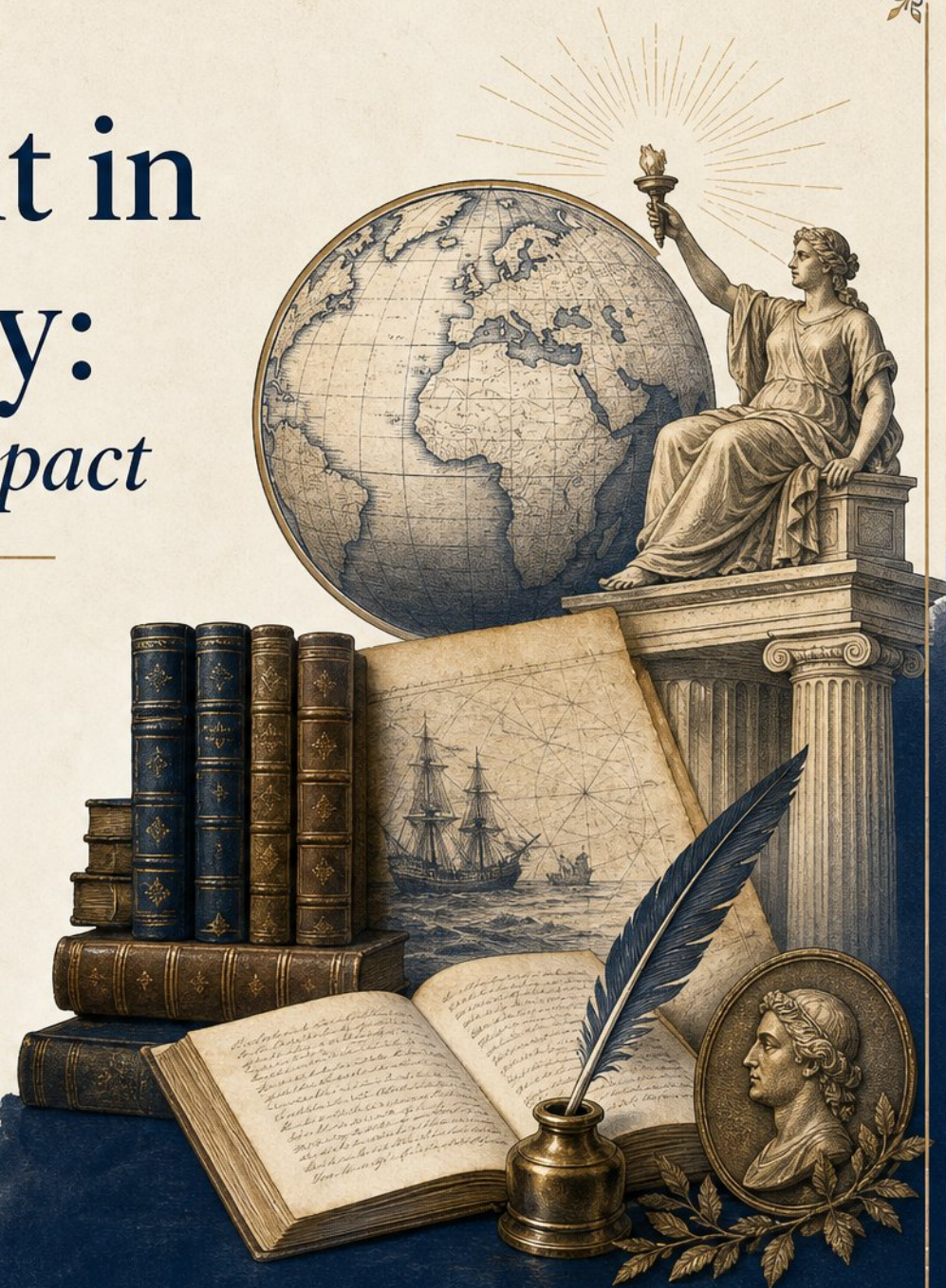


Enlightenment in World History:

