

18TH CENTURY

1. General Trends.

a. Skepticism.

(1) “The Eighteenth was a Sceptical Century; in which little word there is a whole Pandora’s Box of miseries. Scepticism means not intellectual Doubt alone, but moral Doubt; all sorts of infidelity, insincerity, spiritual paralysis. Perhaps, in few centuries that one could specify since the world began, was a life of Heroism more difficult for a man. That was not an age of Faith,—an age of Heroes! The very possibility of Heroism had been, as it were, formally abnegated in the minds of all. Heroism was gone forever; Triviality, Formulism and Commonplace were come forever. The ‘age of miracles’ had been, or perhaps had not been; but it was not any longer. An effete world; wherein Wonder, Greatness, Godhood could not now dwell;—in one word, a godless world!”¹

b. Enlightenment rationalism.

(1) Yet there was an optimism about man’s ability to achieve understanding through reason unattached and unaccountable to ancient authority. Europe hoped in man’s reason, particularly in the sciences. There was an idea that humanity had grown up and could now think and explore on its own.

(2) What was new was thought always to be better than what was old. The thought was, “Why should we trust anything before the eighteenth century?” Ancient authorities were distrusted in all fields of knowledge.

c. The decline of theism and rise of deism and atheism.

(1) Theology was viewed as suffocating.

(2) Theology prevented man from gaining the superior knowledge available through experience and reason.

(3) God was thought not to exist or at least to be irrelevant human concerns.

(4) The Bible became viewed as a collection of man-centered, uninspired documents.

(5) Jesus was viewed as a superior moral teacher who died only as an example of self-sacrifice.

(6) The atheism of the 18th century peaked in the French Revolution of 1789.

2. High points.

a. The reign of Louis XIV.

(1) “After making every discount, and regretting that so much beauty was tarnished with so much cruelty, we may join the French in acclaiming the age of Louis XIV as standing with Periclean Greece, Augustan Rome, Renaissance Italy, and Elizabethan-Jacobean England among the peaks in the faltering trajectory of mankind.”²

b. Classical music under Bach, Vivaldi, Handel, Mozart, and Haydn.

¹ Thomas Carlyle, *On Heroes and Hero Worship and the Heroic in History*, 99.

² Will and Ariel Durant, *The Age of Louis XIV*, 163.

18th Century

Giovanni Domenico Cassini	d. 1712	
Anthony Ashley-Cooper, 3rd Earl of Shaftesbury	d. 1713	<i>Characteristics of Men, Manners, Opinions, and Times</i> (1711)
Jean Chardin	d. 1713	<i>Travels in Persia</i> (1686)
Arcangelo Corelli	d. 1713	<i>Christmas Concerto</i> (1712)
William Dampier	d. 1715	<i>A New Voyage round the World</i> (1697)
Francois Fenelon	d. 1715	
Nicolas de Malebranche	d. 1715	<i>The Search for Truth</i> (1674)
Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz	d. 1716	<i>Theodicy</i> Matthew Stewart, <i>The Courtier and the Heretic: Leibniz, Spinoza....</i>
Jeanne Guyon	d. 1717	<i>A Short and Easy Method of Prayer</i>
Charles XII of Sweden	d. 1718	
William Penn	d. 1718	Genevieve Foster, <i>The World of William Penn</i> Janet and Geoff Benge, <i>William Penn</i>
Joseph Addison	d. 1719	<i>Cato</i> (1713) "The Campaign" (1705) <i>The Spectator</i> (1711-12) "The Spacious Firmament on High" (1712)
Johann Kuhnau	d. 1722	<i>Partien</i>
Charles Leslie	d. 1722	<i>A Short and Easy Method with the Deists</i> (1697)
John Toland	d. 1722	<i>Christianity Not Mysterious</i> (1696) <i>Letters to Serena</i> (1704) <i>Nazareus</i> (1718) <i>Pantheisticus</i>
Godfrey Kneller	d. 1723	
Christopher Wren	d. 1723	St. Paul's Cathedral
Peter the Great	d. 1725	Robert Massie, <i>Peter the Great</i>
Alessandro Scarlatti	d. 1725	<i>Mitridate Eupatore</i> (1707)
Isaac Newton	d. 1726	<i>Principia</i> (1687) <i>Opticks</i> (1704)
August Hermann Francke	d. 1727	
Cotton Mather	d. 1728	<i>Magnalia Christi Americana</i> Kenneth Silverman, <i>The Life and Times of Cotton Mather</i>
Samuel Clarke	d. 1729	<i>Boyle Lectures</i> (1704)
Anthony Collins	d. 1729	<i>Discourse of Freethinking</i> (1713) <i>Discourse on the Grounds and Reason of the Christian Religion</i>
Richard Steele	d. 1729	<i>The Christian Hero</i> (1701)

