• In his introduction of the scientific method, Francis Bacon conceptualizes the use of reason and observation to develop theories. Also coined as the Baconian method, Bacon’s philosophy that denounced reliance on tradition and superstition (Anstey) became as it went directly against the widely accepted Aristotelian form of thinking, which often included Christian ideals as tradition (Edwards).

• With his book, *Novum Organum*, Bacon attempts to categorize the natural world (Anstey) by relating it to the rigid social hierarchy of pre-enlightenment France. According to Martin, “Bacon’s legal and political career was crucial in the creation of his natural philosophy” (Peltonen 280).

• Correspondent to Bacon’s doubt regarding pre-Enlightenment tradition and subsequent divergence from the mainly theocratic government’s influence, the French revolutionaries in *A Tale of Two Cities* question the legitimacy of their government. Unfortunately, the French revolutionaries’ ultimate inability to improve their status in society, despite their use of reason, frustrates them and reaches a visible climax at the Fall of the Bastille.

• In *A Tale of Two Cities*, Charles Dickens shifts away from Aristotelian thinking in favor of reason and questioning tradition by characterizing the 3rd Estate as being increasingly questioning of the government.
• Scottish philosophe David Hume spread his misogynistic views on women’s role in society alongside numerous other European philosophes through essays and discussion.

• Education in 18th century Europe was only attainable by young men who were part of nobility or the upper class and could pay to attend universities. The lower class and the majority of women were hardly ever educated.

• The status of women in English society shifted in the 19th century under Queen Victoria’s rule. More opportunities, like a good education, were opened up to women through acts and movements across Europe.

• Charlotte Brontë wrote Jane Eyre during this time period and displayed her thoughts on a women’s rights and motivations to learn, and broke the strict expectations of women in society. Her words, among others, aided the progress of European society towards equality among the sexes.
Enlightenment Society Notes
Ashni Pothineni, Isha Gosalia, Lynne Chirillo, Serena Khatwa

- Michel de Montaigne helped resolve issues between Catholics and Protestants because he was more receptive to different beliefs and respected all people
- The Religious Wars started because of the structural weakness of the monarchy in France and ended with treaties between the Protestants and Catholics
- Catholic missionaries decided that the natives were too primitive and inferior when they refused to convert
- Montaigne wrote about how Europeans were blind to their own barbarism and called everyone else barbaric without learning about the natives
- There was a common theme of ignorance between Europeans and natives, aristocrats and peasants
- Dickens grew up as a Protestant and has a dislike for the Catholic church and evangelicalism
Enlightenment Note Sheet: Rousseau

Historical Context:
- Both A Tale of Two Cities and the life of Rousseau took place during the French Revolution, which lasted from 1789 to 1799. The French Revolution was due to a rising upheaval between the middle and upper class, where the upper class had more say than the lower class citizens. In this period of time, the people revolted and overthrew the French monarchy and government, finally creating a government that heard the voices of commoners.

Thesis:
In Charles Dickens’ work A Tale of Two Cities, Dickens portrays the rebellious aspects of the French Revolution as justified due to the haughty and cruel actions of the government, demonstrating a crossover in beliefs between him and Enlightenment thinker Jean-Jacques Rousseau; the government should serve the people and express their will.

Meaning Behind A Tale of Two Cities:
- Dickens wrote the novel to describe the cruel actions of the French government.

Rousseau’s Literary Works:
- Social Contract: The government should be based on the will of the people
- The Confessions of Rousseau: An account of his philosophical life and the flaws he made

Rousseau’s Ideas:
- Believed that the government should truly be represented by the majority of the population, rather than the small fraction of high class citizens
- An ideal society is the will of the general society was the most important
- Challenged traditional societal order
Mary Wollstonecraft Note Sheet (Jacqueline Cai, Neha Aitharaju, Shivani Modi, Medha Rawat)

- Jane didn’t want to marry Mr. Rochester because he already had a wife, and Jane felt like he wouldn’t take much care of her
  - Through this, Jane learned to be independent with her decisions (stood up for her rights)
- Jane was strong, independent women who was a role model for women at the time trying to be free
- Before women spoke up, they weren’t allowed to read or write, so they couldn’t understand the Bible → couldn’t form opinions about their own religion and God
- Wollstonecraft was an author who proved that women were more than capable of just serving men and children
  - Led revolution to give women the rights that they deserve
- Male authors use offending language in their writing to judge women and their behaviors - developed Wollstonecraft’s belief that women should be able to learn next to men from young to old
  - Because of this, she wrote *A Vindication of the Right of Women*
    - Didn’t want women to feel inferior anymore
- Wollstonecraft started a school after she experienced poor education herself (equality for education helped her success with feminist ideas)
  - Believed each household needed more reasonable and knowledgeable mothers and wives
Note Sheet for Montesquieu and the Use and Abuse of Power:

- In the Pre-Enlightenment era, the abuse of governmental power inspired the philosopher Montesquieu to create the principle of checks and balances in order to share governmental power to create order, ultimately leading to equality in the governmental systems in Western civilization.
- There is an abuse of governmental power by high class individuals.
- In Pre-Enlightenment society, the distinction between the aristocrats and peasants are extremely defined.
- Montesquieu proposed checks and balances so that not one person (or government) had all the power, but the power was split between different people (or different sections of government) allowing for a fairer government.
- “It has eternally been observed that any man who has power is led to abuse it ...So that one cannot abuse power; power must check power by the arrangement of things” (Gottlieb 44)
Immanuel Kant was an influential contributor to western philosophy and influenced many philosophers with his work.