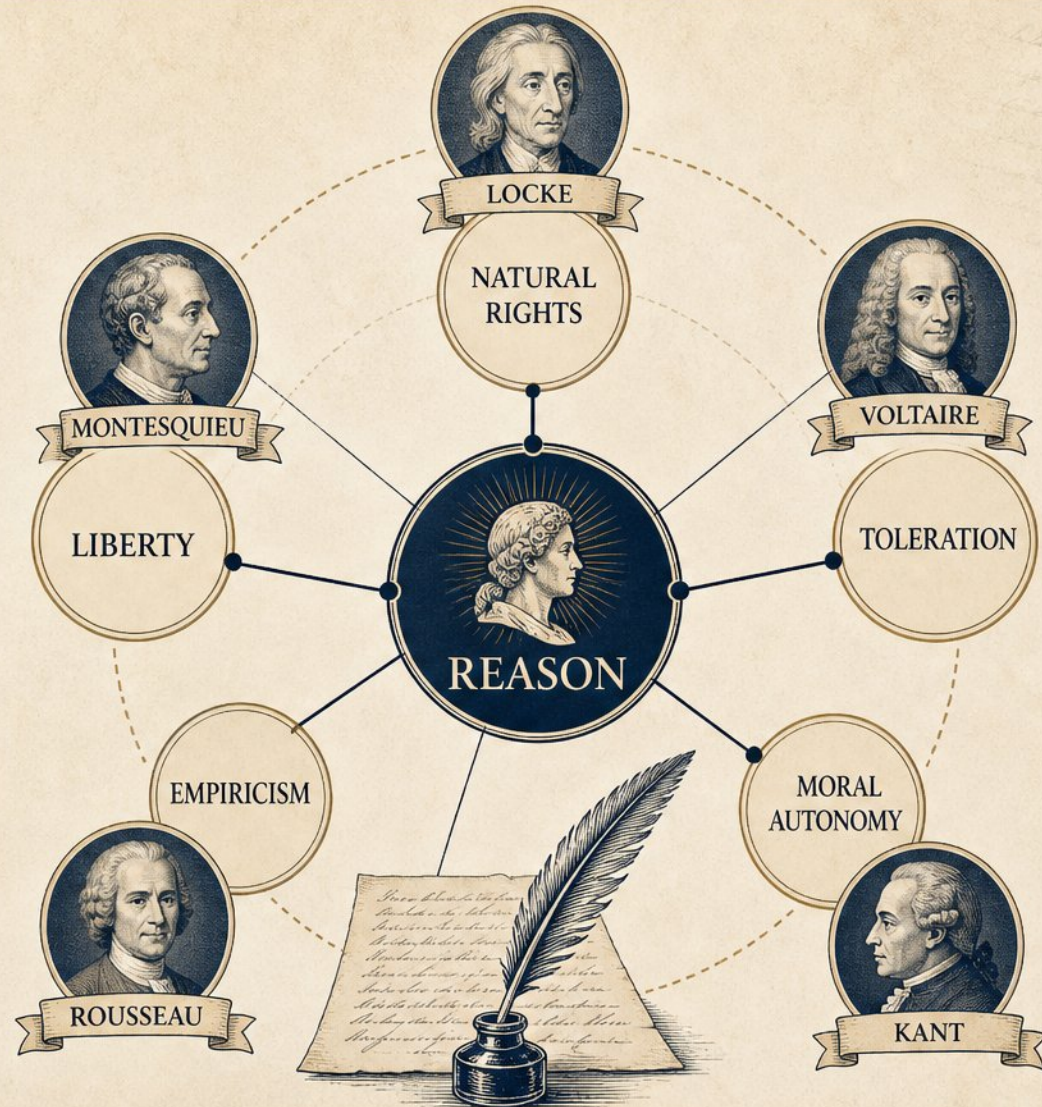
Ideas, Context, and Impact

- ✧ - Broad intellectual movement, roughly 1680–1820, centered on reason and liberty
- ✧ - Studied as world history: ideas moved via translation, commerce, and empire
- ✧ - A family of related movements, including radical and moderate strands
- ✧ - Tensions with empire, slavery, and exclusion shaped its legacy



