Tried again
    - *New Harmony, Indiana*
      - Experimental agricultural community
      - Good working conditions
      - Failed
        - o Workers didn't work as hard
        - o Workers took advantage of it
    - Could not sell
  - o Equality for women



### Charles Fourier

- French
  - o 1772-1837
- Philanthropist
- Rival of Saint – Simon
- Art of selling = practice of lying and deception

- Started businesses that failed
- Wanted a free society from bourgeoisie individualism
- 810 personality types
- Goals
  - To create a community in which people work together for the good of all, self-sufficient
  - Agricultural community
    - **Phalanx** = community
      - Self sufficient
      - Farm and workshop
      - Had to be specific size (1620 people)
        - One man and one woman of each personality type
      - Channel “passions”
        - Do jobs that you are best at or work that you enjoyed
          - Example: criminals should be butchers
      - Rotate the jobs often
        - Kids will do the dirty work
    - Share all profits
    - “Phalanstery” = place where utopians would live
      - None were ever created in France
      - A few were made in other countries
        - Not through Fourier himself
          - In United States
          - Brook Farm – in Massachusetts (1842-1847)
  - Fourier needed funding
- Failed



### Louis Blanc

- French
  - 1811-1882
- Political scientist/ Utopian
  - Goal
    - Wanted to great social workshops run by workers
      - “Right to work”
    - Guaranteed by the government
  - **The Organization of Work**
    - Published
    - Use of competition to eliminate competition
  - Universal suffrage
- **Workers party**
  - **Social workshops**
    - State would help workers
    - “From each according to his ability, to each according to his need”
      - Talking about getting paid
      - Society needs all types of people... as long as they all try as hard as they can, but pay people according to need



### Gottfried von Herder

- German
  - 1744-1803



- Concerning the Origins of Speech
- Cultural organization
  - o Ethnic origin
- Volkgeist
  - o People's spirit
  - o Every nation has its own volkgeist
  - o Helped spread German nationalism



### Johann Gottlieb Fichte

- German
  - o 1744-1814
- Philosopher
  - o Formation of Natural rights
  - o Approved of French Revolution + terror
  - o "German Idealism"
- Foundations of Natural Rights
  - o Published
  - o Self-consciousness
  - o Picked up and took over Volkgeist
    - German people were always different
      - Inspired aggressive nationalism



### Friedrich Hegel

- German
  - o 1770-1831
- Applied logic to philosophy
  - o His works have a wide range of interpretations
- "Single most difficult philosopher to understand"
- Science of Logic
  - o Dialectic
  - o "Speculative reasoning"
    - Thesis + Antithesis = Synthesis
    - Idea vs. Opposite = Merger = Next thesis
- His works have been interpreted as justifications for revolutions around the world, and have been studied by many successful leaders and political activists



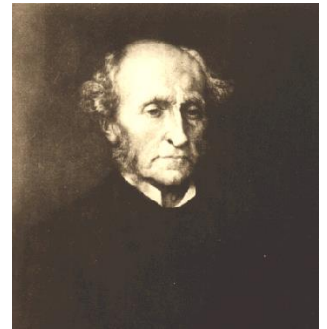
### Friedrich Nietzsche

- German
  - o 1844-1900
- Nihilism
  - o Existence is meaningless
  - o Destruction of existing Gov./ social institutions is necessary for future growth and improvement
    - Secular – "Death of God"
- The Antichrist, 1888
  - o Similar to the anarchist beliefs, his outlooks were adopted by several reformists, socialists, and anarchist groups



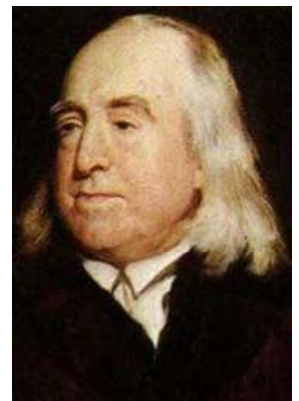
## John Stuart Mill

- English
  - o 1806-1873
- **Utilitarianism**, 1861
  - o Make working class a part of politics
  - o Improve living and working conditions
  - o More liberal
    - Individual freedom
    - Women's rights
    - Universal suffrage (for women too)
    - Protect women and children workers
    - Education by the state
    - Protested Laissez Faire
      - Against classical economics
      - Women and children taken advantage of
      - Working class suffers
  - o Notable thinker of 19<sup>th</sup> century liberalism



## Jeremy Bentham

- English
  - o 1748-1832
- **Utilitarianism**
  - o Greatest good for the greatest number of people
    - Requires government regulation of economy to protect the one who are being hurt
  - o Individual economic freedoms
- 19<sup>th</sup> century Liberalism
  - o Women's rights
  - o Government control of monopolies
  - o Bentham was on od the first devoted supporters of utilitarianism and he instilled his beliefs in many of his followers and supporters, one being John Stuart Mill



## Edmund Burk

- Irish
  - o 1729-1797
- Member of the British parliament
  - o Fought against abuse and misgovernment
- Against natural rights
  - o ***Reflections of the Revolutions of France***
    - Encourages rulers to resist revolutions
- Whig party
  - o Supported American colonies against King George III
    - Opposed to the pro-revolutionary "New Whigs" led by Fox
- "Father of Modern Conservatism"



