

AIM: How did Hobbes and Locke represent two different views of government?

DO NOW: Please look at the image below. It is also projected on the board. In your notebook, write down three observations about the image.

Q1: How was the Enlightenment similar to the Scientific Revolution? How was it different?

During the Scientific Revolution, scientists used reason to explain why things happened in the physical universe. The influence of the Scientific Revolution soon spread beyond the world of science. By the early 1700s writers sought to use reason to discover natural laws, or laws that govern human behavior. By applying the scientific method of investigation and observation, scholars thought that they could solve the problems of society. The belief that logical thought can lead to truth is called **rationalism**.



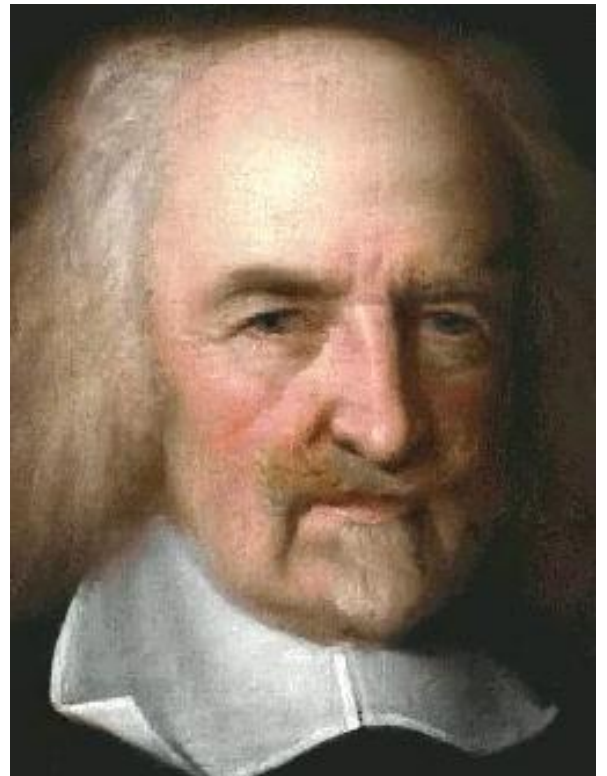
In this way, the ideas of the Scientific Revolution paved the way for a new movement called the **Enlightenment**, or Age of Reason. This movement reached its height in the mid-1700s. The Enlightenment introduced new ways of viewing authority, power, government, and law.

Q2: What was Thomas Hobbes' view of human nature? What type of government did he support?

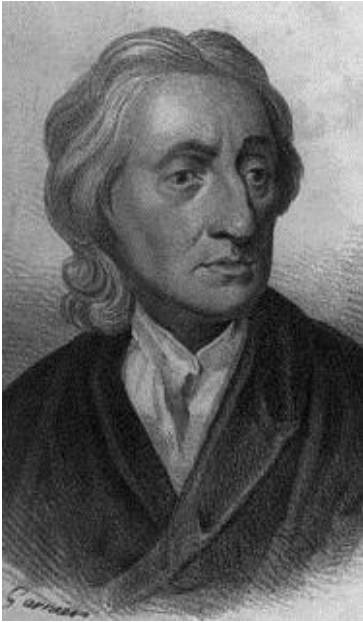
The Enlightenment started from some key ideas put forth by two English political thinkers of the 1600s, Thomas Hobbes and John Locke. These two men came to very different conclusions about government and human nature.

Thomas Hobbes expressed his views in a work called *Leviathan* (1651). He believed that people are constantly in conflict with each other, have difficult lives, and fear a violent death. Without governments to keep order, Hobbes said, there would be “war of every man against every man.”

Hobbes argued that to escape such a bleak life, people gave up their rights to a strong ruler. In exchange they gained law and order. Hobbes called this agreement the **social contract**. Hobbes also wrote that once people enter into such a social contract, they have no right to criticize, or seek to change, the ruler's policies. The ruler needed total power to keep citizens under control. The best government was one that had the awesome power of a leviathan (sea monster). In this way he supported the idea of *absolute monarchy* (a government in which a monarch has total power over the state and the people).



Q3: What was John Locke's view of human nature? What type of government did he support?



The philosopher **John Locke** held a different view of human nature. He believed that people could learn from experience and improve themselves. As reasonable beings, they had the natural ability to govern their own affairs and to look after the welfare of society. Locke criticized absolute monarchy and favored the idea of self-government.

According to Locke, all people are born free and equal, with three **natural rights** – life, liberty, and property. The purpose of government, said Locke, is to protect these rights. If a government fails to do so, citizens have a right to overthrow it. Locke published his ideas in 1690, two years after the Glorious Revolution. His book served to justify the overthrow of James II.

Locke's theory had a deep influence on modern political thinking. His statement that a government's power comes from the consent of the people is the foundation of modern democracy. The ideas of government by popular consent and the right to rebel against unjust rulers helped inspire struggles for liberty in Europe and the Americas.

Q4: In what ways did Hobbes' and Locke's ideas differ? In what important way were their ideas similar?

