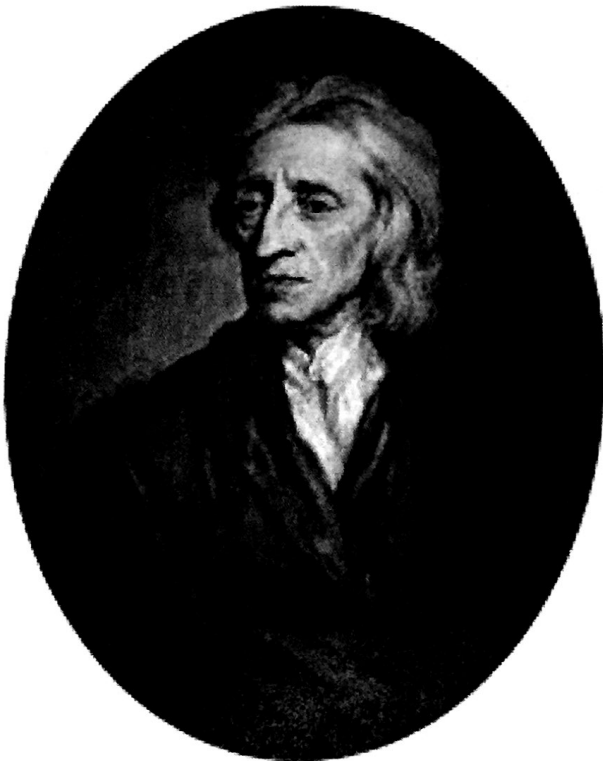


### Hobbes

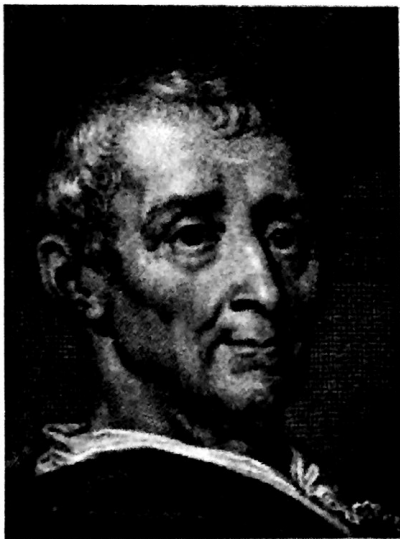
**Thomas Hobbes** was an English philosopher. He felt that humans were naturally selfish and wicked. He also expressed that life was nasty, brutish and short and that because of this, humans were naturally selfish and wicked. In order to preserve society, government was needed to take care of the people, because they wouldn't take care of themselves but do what was needed to survive. To avoid this chaos people give up power to an absolute leader (monarch). Hobbes wrote about this in his famous book *Leviathan*. He was an early advocate of a social contract between the rulers and the ruled.



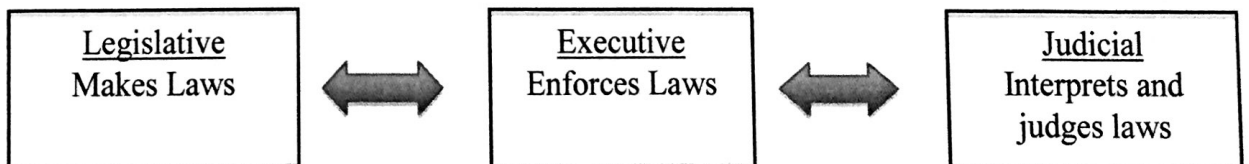
**John Locke** was the opposite of Thomas Hobbes. According to Locke, humans are naturally able to govern themselves and that government should have the consent of the people. He believed that at birth man is a blank slate. All humans are equal and have the same capabilities as other human beings. He thought that people have certain **natural rights** including life, liberty and property. He believed that humans create government to preserve human safety and rights. They make a social contract. When the government does not protect people and their rights, it is ok for society to overthrow the government. His ideas in *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding* and *Two Treatises on Government* would later influence American leaders of the Revolution.



**Voltaire (François-Marie Arouet)** was a writer, essayist and philosopher known for his wit, philosophical sport and defense of civil liberties, including **freedom of religion**. He used empiricism (observes with the senses) that they used in the Scientific Revolution, and applied it to philosophy. He believed observation was the basis of all knowledge. Wrote *A Treaty of Tolerance*, which he advocated for religious tolerance. Believed in separation of church and state. He frequently criticized the Christian Church rules and French institutions (government) in his works.



**Montesquieu** believed that natural laws governed social and political relationships. He felt that government should have limited control through a set of checks and balances. These **separations of powers**, he believed, were shown in England where they had the monarch (executive), parliament (legislative) and the courts of law (judicial). This is what he believed was the best form of government since no one person or group was in charge. He called this equal power “checks and balances” Each branch could check the other so no one abuses power. This is important for us today because this is how our United States government is set up.



