

United States  
Government and Citizenship  
Chapter 2: 1605-1734  
Section 4: Early Enlightenment  
Thought

By Dallin F. Hardy

- Age of Reason
  - 18<sup>th</sup>-century
  - Also called
    - Enlightenment



- John Trenchard
  - English
    - Political philosopher



SIR JOHN TRENCHARD  
1704-1784  
Engraving by J. Smith after a portrait by Sir Godfrey Kneller

- Thomas Gordon
  - English
    - Political philosopher

C A T O's  
LETTERS:  
OR,  
ESSAYS *on* LIBERTY,  
CIVIL and RELIGIOUS,  
And other important SUBJECTS.

V O L. II.

*The FOURTH EDITION, corrected*



L O N D O N:

Printed for W. Wilkins, T. Woodward, J. Walther,  
and J. Peck, M DCC XXXVII.

- *Independent Whig*
  - 1719-1720

THE  
INDEPENDENT WHIG:  
OR, A  
DEFENCE  
OF  
Primitive Christianity,  
And of Our  
*Ecclesiastical Establishment,*  
AGAINST  
The Exorbitant CLAIMS and  
ENCROACHMENTS of Fanatical  
and Difaffected CLERGYMEN.

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THE SEVENTH EDITION,  
With ADDITIONS and AMENDMENTS.

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V O L. I.

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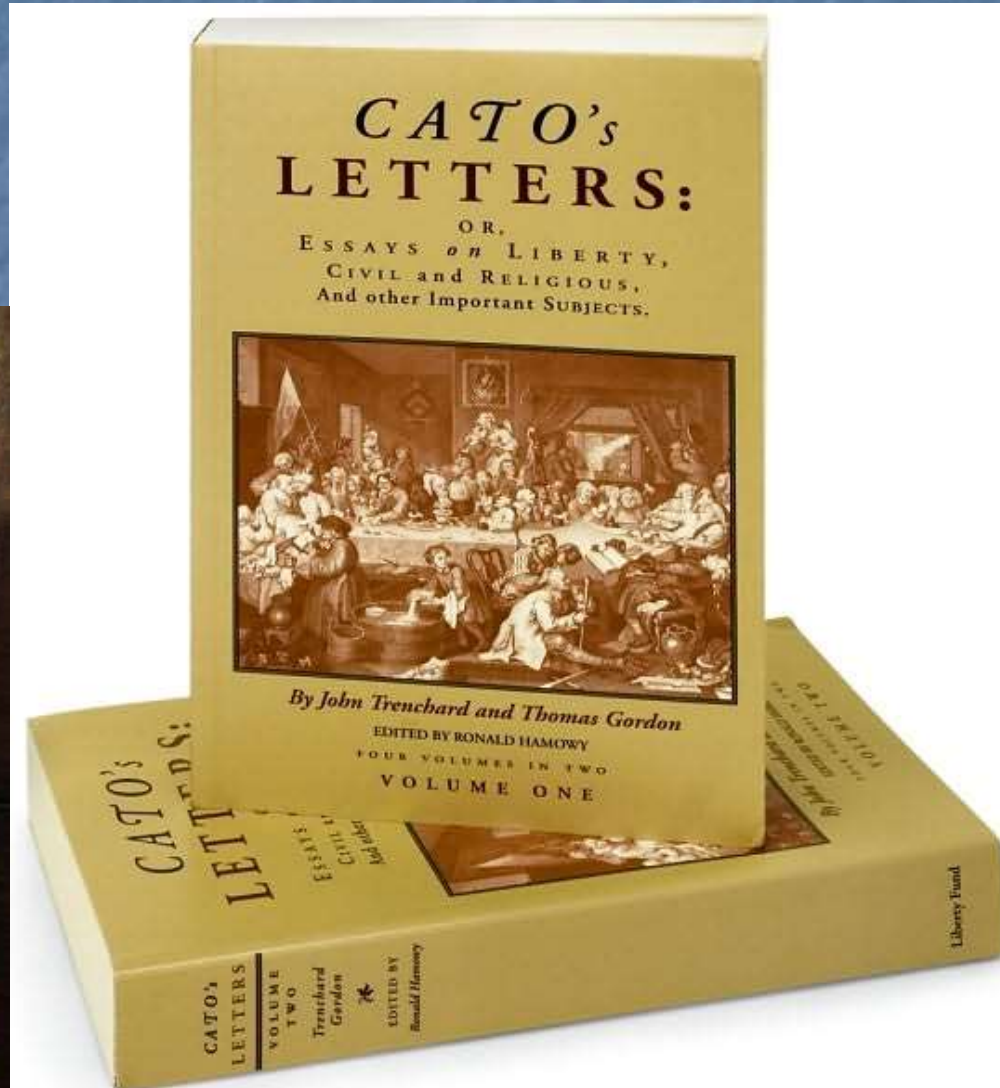
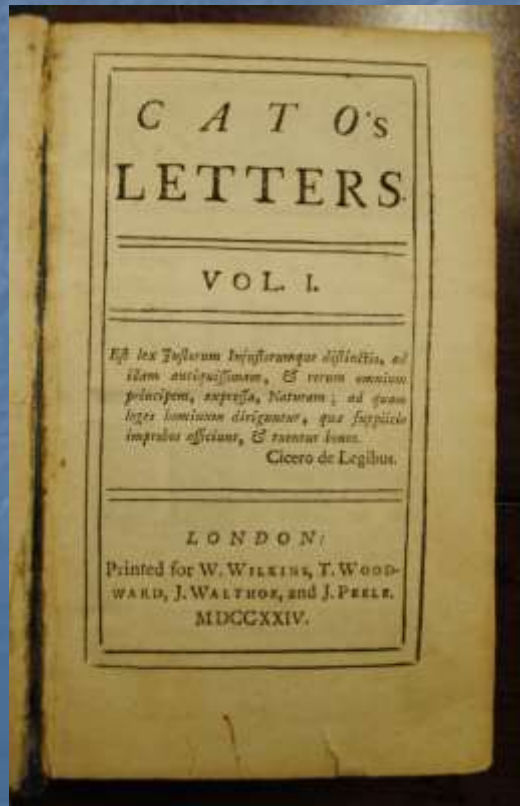
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M.DCC.XLIII.