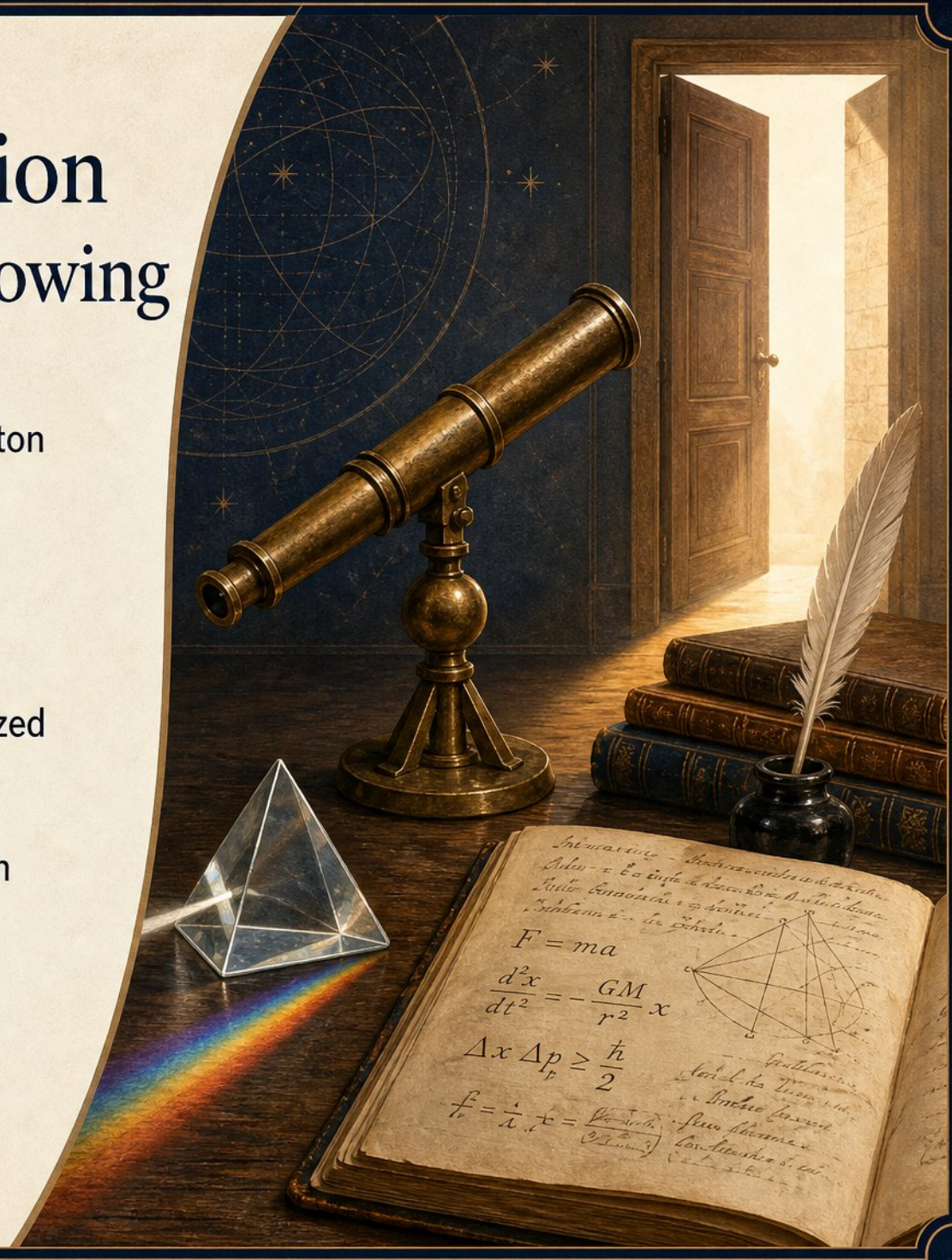
Intellectual Foundations and Core Ideas

- Reason, empiricism, natural rights, and toleration
- Social contract, separation of powers, rule of law
- Key thinkers: Locke, Montesquieu, Voltaire, Rousseau, Kant
- Ideas applied to law, education, and religious pluralism
- Contested from the start across national contexts



Scientific Revolution and New Ways of Knowing

- ✦ - Copernicus, Kepler, Galileo, and Newton challenged tradition-based authority
- ✦ - Experimental method made knowledge public and verifiable
- ✦ - Academies and journals institutionalized inquiry through correspondence
- ✦ - Popularizers bridged the gap between specialists and the reading public
- ✦ - Science offered limited certainty for moral and political questions



Print Culture, Salons, and the Republic of Letters

- Newspapers, pamphlets, and the *Encyclopédie* spread ideas across borders
- Salons and coffeehouses hosted critical discussion, yet excluded many
- The Republic of Letters connected scholars through correspondence and print
- Latin gave way to French as the shared language of learning
- Censorship and anonymity shaped the power of the public sphere



Enlightenment Beyond Europe: Global Exchange and Reception

- Ideas moved through translation, commerce, diplomacy, and missions
- Compare reception in the Ottoman world, China, India, and Japan
- European thinkers drew on Asian, African, and Indigenous knowledge
- Non-European thinkers adapted, challenged, or rejected universal reason
- Avoid a one-way diffusion model; foreground local agency



Enlightenment and Empire: Slavery, Race, and Contradiction

- Universal rights coexisted with plantation slavery and empire
- Science and anthropology served both abolition and racial hierarchy
- Haitian Revolution transformed universal rights into antislavery action
- Museum collections still reflect these imperial and racial legacies

DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF MAN AND OF THE CITIZEN.