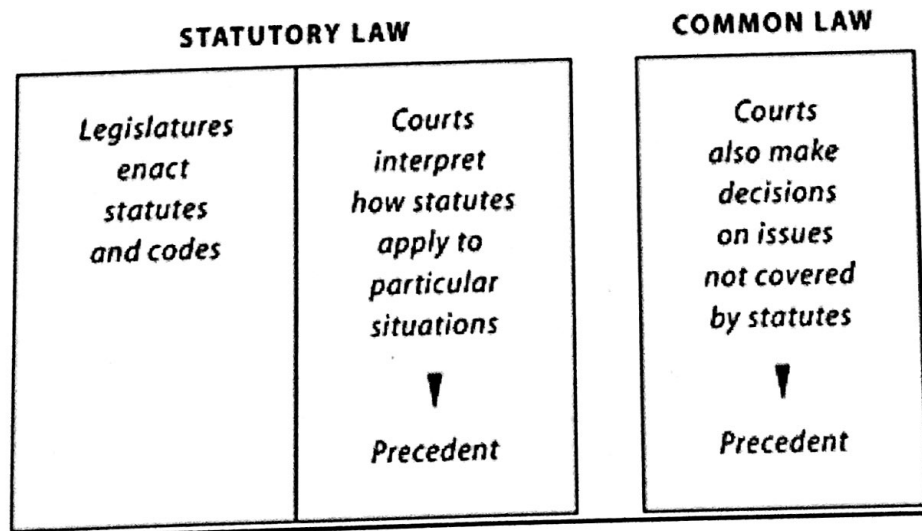


**Jean-Jacques Rousseau** is from Protestant Geneva. Remember when we talked about Jean Calvin and how he was kicked out of France for being Protestant? Well we also learned that he went to Switzerland and set up a theocracy in Geneva. Geneva became its own little country so to speak under Protestant rule. Rousseau was born and raised in Geneva under this Calvinist theocracy. He felt that people are naturally good and it is society that corrupts them. He felt that there should be a **social contract** among the people where the entire society agrees to be governed by its general will. Those that do not want to be governed must be suppressed for the good of the entire society. What the people choose is assumed to be good for the entire society. Rousseau strongly felt that there should be a **separation between church and state** in order for the society to succeed.



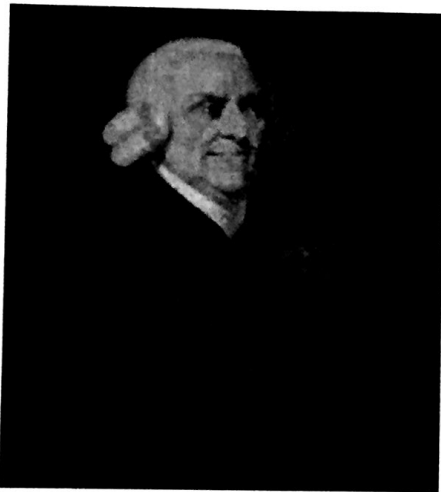
**William Blackstone** was an English lawyer, judge, and politician. He is credited for influencing the common law legal system and individual rights based on the law. Most noted for writing *Commentaries on the Laws of England*. This was a complete overview of English law. This was important because other English speaking countries, such as the United States, would adopt the English form of law, which we call common law. Common law is the part of English law that is derived from custom and judicial precedent (decisions that came before in cases) rather than statutes, or laws just created by the legislative or executive branch.

Common law-created from the rulings of judges in cases  
 Statutes-laws created first by either legislative or executive branch, and only when they are broken do you have a trial.

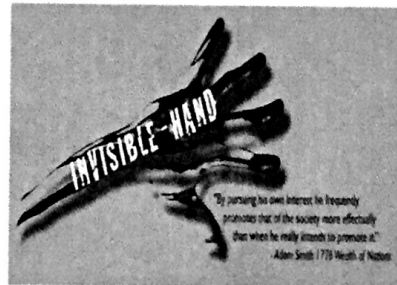




**Denis Diderot** was a writer and philosopher. His most famous contribution to the Enlightenment was an editor of the famous *Encyclopédie* (Encyclopedia). The Encyclopedia was a dictionary, of sorts, of the sciences, arts and crafts of the time. It was first published in France and was sold to doctors, lawyers and other elite members of society.



**Adam Smith** was a pioneering political economist from Scotland. He is best known for his book *The Wealth of Nations*. This book would describe the economic system of capitalism and he pretty much invented the study of economics in the Western World. He believed that government should not interfere in the economy of its state, but rather it should let things happen, a concept known as **laissez-faire** in economics. Further, Smith felt that government only had three roles: to protect the people from invasion (the army), defend its citizens from injustice (the police), and to maintain roads and canals (public works).



**Mary Wollstonecraft** was a successful English writer. One of her most famous pieces is *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*, which is one of the earliest works of feminist philosophy. In it, Wollstonecraft responds to educational and political theorists of the eighteenth century who wanted to deny women an education. She argued that women should have an education because they educate the children. Instead of viewing women as ornaments to society or property to be traded in marriage, Wollstonecraft maintains that they are human beings deserving of the same fundamental rights as men.