# Cato's Letters

1720-1723



- “*Cato’s Letters* and the *Independent Whig*, and all the writings of Trenchard and Gordon...became Fashionable reading.”

- John Adams



- “All men are born free; Liberty is a Gift which they receive from God: nor can they alienate the same by Consent...”

- *Cato's Letters*

C A T O's  
LETTERS:

OR,

ESSAYS ON LIBERTY,  
CIVIL and RELIGIOUS,

And other Important Subjects.

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IN FOUR VOLUMES.

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VOL. I.

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The SIXTH EDITION, corrected.

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LONDON:

Printed for J. WALTHOE, T. and T. LONG-  
MAN, C. HITCH and L. HAWES, J. HODGES,  
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M. COOPER.

M. DCC. LV.



- “Liberty is the power which every man has over his own actions, and his right to enjoy the fruit of his labour, art, and industry, as far as by it he hurts not the society, or any members of it, by taking from any member, or by hindering him from enjoying what he himself enjoys. The fruits of a man's honest industry are the just rewards of it, ascertained to him by natural and eternal equity, as is his title to use them in the manner which he thinks fit: And thus, with the above limitations, every man is sole lord and arbiter of his own private actions and property.”

- *Cato's Letters*



- “[E]ntering into political society, is so far from a departure from his natural right, that to preserve it was the sole reason why men did so; and mutual protection and assistance is the only reasonable purpose of all reasonable societies.”

- *Cato's Letters*

