

Chapter 17: The Age of Enlightenment-
Eighteenth Century Thought
Section 2: The Philosophes

By Dallin F. Hardy

■ Philosophes

■ 18th-century

- Writers

- Critics

■ Sought to apply

- Reason to

- Institutions

- Society



■ Famous Philosophes

- Voltaire
- Montesquieu
- Diderot
- D'Alembert
- Rousseau
- Hume
- Gibbon
- Smith
- Lessing
- Kant



■ Readership of the Philosophes

■ Urban classes

- Commercial
- Professional



FIG. 2.15. A coffeehouse at the close of the seventeenth century. Note the papers on the table in the foreground and the tables in the rear devoted to conversations on different subjects. (By permission of the Bodleian Library, University of Oxford, Douce Prints W.1.2[203].)

■ Philosophes

■ Sought to reform

- Religion
- Political thought
- Society
- Government
- Economy



Voltaire—First Among the Philosophes

- Voltaire
 - France
 - Most influential
 - Philosophe



- *Letters on the English*
 - 1733
 - Voltaire
 - Praised
 - English virtues

LETTERS
CONCERNING THE
ENGLISH
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and A. LYON in *Ruffel-Street, Covent-Garden*.
MDCCLXXXIII.

- *Candide*

- 1759

- Voltaire

- Attacked

- Human optimism



Candide...recula trois pas saisi d'horreur,
et avança ensuite par bon procédé.

Candide, Chap. 11