RS Notes: Enlightenment Ideas

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Idea | Thinker | Impact | Book |
| Women’s Equality | Mary Wollstonecraft | Women’s rights groups form in Europe and North America. US Constitution 19th Amendment (women’s right to vote). | *A Vindication of the Rights of Women* |
| Natural Rights- life, liberty, and property | John Locke | Fundamental to US Declaration of Independence. | *Two Treatises of Government* |
| Separation of powers (3 branches of gov’t) | Charles Montesquieu | France, US, Latin American nations use separation of powers in new constitutions. | *The Spirit of Laws* |
| Freedom of thought and expression (speech) | Voltaire | Guaranteed in US Bill of Rights & French Dec. of Rights of Man. European monarchs reduce or eliminate censorship | Ideas in more than 70 books & essays |
| Right to rebel | John Locke | Fundamental to US Declaration of Independence and American Revolution. | *Two Treatises of Government* |
| Social Contract (people agree to be governed) | Thomas Hobbes | The use of a periodic, consistent vote throughout all democratic nations. | *Leviathan* |
| Social Contract (people governed by general will) | Jean-Jacques Rousseau | “We the People” (US Constitution)- Governments created by the people for the people. | *The Social Contract* |
| Absolute monarchy (ideal form of government) | Thomas Hobbes | Use of a strong central government in many nations today. | *Leviathan* |
| Legitimate power comes from the people | Jean-Jacques Rousseau | Fundamental to US Declaration of Independence, US Constitution, and American Revolution | *The Social Contract* |
| Laissez-faire | Adam Smith | Capitalist economies originally based on this idea | *The Wealth of Nations* |
| Three functions of government (police, army, public works) | Adam Smith | European, North American, and Latin American governments perform these duties. Powers mentioned in US Constitution. | *The Wealth of Nations* |
| Religious freedom | Voltaire | Guaranteed in US Bill of Rights & French Dec. of Rights of Man. European monarchs reduce persecution. | Ideas in more than 70 books & essays |