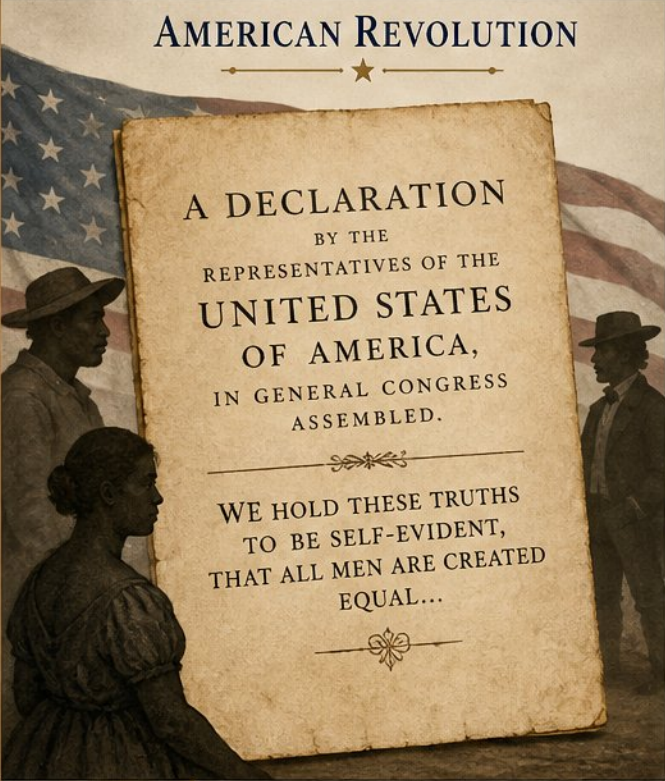
*Men are born and remain free
and equal in rights.*

*The aim of all political association
is the preservation of the natural and
imprescriptible rights of man.*



Atlantic Revolutions and the Politics of Rights

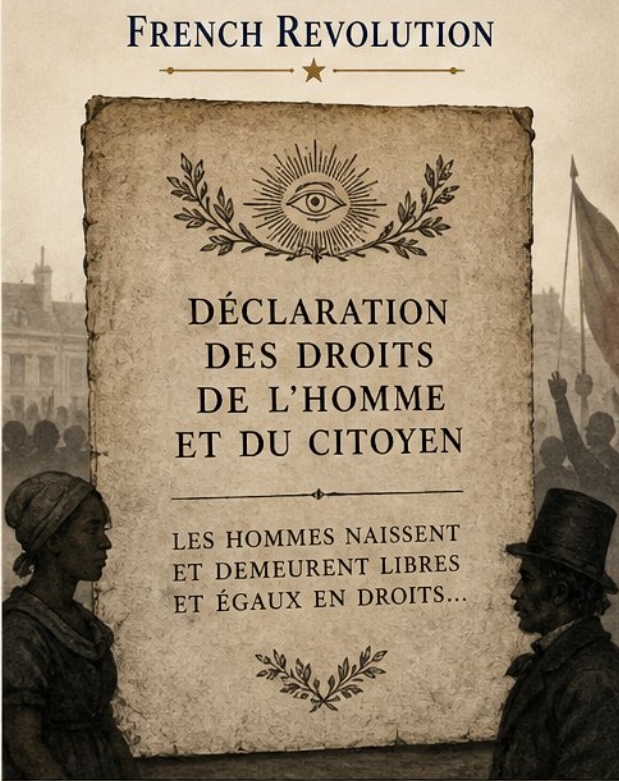
AMERICAN REVOLUTION



A DECLARATION
BY THE
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA,
IN GENERAL CONGRESS
ASSEMBLED.

WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS
TO BE SELF-EVIDENT,
THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED
EQUAL...