Daniel Defoe	d. 1731	<p>“The Storm” (1704) <i>A General History of the Pyrates</i> (1724) <i>A Journal of the Plague Year</i> (1722) <i>Moll Flanders</i> (1722) <i>Robinson Crusoe</i> (1719) <i>The Political History of the Devil</i> (1726)</p>
John Gay	d. 1732	
Francois Couperin	d. 1733	
Bernard Mandeville	d. 1733	<i>The Fable of the Bees</i> (1714)
Alain-Rene Lesage	d. 1747	
Edmund Halley	d. 1741	
Vivaldi	d. 1741	<i>Four Seasons</i>
Richard Bentley	d. 1742	<p><i>Epistola ad Millium</i> (1691) <i>Boyle Lectures</i> (1692-93) <i>Remarks on a Late Discourse of Freethinking</i></p>
Alexander Pope	d. 1744	<p><i>An Essay on Criticism</i> (1711) <i>The Rape of the Lock</i> (1712) <i>An Essay on Man</i> (1734) <i>The Dunciad</i> (1742)</p>
Tomaso Antonio Vitali	d. 1745	
Jonathan Swift	d. 1745	<p><i>The Battle of the Books</i> (1704) <i>The Tale of the Tub</i> (1704) <i>Gulliver’s Travels</i> (1726) <i>A Modest Proposal</i> (1729)</p>
David Brainerd	d. 1747	Jonathan Edwards, <i>The Life and Diary of David Brainerd</i> (1749)
Giuseppe Crespi	d. 1747	<i>Self-Portrait</i>
Alain-Rene Lesage	d. 1747	<i>Gil Blas</i> (1715-35)
Isaac Watts	d. 1748	
Alessandro Magnasco	d. 1749	<p><i>Synagogue</i> <i>Bohemian Repast</i></p>
Johann Sebastian Bach	d. 1750	<p><i>Air on the G String</i> <i>Art of Fugue</i> <i>Christmas Oratorio</i> (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=98UjjwzJBFE) <i>Brandenburg Concerti</i> <i>Goldberg Variations</i> <i>Mass in B minor</i> <i>Saint Matthew Passion</i> <i>Toccat and Fugue in D minor</i> <i>The Well-Tempered Clavier</i></p>
James Madison	b. 1751	
Julien La Mettrie	d. 1751	<i>Man the Machine</i> (1748)
Joseph Butler	d. 1752	Five Sermons