## Jean Paul Sartre

- French
  - o 1905-1980
- Philosopher, playwright

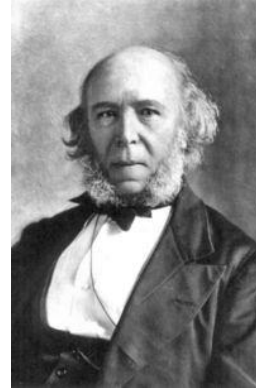




- **Existentialism**
  - o Absurdity of existence
- **Nausea**, 1938
  - o Most famous work
  - o Makes connections between animate and inanimate worlds
    - “Father of Existentialism”

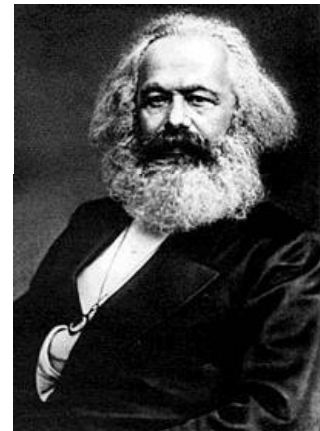
### Herbert Spencer

- English
  - o 1820-1903
- Liberal philosopher/ political scientist
  - o “Father of Social Darwinism”
    - *Survival of the fittest*
- **Social Darwinism**
  - o Applied Darwin’s theory to society
  - o The strong have the right to abuse the weak
    - Justified class structure
    - Imperialistic (global impact)



### Karl Marx

- German
  - o 1818-1883
- Critic of Utopians
  - o Said Utopians = naïve, unscientific
- **Scientific socialist**
  - o Used historical and economical evidence
    - Expelled from France
  - o Studied **Hegel**
- **Friedrich Engels**
  - o Partner
- **Capitalism = stage**
  - o Class struggle
    - 18<sup>th</sup> century = Nobles vs. bourgeoisie
    - 19<sup>th</sup> century = Bourgeoisie vs. Proletariat
    - *Have’s and Have nots*
      - Winner = methods of production
- Capitalism → Proletariat overthrows Bourgeoisie → Socialism → Pure Communism
- **Marx’ Flaws:**
  - o Classless society not possible
  - o Government got bigger instead of disappear
  - o Underestimated religion
  - o Industrial societies will be first to take up Marxism
  - o Human = economic animal
  - o Underestimated unions and capitalism



### Vladimir Lenin

- Russian
  - o 1870-1924
- Political scientist

- **What is to Be Done?**
- Outline for a revolutionary party
  - Elite group of intellectuals would lead the party
- Radical
  - Revolutionary action
- Russian revolution (leader)
  - Reformist Marxist → Leninists communist
  - Party led by Elite
  - Government = communist party
    - Government = owns all industry and business



### Jean Bodin

- French
  - 1530-1596
- Underlying principles of absolutism
  - Believed in divine right
- Calvinist
- Analyzed sovereignty of a state
  - Comes from supernatural power



### Bishop Bossuet

- French
  - 1627-1704
- Studied politics and theology
  - Ruler's authority comes from God alone
    - Not a contract
  - Divine Right of kings
- Tutor of Louis XIV



### Martin Luther

- German
  - 1483-1546
- Monk
- Critical of church's corruption and superstition
- **Ninety-Five Theses**, 1517
  - List of complaints
  - Complaint to Tetzel, main monk in charge of selling indulgences
  - Nailed to church; initially didn't want to break with church
    - Wanted to have a debate
- **Beliefs:**
  - **Priesthood of all believers**
    - Individual does not need a priest
  - **Bible = main authority**
    - PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD
  - **Justification (salvation) by faith alone**
    - One thing to be saved in a deep faith
    - No need of church, prayer, or sacrament
  - ALL you need is deep love for God
    - Good faith brings good things
  - **Transubstantiation**
    - Priests turn bread and wine into blood and flesh of God



- Didn't say that it was just symbolic
  - God presents in it, because God present everywhere
- **Reduced 7 sacraments to 2**
  - Baptism and communion (bread and wine)
  - **Against**
    - Pilgrimages
    - Fasts
    - Masses
    - Saints
    - Monasticism; monks
    - Celibacy for clergy
- **Appealed to:**
  - Princes
  - German particularism/ liberties
    - We are now allowed to take all of church property
  - Masses
    - Got a sense of standing up to authority
      - Peasants Revolts 1524-1525
        - Luther horrified

## John Calvin

- French
  - 1509-1564
- **Institutes of the Christian Religion**
  - Famous book
    - Appealed to reason/ logic
    - Most comprehensive explanation of Protestant belief
      - Thought world was in moral crisis
      - Worries about "good works" (for church) How much??
    - Wanted to make sure that he got to heaven
      - Simplicity
      - Rejected iconoclasm
- **Beliefs**
  - **Similar to Luther**
  - Recognized same abuses of church
    - Opposed to celibacy of clergy
    - No monastic orders
    - Priests not necessary
  - Admired simple piety
    - **Bible = only source of Christian doctrine**
      - PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD
  - **Rejected transubstantiation**
    - Communion = symbolic
  - **Rejected bishops**
  - **Salvations by election**
    - Those who should be in charge of the state
  - **Universal, Expansionist appeal**
    - Not just Germany, like Luther
    - **Puritanical approached to life**
      - Puritans who came to the New World were Calvinists