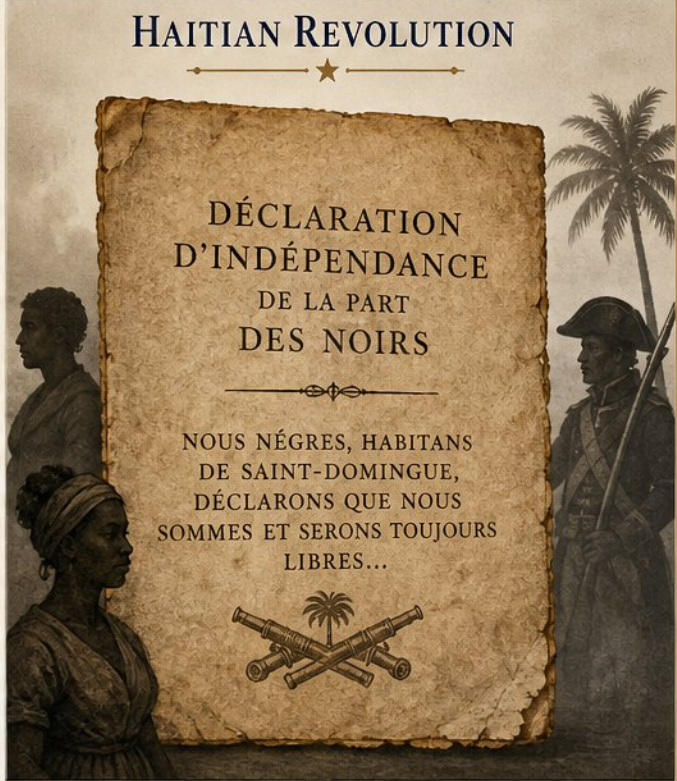
FRENCH REVOLUTION




DÉCLARATION
DES DROITS
DE L'HOMME
ET DU CITOYEN

LES HOMMES NAISSENT
ET DEMEURENT LIBRES
ET ÉGAUX EN DROITS...

HAITIAN REVOLUTION



DÉCLARATION
D'INDÉPENDANCE
DE LA PART
DES NOIRS

NOUS NÈGRES, HABITANS
DE SAINT-DOMINGUE,
DÉCLARONS QUE NOUS
SOMMES ET SERONS TOUJOURS
LIBRES...



- American, French, and Haitian revolutions: distinct outcomes from shared Enlightenment debates
- Declarations and constitutions institutionalized ideals while embedding exclusions
- Limitations persisted through property, gender, race, and imperial rule
- Counter-revolutionary and conservative movements challenged revolutionary universalism

The Counter-Enlightenment:

Conservatism, Romanticism, and Religion

- Critics: Burke, de Maistre, Herder challenged abstract reason
- Romanticism prioritized emotion, tradition, nation, and organic community
- Influenced nineteenth-century nationalism, conservatism, and religious revival
- Criticism came from religious, nationalist, and communitarian positions

