

Enlightenment Essay

+5 - typed

Oh my gosh!
Best essay yet!
Makes me want to
cry! Can I photocopy
this for
later classes?

95
90

Excellent
thesis!

The Enlightenment had many profound impacts on the world. Most of them are still visible today. To help understand the Enlightenment it is good to know how it started. The Enlightenment began after scientists like Isaac Newton used science to explain nature. One should also know what the Enlightenment was, and what Enlightenment thinkers such as Thomas Hobbes and Thomas Paine did to contribute to the time period.

Isaac Newton played a large role in the Science Revolution, ^{which was} a time period where people started to use science to explain the laws of nature. After college Newton wanted to find out what kept the moon in orbit. While thinking about the situation an apple from the tree above him fell and hit him on the head. He realized the Earth must have a pull on objects. He decided to call his theory gravity. From scientists like Newton and the time period known as the Science Revolution stemmed another era, called the Enlightenment.

Yes!
→

The Enlightenment thinkers (people who started and believed in the Enlightenment) looked at the Science Revolution and thought if we can use science to explain nature why not use it to form a better government. These thinkers consisted of a wide variety of well-known names. Including Thomas Paine who called the time "The age of reason." Other names connected to the Enlightenment are Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson. People who later took part in the American Revolution which was caused partly by the Enlightenment.

Another great Enlightenment thinker was Thomas Hobbes. He wrote the novel entitled "Leviathan." In it he explained his views on how to create a good government. The government consisted of an Absolute Monarchy to keep people under control. Hobbes not only created his

own ideas but also made the ideas of other Enlightenment thinkers popular. Later in life Hobbes was accused of heresy, King Charles II protected him despite their previous conflicts.

Thomas Paine a great Enlightenment thinker believed in peoples rights. Which he expressed when he wrote a piece called "Rights of Man." In it he defended the French Revolution from the criticizing remarks of Edmun Burke. As an Enlightenment thinker Paine also disliked slavery. He published a piece on the subject in 1775, in it he criticized slavery in America.

Paine also contributed to the American Revolution when he wrote "Common Sense." In it he said "No man was a warmer wisher for reconciliation than myself, before the fatal nineteenth of April, 1775, but the moment the event of that day was made known, I rejected the hardened, sullen-tempered Pharaoh of England forever... the wretch, that with the pretended title of FATHER OF HIS PEOPLE can unfeelingly hear of their slaughter, and composedly sleep with their blood upon his soul." What Paine was saying was that he would no longer obey the king who pretended to be the father of the people, yet killed the people and felt no sorrow. The day Paine was referring to (April 19,1775) was the day of the first battle of the American Revolution. The battle at Lexington that lasted only fifteen minutes.

The Enlightenment was a very important time period that started the American, French, and Latin American Revolutions. Without it people would still live in an Absolute Monarchy. Eventually the Enlightenment ended due to its own past success, and the fact that the Deists religion became so dramatic it was hard for people to find salvation. Even though it was and still is one of the most important time periods in our history.