- He was a vehement idealist and opposed rationalism.
- Believed that without freedom moral appraisal and responsibility would be impossible.
- He also believed that good faith was necessary for a moral person to have (an a priori to the moral person) and therefore if someone commands you to do something it's not out of good will or faith but out of compliance alone.
- According to Kant freedom implies morality and morality implies freedom.
- He believes to act morally is to act according to the rules one gives themself.
- Kant, in his Categorical Imperative reasons that one ought to define one's own moral laws and must rationalize them by hypothesizing logical fallacies the moral duties may entail when applied on a larger societal scale.
- Argued morality was obligatory in politics.
- Says human rights and dignity must be respected, and the only way to do it is through a constitutional state that is governed by law.
Jefferson Half Sheet (Frost, Andrew, Puneet, Eric)

- Jefferson started the anti federalist group which later became the democratic republic group
- Jefferson believed that the American revolution was a “contagion” that would spread throughout the world.
- In addition, Jefferson thought that the American revolution would spread to each and every country in Europe
- Jefferson’s view on revolution throughout the world was good for the world in moderation
- Jefferson thought that a country should not punish rebellions, rather learn from them and the issues of the people
- Jefferson’s opinion on The French Rebellion was that France would live in a constitutional society within 2-3 years
- Jefferson believed that the ruler of a nation should be able to decide the national religion of the state, but not the beliefs of the citizens in the nation
- Jane Eyre is independent; she disregards social structure as she makes her own way through life. She makes her own success with various social statuses. Throws social norms to the wind when she believes she must in order to do good by herself.
- Hobbes’ philosophy says that men are equal, and strict hierarchy is not vital to society.
- Divine right and absolute monarchy: hierarchy and rule created by higher power
- Pre-enlightenment: Strict hierarchy w/ absolute monarchy, people generally stuck in the social class in which they are born in. Rigid society.
- Both Hobbes and Eyre go against the pre-enlightenment idea of rigid hierarchy and absolutism. Both believe in the people’s equality. Strict hierarchy unnecessary.
Note Sheet: Voltaire and Tolerance

VOLTAIRE
- Voltaire was a French philosopher arguing for tolerance, mainly religious tolerance
- During his lifetime France was 97% Catholic. Any other religions were persecuted badly (Protestants and Jews)
- Voltaire spent his life defending any religious minorities or those who were wrongly incriminated and fighting a highly biased judicial system
- Voltaire’s works can be said to have later influenced the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen
- The biased 3 Estates System

Comparison to A Tale of Two Cities
The principle of tolerance is also rooted in A Tale of Two Cities.
- Juxtaposition between the upper and lower classes shows lack of tolerance between them and justifies why the revolution occurred. (Marquis showing no care for child he ran over)

Jeannot et Colin
- Short story written by Voltaire
- Theme: Money distorts human relations
- Ties back to Tale of Two Cities in how the rich Marquis exploited against poor peasants inhumanely due to his wealth
Project Notes

- Thomas Paine was a journalist who wrote *Common Sense, The Rights of Man, The Age of Reason*, and many other famous writings (Thomas Paine).
- In, Thomas Paine’s writing, *The Age of Reason*, Paine wrote about the negative effects of a religious government. He described that a government which is founded upon religion is likely to be corrupt and mistreat the general public (Thomas Paine: Age of Reason.). This created a negative connotation surrounding the close relationship between the church and the state, sparking passionate reactions from the public (Uglow).
- In many of Charlotte Bronte’s novels, such as *Jane Eyre*, whose characters often experienced complex and intricate emotions, were often inspired by Bronte’s personal feelings and internal struggles (Charlotte Brontë).
- For example, during the years of 1843/1844, Bronte fell in love with her married employer, which likely served as inspiration for Jane and Mr. Rochester’s relationship, in *Jane Eyre* (Charlotte Brontë).
- In *Jane Eyre*, Bronte shows her support for the idea of human-centrism through Jane’s opposition to complete servitude to religion when she refuses to marry St. John, whose aim in marriage is to spread Christianity (Bronte II.217). Her unwillingness to spend the rest of her life as a married missionary shows that she supports the idea of putting one's needs in front of religion (aka human-centrism) (Bronte II.220).
- Overall, Paine and Bronte share the same ideology, that a little distance between religion and our daily lives can result in a happier and more fulfilling life.
Is the Future Predetermined or do We Have Free Will?

Dutch Philosopher Baruch Spinoza did not only believe the future is just predetermined or just determined by free will. He believed the future is predetermined because of our free will. Charles Dickens believed the future is predetermined, based on his foreshadowing of future events, making them seem inevitable rather than alterable by free will.

Works Cited


● Cesare Beccaria was a Pre-Enlightenment Italian Philosophe who advocated for the abolition of the death penalty and unnecessary punishments.
  ○ Wrote: On Crimes and Punishment
● Charles Dickens: a Pre-Enlightenment classical novelist who wrote about violent crimes committed during the French Revolution.
  ○ Wrote: A Tale of Two Cities
● Both believed that the brutality against their own populus, witnessed by themselves during their lives, was unjust.
● Both lived about a hundred year apart, yet shared similar viewpoints about punishments!