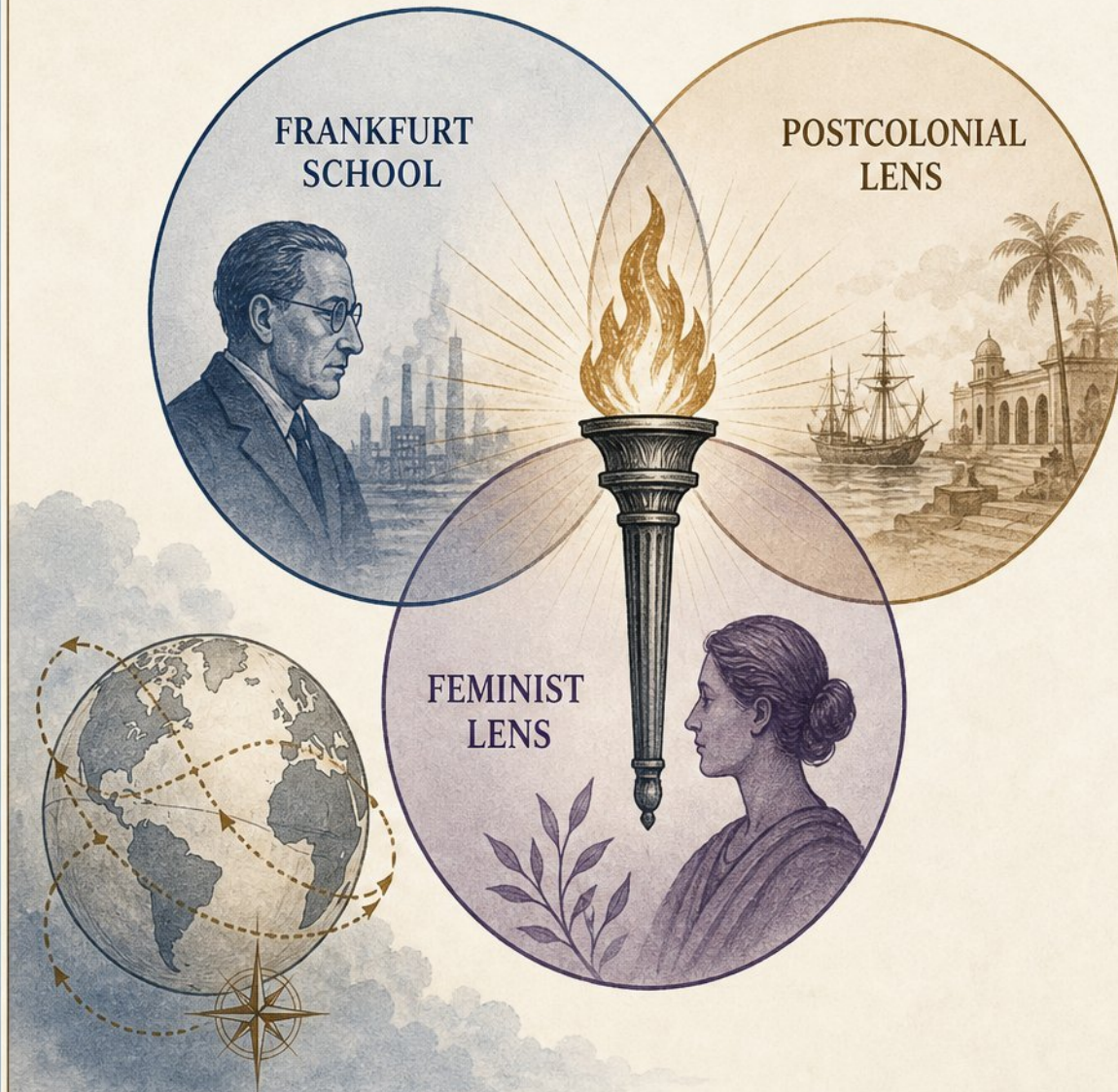


Legacies: Modern Institutions and Enduring Values

- Enlightenment shaped liberal democracy, human rights, public education, and modern science
- Public museums embodied universal knowledge while carrying imperial and racial assumptions
- 'Useful knowledge' still structures development frameworks and global hierarchies today
- Institutions like the British Museum and Louvre reflect both ideals and exclusions



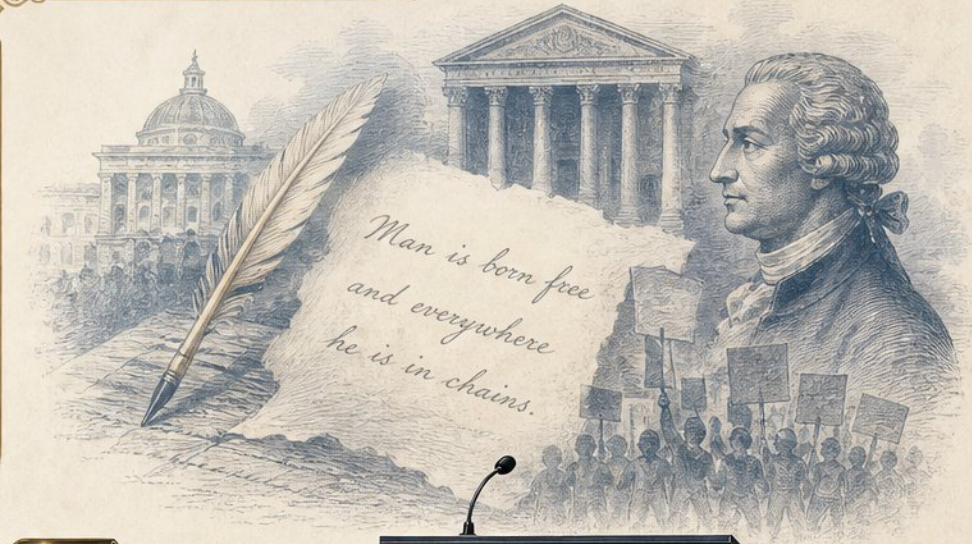
Critical Reappraisals: Postcolonial, Feminist, and Frankfurt School Challenges



- Twentieth-century critiques: Frankfurt School, postcolonial, and feminist thinkers
- Progress and modernity linked to colonialism and Eurocentrism
- Rescuing Enlightenment ideals for decolonizing projects
- Distinguish criticizing legacies from abandoning principles entirely

Debating the Enlightenment Today: Defend, Expand, or Abandon?