- **Calvin's Tulip**
  - T: Total Depravity
    - Man full of sin, incapable of saving himself
  - U: Unconditional election
    - God chooses the elect unconditionally, not chose on basis of merit, Predestination
  - L: Limited atonement
    - Only the elect can share in Christ's sacrifice
  - I: Irresistible grace
    - When God choose to save someone, he will
  - P: Perseverance of saints
    - The elect cannot loose their elect status
- Spread of Calvinism
  - Switzerland
    - Basel, Geneva, Zurich, Bern
  - Scotland
    - John Knox/ *Presbyterian*
  - France
    - *Huguenots*
  - England
    - *Puritans*
  - Holland
    - *Puritans* fled
  - New World
    - *Puritans* fled again
  - SPREAD MUCH FURTHER THAN LUTHERANISM
- **Weber Thesis**
  - Max Weber = German sociologist
    - Calvinism led to development of Capitalism
      - Calvinism encouraged to work hard and save money
      - Encouraged reinvesting money
      - Protestant work ethic
- **Calvinism and democracy**
  - Never venerated the state
    - Self – governing
    - Formed covenants
      - Mayflower Compact
    - Made constitutions
    - Protected minorities
    - Emphasized honest work
      - Root of development of democracy



## Henry VIII

- English
  - 1491-1547
- Wanted a divorce, but the church would not give it to him
- Established Anglican Church
  - *Act of Supremacy*
    - Anglicanism
    - Ruler became head of Anglican Church
    - Later became more puritan/ Protestant



## Erasmus

- Dutch
  - o 1466-1536
- The greatest Christian Humanist
  - o Copied the style of the Latin
    - Rejected Middle Ages
- Interested in behavior and morality
  - o Used satire in writing – to expose weakness of the church
    - Talked about peace, education
- Critical of hypocrisy
  - o NEVER totally rejected the church
- *In Praise of Folly*
  - o Criticized clergy
  - o His most famous book
    - Satirical, makes fun of church values



## Ignatius Loyola

- Spanish
  - o 1491-1556
- Started society of Jesuits
  - o Scholarly priests
  - o Mission: spread Catholicism, halt Protestant Reformation
- *Spiritual Exercises*
  - o Published
  - o Became a saint
  - o The Jesuit later set up societies in the colonized world to convert the indigenous people to Christianity



## John Wycliffe

- English
  - o 1328-1384
- Prior to the reformation
  - o During the “Great Schism”
    - Controversy over having more than one Pope
      - Asked for reforms within the church
        - o Paved the way for the reformation



## John Hus

- Czech
  - o 1369-1415
- Religious reformer
  - o Studied Wycliffe
    - Opposed to the Papal schism
      - Excommunicated by the church and later burned at the stake
- Council of Constance



### Sir Thomas More

- English
  - o 1478 – 1535
- Lawyer, politician
- Northern Humanist
- Wrote **Utopia**
  - o Refused to give Henry VIII a divorce and got executed
    - Later became saint



### Huldreich Zwingli

- Swiss
  - o 1484- 1531
- Iconoclast (no icon)
  - o Similar to Calvin
- Believed that the Eucharist was a symbol
  - o Literal interpretation of the Bible
- Died in battle



### John Tetzel

- Germanic
  - o 1465-1519
- Studied religion, gained high rank in the church
- Sale of indulgencies
  - o Fraud
  - o Excused sins for money
  - o Corruption of the clergy
    - Made many people dissatisfied
    - Caused Martin Luther to write the 95 Theses



### Theodor Herzl

- Austrian
  - o 1860-1904
- Jewish
  - o Father of **Zionism**
- Creation of a modern Jewish state
  - o Politically active
    - Tried to achieve success
  - o Attended conferences
  - o Started activist groups



### Baruch Spinoza

- Dutch
  - o 1632-1677
- Criticized the Bible
  - o Born Jewish, but questioned
- **Pantheism**
  - o God is everywhere
  - o God and nature are equal





### Gottfried Leibniz

- German
  - o 1646-1716
- Very intelligent and well educated
  - o Studied mathematics
  - o Very successful
  - o Formulated calculus independently of Newton
    - Crucial contributor to the advancement of mathematical science



### Immanuel Kant

- German
  - o 1724-1804
- One of the greatest philosophers of all time
- ***Critique of Pure Reason***, 1781
  - o Rationalism
    - Gathering rational input
    - Came up with a series of rational formulations
- Studied excessively even today
  - o Studied by later influential figures



### Auguste Comte

- French
  - o 1798-1857
- Believed in the promise of science
  - o 3 stages
    - Theological
    - Metaphysical
    - Positive
- **Positivism**
  - o Facts more vital than theory
    - Applications for the scientific method

