

Philosophes of the Enlightenment

believed.....

- 1) the world up until their time had been flooded w/ myths and superstitions; their job was to restore order; to "enlighten" a world in the dark

2) God does exist, but isn't a personable God, and doesn't intervene in a person's daily life

3) truth is learned through reason and logical thinking
use of the 5 senses

4) reason should be a person's guide to life

5) science shows that life in the universe is governed by natural laws;

man should use reason

- to discover these laws

b) governments duty is to protect those they govern; if a govt. fails in this, or oversteps its rights, the people have a right to abolish and replace that govt.

Importance

- -the writings of the philosophes influenced

- revolutionary movements around the world, most notably in the British colonies of North America, and France
- the philosophes themselves
- were all wealthy & privileged men; the revolutions they spawned hurt their own high standing where they were from

Before
Phils.

God(s)



King



Royals/Nobles
Parliament
(Oligarchy)



Serfs

Phils.
POV

God



You



King/Parl./Govt.

Rousseau
POV

You



God/Everyone
Else

(-Moral Relativism)