Timothy Dwight IV	b. 1752	“Columbia, Columbia” “I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord” “Yale Valedictory Address” (1776) “The Nature and Danger of Infidel Philosophy, Exhibited in Two Discourses, Addressed to the Candidates for the Baccalaureate, In Yale College” (1797)
George Berkeley	d. 1753	<i>The Principles of Human Knowledge</i> (1710) <i>Alciphron, or The Minute Philosopher</i> (1732)
Henry Fielding	d. 1754	<i>Joseph Andrews</i> (1742) <i>Tom Jones</i> (1749)
Montesquieu	d. 1755	<i>The Spirit of the Laws</i>
Bernard Le Bovier de Fontenelle	d. 1757	
Jonathan Edwards	d. 1758	<i>A History of the Work of Redemption</i> (1739) “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God” (1741) <i>Religious Affections</i> (1746) <i>The End for Which God Created the World</i> (1765) George Marsden, <i>Jonathan Edwards: A Life</i> (2003) Perry Miller, <i>Jonathan Edwards</i> (2005) Mark Noll, <i>The Rise of Evangelicalism: The Age of Edwards, Whitefield and the Wesleys</i>
George Frideric Handel	d. 1759	<i>Utrecht Te Deum</i>
Mary Wollstonecraft	d. 1760	<i>A Vindication of the Rights of Woman</i> (1792) <i>Letters Written in Sweden, Norway, and Denmark</i> (1796)
Nicolaus Zinzendorf	d. 1760	Janet and Geoff Benge, <i>Nicolaus Zinzendorf</i>
William Law	d. 1761	A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life
William Hogarth	d. 1764	
Edward Young	d. 1765	<i>Night-Thoughts</i> (1749) “Last Day” “The Universal Passion”
Laurence Sterne	d. 1768	<i>Tristram Shandy</i> (1759)
Johann Joachim Winckelmann	d. 1768	
George Whitefield	d. 1770	Arnold Dallimore, <i>George Whitefield</i>
Thomas Gray	d. 1771	<i>An Elegy Written in a Country Church Yard</i>
Tobias Smollett	d. 1771	
John Woolman	d. 1772	<i>Journal of John Woolman</i> (1774)
Oliver Goldsmith	d. 1774	<i>The Traveller</i> (1764) <i>The Vicar of Wakefield</i> (1766) <i>The Deserted Village</i> (1770) <i>She Stoops to Conquer</i> (1773)
David Hume	d. 1776	<i>Dialogues and Natural History of Religion</i> <i>A Treatise of Human Nature</i>
U. S. Declaration of Independence	1776	<i>U.S. Declaration of Independence</i> Bernard Bailyn, <i>The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution</i> David McCullough, <i>1776</i>

Carl Linnaeus	d. 1778	
Jean-Jacques Rousseau	d. 1778	<i>Discourse on Inequality</i> (1754) <i>Julie</i> (1761) <i>Emile</i> (1762) <i>The Social Contract</i> (1762) <i>Confessions</i> (1782) <i>Reveries of the Solitary Walker</i> (1782)
Voltaire	d. 1778	<i>Candide</i>
James Cook	d. 1779	
William Blackstone	d. 1780	<i>Commentaries on the Laws of England</i>
Maria Theresa	d. 1780	
Gotthold Ephraim Lessing	d. 1781	
Denis Diderot	d. 1784	<i>Jacques the Fatalist</i> <i>Rameau's Nephew</i>
Samuel Johnson	d. 1784	<i>Preface to the Dictionary</i> <i>Lives of the English Poets</i> (Cowley, Dryden, Milton, Pope, and Savage) "London" "Friendship: An Ode" <i>Preface to Shakespeare</i> <i>Rasselas</i> <i>The Rambler</i> <i>The Vanity of Human Wishes</i> James Boswell, <i>Life of Johnson</i> Walter Jackson Bate, <i>Samuel Johnson</i> (1975)
Frederick the Great	d. 1786	
Christoph Willibald Gluck	d. 1787	<i>Orfeo ed Euridice</i> <i>Alceste</i> <i>Iphigenie en Tauride</i>
Thomas Gainsborough	d. 1788	
Charles Wesley	d. 1788	"And Can It Be"
French Revolution	1789	Sylvia Neely, <i>Concise History of the French Revolution</i>
Baron d'Holbach	d. 1789	
U. S. Constitution	1789	<i>U. S. Constitution</i> (1789) <i>U. S. Land Ordinance</i> (1785) <i>U. S. Judiciary Act</i> (1789) James Madison, <i>Notes of Debates in the Federal Convention of 1787</i> John Eidsmoe, <i>Christianity and the Constitution: The Faith of Our Founding Fathers</i> Matthew Spalding, <i>The Heritage Guide to the Constitution</i>
Benjamin Franklin	d. 1790	"Address to the Federal Convention" (1787) <i>Autobiography</i> (1793) Walter Isaacson, <i>Benjamin Franklin: An American Life</i>
Adam Smith	d. 1790	
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	d. 1791	<i>Don Giovanni</i> Patrick Kavanaugh, <i>Spiritual Lives of the Great Composers</i> Paul Johnson, <i>Mozart: A Life</i>