- Enlightenment values shape debates on democracy, secularism, free speech, and institutions
- Key question: defend, expand beyond past exclusions, or abandon as a framework?
- Museums and curricula make conflicts over legacy tangible and concrete
- Postcolonial and Frankfurt School critiques expose lingering Eurocentrism, yet remain contested resources



DEFEND

MODERATOR

ABANDON

EXPAND

Misconceptions and Sensitive Topics in Teaching the Enlightenment

- Enlightenment was not a single event or purely European
- Not uniformly progressive, secular, or anti-religious
- Address slavery, empire, race, and gender exclusion directly
- Contextualize sources and center non-European agency
- Avoid triumphalism and blanket condemnation

QU'EST-CE QUE LES LUMIÈRES?

Les Lumières est la sortie de l'homme de l'état de minorité dont il est lui-même responsable. Minorité est l'incapacité de se servir de son entendement sans la direction d'un autre. *Sapere aude!* Aie le courage de te servir de ton propre entendement!



BERLIN,
Chez Voss & Fils.

← Not a single event; a long process with global dimensions.

← Not uniformly progressive, secular, or anti-religious.

← Includes exclusion, violence, and contradictions.

← Whose voices and experiences are missing from this text?

← Avoid both triumphalism and blanket condemnation.

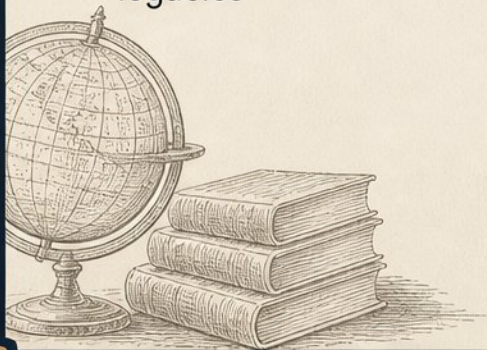
Practical Pedagogy: Objects, Documents, and Multisensory Learning

- Pair ideas with maps, letters, books, and museum objects
- Use virtual galleries and artifact-based analysis prompts
- Explore sound, smell, and touch without claiming direct reconstruction
- Ask how eighteenth-century people learned to perceive their world
- Model document-based questions for students and museum teams



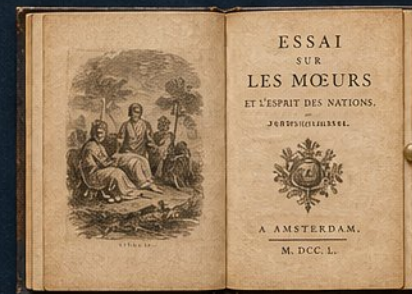
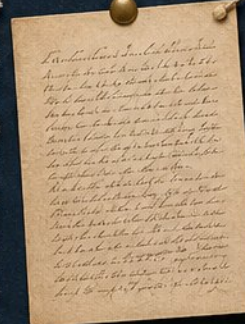
Teaching the Enlightenment in Museums, Classrooms, and Public History

- Combine ideas, objects, and global exchange in one framework
- Use exhibitions and digital archives as entry points
- Connect 18th-century debates to today without anachronism
- Museums model critical, reflective engagement with legacies



ENLIGHTENMENT IDEAS AND GLOBAL EXCHANGE

Past Debates, Present Relevance



CONNECTING TO TODAY

What do these ideas teach us about freedom, inequality, and tolerance in our world?'

VISITOR RESPONSES

The idea of reason still shapes how we question authority.

Global exchange brought knowledge—and exploitation. We must see both.

Freedom for some wasn't freedom for all.

These debates help us think about justice today.



PersonWise.

PersonWise • AI digital-human course platform



Scan the code or click anywhere to watch this course live, with voice Q&A

personwise.ai/t/19011004/public