

Voltaire

By Alpha and Emily



François-Marie Arouet

- ❖ Born on November 21, 1694 Died on May 30, 1778
- ❖ From Paris, France
- ❖ Pen name is Voltaire
 - He adopted the name in 1719
 - “I was so unhappy under the name Arouet that I have taken another...”
 - Wrote poetry
- ❖ Speaks fluent Italian, Spanish, and English
- ❖ Writer, Philosopher, Playwright, Historian

Famous works

- ❖ *Henriade* and *The Maid of Orleans*
 - Poetry
- ❖ *The Age of Louis XIV (1751)* and *Essay on the Customs and the Spirit of the Nations (1756)*
 - Historical
- ❖ *Plato's Dream* and *Micromegas*
 - Philosophic
- ❖ Famous for advocating freedom of religion, expression, and separation of state and church

Religious views

- ❖ Was a deist
 - Belief in the existence of a god on the evidence of reason and nature
- ❖ Despised the Catholic Church
 - Greedy and wrong in it's teachings
- ❖ Believed that God did not make everything happen but that there was a reason behind everything in nature

Education

- ❖ educated at the Collège Louis-le-Grand, a Jesuit secondary school in Paris.
- ❖ Believed everyone should be educated to be free from religion and to understand with reason

The Relationship of Government to the Individual

- ❖ The French Government :
 - Voltaire never had a good relationship with the government.
 - Voltaire's writing had gotten him into multiple issues with the authorities.
 - Voltaire ran up against frequent censorship from French government.
 - Most of his books were sent to be burned by government.
- ❖ Exile by French Government :
 - May 1716, voltaire was exiled from paris.
 - It was due to the fact that Voltaire wrote a poem that mocked the French regent family about alleged intercourse between French regent and his daughter.

Relationship of Government Continued...

- ❖ Exposing French Government 1729 :
 - Voltaire and mathematician Charles Marie de La Condamine exploited the French national lottery.
 - Government released prizes (money) in contest each month, La de Condamin and voltaire found an error in calculation which meant “the payouts were larger than the value of the ticket circulations.”
 - Finding this error then made Voltaire extremely wealthy, even setting him up for life and allowing him more time to focus on his writing.

The Role of the Ruler as the Servant of the People

- ❖ Views on Government :
 - Voltaire believed the government existed only to protect the rights of the people.
 - His constant trouble to the government was led to this opinion.
 - he used the king to secure imprisonment.
 - Voltaire believed it was dangerous to be right when the government is wrong.

The Rights Possessed By the People

- ❖ Voltaire's Views on Rights :
 - Believed everyone should have the right to speak their opinion, this would be his natural view due to his ruined with government officials that would censor his work.
 - He also argued that the natural law in the universe and the natural rights of people were divinely given.

The Nature of People

- ❖ Voltaire's Views on Man :
 - Believed every man is guilty of all good he didn't do.
 - Believed one should judge a man by his questions rather than their answers.
 - Believed men are equal; it is not birth, but virtue that makes a difference.
 - Believed if man substituted their ignorance with rational thought and knowledge the world would be a better place.
 - Which leads to his main objective that the perfect world does not exist.

Weather Government is a Positive good, a Necessary evil, or an abomination

- ❖ Voltaire's Specific Views on Government :
 - He was zealous in his defense of individual rights along with personal liberties.
 - Did not like oppressive governments that would silence individuals.
 - Believed in secular rule that would treat individuals as ends of themselves.
 - Believed freedom of thought would insure firm political organization.