



Franklin and Jefferson as Enlightenment Thinkers

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Franklin's Inventions

- Made Mold to produce his own print Type
- Made a Copper-Plate Press for printing of Money
- Franklin Stove to heat homes and use less wood than fire places: was offered a patent by Governor but turned it down: "That as we enjoy great advantages from the Inventions of others, we should be glad of an Opportunity to serve others by any Invention of ours, and this we should do freely and generously."

Religion and Deism

- Became a Deist after reading a Book against it and finding the arguments weak
- He converted several friends to Deism but was later wronged by them; he also reflected on his bad behavior to Miss Read and Vernon
- “I began to suspect that this Doctrine tho’ it might be true, was not very useful.”
- Elsewhere he writes about his belief in a Creator God, Immortal Soul, and Judgement of Good and Evil; but he says of Jesus Christ: “I have some doubts as to his Divinity...I see no harm, however, in its being believed if that Belief has the good Consequence...of making his Doctrines more respected and better observed...”

Public Accomplishments

- Subscription Library
- Police tax “proportioned to Property” value
- Volunteer Fire Brigades
- Lottery to raise money for Canon; Militia
- University of Pennsylvania
- Hospital for Poor: Public-Private funding
- Tax money to have streets cleaned and then paved: “”Human Felicity is produc’d not so much by great Pieces of good fortune that seldom happen, as by little Advantages that occur every Day.”

Reason and Optimism

- Thanks to Science, in a thousand years “we may perhaps learn to deprive large Masses of their Gravity, and give them absolute Levity, for the sake of easy Transport. Agriculture may diminish its Labor and double its produce; all Diseases may by sure means be prevented or cured, not excepting even that of Old Age, and our Live lengthened at pleasure even beyond the antediluvian Standard. O that moral Science were in as fair a way of Improvement, that Men would cease to be Wolves to one another, and that human Beings would at length learn what they now improperly call Humanity!” In a letter to Joseph Priestly, 1780

Thomas Jefferson's Accomplishments

- Architect: Montecello as an American classic built on Neo-Classical style
- Drafted first draft of Declaration of Independence that not only justified our Revolution but also espoused the highest ideals of our country, then and now
- Ambassador to France with Franklin
- Secretary of State under Washington
- Third President

Jefferson as Enlightenment Man

- <http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/document/>
- We hold these truths to be **self-evident**, that **all men are created equal**, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain **unalienable Rights**, that among these **are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness**. — **That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed**, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

Constitutional Government

- Rights of Citizens are Self-evident and Inalienable
- These rights include life, liberty and pursuit of happiness
- Modification of John Locke's statement—happiness for property
- The purpose of government is to protect these rights
- People are source of Sovereignty and retain right to revolution

Separation of Church and State

- Jefferson wrote a bill in the Virginia House of Burgesses: Statue for Religious Freedom, 1777
- De-established Church of England as official religion in VA and guaranteed freedom of religion to all people and faiths
- <https://www.theatlantic.com/past/docs/issues/96oct/obrien/peterson.htm>
- “Wall of Separation”: letter he wrote to the Danbury Baptist Association in 1802
- Jefferson Bible: omitted miracles and anything supernatural, including the Resurrection, while keeping the teachings of Jesus

Enlightenment Americans

- Constitutional and Limited Government
- Government that serves the People
- Individual Rights heralded
- Religious freedom
- Promote Public Education—University of Virginia and University of Pennsylvania
- Science, technology and architecture