

SOCIAL CRITICS, REFORMERS, AND PHILOSOPHERS

Plato, The Republic, (c. 340 b.c.)- sets forth his idea of the perfect society; is the first "utopia" in literature.

Aristotle, Politics, Ethics. (c. 340 B.C)- Syllogism, Aristotelian philosophy, metaphysics, zoological classifications.

Ptolemy, Almagest, (c.140 b.c.)- explains his system of the Earth as stationary and the center of the universe; was the standard textbook in astronomy until Copernicus refuted his ideas.

St. Augustine, Confessions, (c. 376)- his autobiography, in which he repents his wild youth. City of God

Boethius, The Consolation of Philosophy, (c.520)- Latin treatise whose popularity advanced Greek philosophy to the early centuries of the Middle Ages.

Mohammed, the Koran (c.630)-the Islamic creed revealed to Mohammed the Prophet of God; one of the most influential books ever written.

Aquinas, St. Thomas, Summa Theological (1267-1273)- an explanation of theology on philosophical principles of Aristotle; this teaching influenced religious philosophy in the Middle Ages, asserting that the existence of God can be proved logically.

Desiderius, Erasmus, In Praise of Folly (1509)- a satirical treatise on behalf of humanism which led to religious reform and cultural enlightenment.

More, Sir Thomas, Utopia, (Latin, 1516;English translation, 1551)-pictures and ideal state founded on reason.

Luther, Martin, 95 Theses (1517)-"Justification by Faith"; stopped Church abuses; no revolutions against governments.

Calvin, John, Institutes of Christian Religion(1536)- Predestination; theocracy in Geneva.

Montaigne, Michel de, Essays, (c.1572)- Developed new genre; humanist and septic;"know thyself"

Bodin,Jean, The Republic(1576)-Advocated principles of absolutism and church/state separation in France.

Hobbes, Thomas, Leviathan (1651)- Developed theory of social contract; supported absolutism.

Bossuet, Bishop Jacques -Statecraft (Politique) Prawn from the Very Words of the Holy Scriptures(1675?) and Discourse on Universal History(1681) Quoted from Bible to defend absolutism and divine rights for French monarchy.

Locke, John, Essay on Human Understanding(1690)- Repudiates the doctrine of innate ideas, and propounds the idea that all men are equal and independent; influenced the philosophers of the eighteenth century and revolutions.

Voltaire, Francois, English Letters (1734)- praised the English system of representative government; initiated the popularity of English philosophy and science that led to French Enlightenment. Candide (1759) -a philosophical romance which is a satire on the traditional philosophy of his time; advocates realism and common sense in dealing with political problems.

Montesquieu, Charles, The Spirit of the Laws (1748)- explored three types of government: republic, monarchy, and despotism; advocates that the powers of government should be separated into three distinct branches, providing "check and balance."

Rousseau, Jean Jacques, The Social Contract (1762)- analyses the basis of society; advocates return to a natural justice among men; contains the famous sentence "Man is born free, and everywhere he is in chains,"; influenced the political thinking that led to modern democracy in government. Emile, a novel about education.

Beccaria, Cesare- Italian, Treatise on Crime and Punishment, (1764), which became the basis of the modern science of the modern penal code.

Diderot, Denis, Encyclopedie (1776)- French philosopher and social critic. Edited the Encyclopedie, which was the most detailed compilation of human knowledge up to that time.

Smith, Adam, The Wealth of Nations (1776) - declares that a laissez-faire economy would work in the interest of the greatest public welfare.

- Kant, Immanuel**, Critique of Pure Reason (1778)- German metaphysical philosopher whose writings influenced many areas of philosophy.
- Bentham, Jeremy** (1789)- English ;political theorist; founded utilitarianism, which is a philosophy trying to provide the greatest happiness of the greatest number.
- Burke, Edmond**, Reflections on the Revolution in France (1790)- attacks liberalism in politics, becoming the basis of conservative philosophy after the Revolution.
- Paine, Thomas**, Rights of Man (1792)- An eloquent defense of the aims and achievements of the French Revolution.
- Wollstonecraft, Mary**, Vindication of the Rights of Woman (1792)- Basic text of modern feminist movement; dedicated to Tallyrand to acknowledge his support for universal primary education for both sexes; opposed Rousseau's attitude towards females as "slaves" for males.
- de Gouges, Olympe**, The Declaration of the Rights of woman and the Female Citizen (1791)- A revision of the "Declaration of the Rights of Man" written to include women.
- Malthus, Thomas Robert**, English political economist: Essay on Population (1798)- which says poverty is unavoidable since population increases by a geometric ratio.
- Saint-Simon, Count Henri de** (published in 1820's)- French social utopian philosopher who influenced rise of socialism; desired a federation of European nations.
- Comte, Auguste**, Positivistic Catachism (1852)- French philosopher who developed a religion of humanity and a "positive" hierarchy of values; founder of field of sociology.
- Hegel, Georg**, German philosopher; Philosophy of Right (1821) influenced Marx's dialectical analysis ideas and Satre's writings on existentialism.
- Owen, Robert** (1771-1837)- English social reformer and utopian socialist; pioneered the cooperative movement.
- Fourier, Charles** (1772-1837)- French philosopher; advocated utopian socialism.
- Ricardo, David**- Three works (with very long titles) about classical economies, influenced by Adam Smith, written in early 1800's; pessimistic view of economies led to his "iron law of wages."
- Fichte, Johann**, Addresses to the German Nation (1808) supported concept of a German spirit more noble than that of other peoples; inspired German nationalism.
- Mazzini, Giuseppe**, wrote series of letters in support of Italian nationalism in mid-1800's; started "Young Italy" organization.
- Schopenhauer, Arthur**, German philosopher, The World as Will and Idea (1819)- formulated a philosophy of pessimism which became highly influential in the latter 19th century.
- Mill, John Stuart**, English : economist Essay on Liberty (1859)- advocated proportional representation, emancipation of women, and describes inherent limitations of liberty.
- Marx, Karl and Friedrich Engels**, Communist Manifesto (1848)- gives Marxist appeal to all workers to unite in the struggle against capitalistic exploitation. Marx also wrote Das Kapital, three volumes (1867, 1885, 1895) which provide economic and social history as a basis for "scientific" socialism.
- Spencer, Herbert**, The Synthetic Philosophy (c.1860-1896)- Comprehensive statement on laws of progress in physics, biology, sociology, psychology, economics and ethics; believed in individual over society, and science over religion. Supported social welfare.
- Nietzsche, Friedrich** (1844-1900)- German philosopher: Thus Spake Zarathustra and other works later influenced G.B. Shaw and Hitler.
- Hitler, Adolph**, Mein Kampf (1923)- sets forth aims of Nazism: racial superiority and anti-democracy, and "lebensraum" for Germans.
- Spengler, Oswald**, German political philosopher: Decline of the West (1929)- predicts the conquest of a declining West by the Mongolian races. Western Civilization is approaching the end of its life cycle.