John Wesley	d. 1791	<i>Journals</i>
Joshua Reynolds	d. 1792	<i>The Age of Innocence</i> <i>Lord Keppel</i> <i>Lord Heathfield</i>
Antoine Lavoisier	d. 1794	
Robert Burns	d. 1796	<p>“O, Once I Lov’d A Bonnie Lass” “Now Westlin’ Winds” “I Dream’d I Lay” “The Slave’s Lament” “The Highland Lassie O” “Highland Mary” “To Mary in Heaven” “Will ye go to the Indies, my Mary, And leave auld Scotia’s shore?” “The Twa Dogs” “Address to the Deil” “Halloween” “The Cotter’s Saturday Night” “Epitaph for James Smith” “To a Mountain Daisy” “Auld Lang Syne” “Scots Wha Hae” “A Red, Red Rose” “A Man’s a Man for A’ That” “To a Louse” “To a Mouse” “The Battle of Sherramuir” “Tam o’ Shanter” “Ae Fond Kiss” “Holy Willie’s Prayer” “The Holy Fair” “Love and Liberty” “Birthday Ode for George Washington” “Is There for Honest Poverty” “Address to a Haggis” “Toast to the Lassies”</p>
Catherine the Great	d. 1796	Robert Massie, <i>Catherine the Great</i>
Thomas Reid	d. 1796	<i>Inquiry and Essays</i>
William Johnson Temple	d. 1796	
Edmund Burke	d. 1797	<i>Reflections on the Revolution in France</i>
George Washington	d. 1799	<i>Rules for Civility</i> <i>Farewell Address (1796)</i> Janet and Geoff Benge, <i>George Washington</i> Ron Chernow, <i>Washington: A Life</i> David Fischer, <i>Washington’s Crossing</i>
William Cowper	d. 1800	<p>“The Yardley Oak” <i>Olney Hymns (1778-79)</i> “Light Shining out of Darkness” “The Negro’s Complaint” (1788) “On the Receipt of My Mother’s Picture” <i>The Task (1785)</i> “The Diverting History of John Gilpin” (1782) “The Castaway” (1803)</p>
Johann Gottfried Herder	d. 1803	

Alexander Hamilton	d. 1804	<i>Federalist Papers</i> , Nos. 1, 10, 14, 39, 51, 70, 78, 84 Ron Chernow, <i>Alexander Hamilton</i>
Immanuel Kant	d. 1804	<i>Critique of Practical Reason</i> <i>Critique of Pure Reason</i> <i>Fundamental Principles of Metaphysics of Morals</i> <i>Toward Perpetual Peace</i> “What Is the Enlightenment?” (1784)
Horatio Nelson	d. 1805	A. T. Mahan, <i>The Life of Horatio Nelson</i>
William Paley	d. 1805	<i>Natural Theology</i>
Friedrich Schiller	d. 1805	“Ode to Joy” (1785) <i>On the Aesthetic Education of Man</i> (1794)
John Newton	d. 1807	<i>Olney Hymns</i> (1779) Jonathan Aiken, <i>John Newton: From Disgrace to Amazing Grace</i>
Joseph Haydn	d. 1809	
Thomas Paine	d. 1809	<i>Common Sense</i> <i>Rights of Man and Other Essential Writings</i>

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