

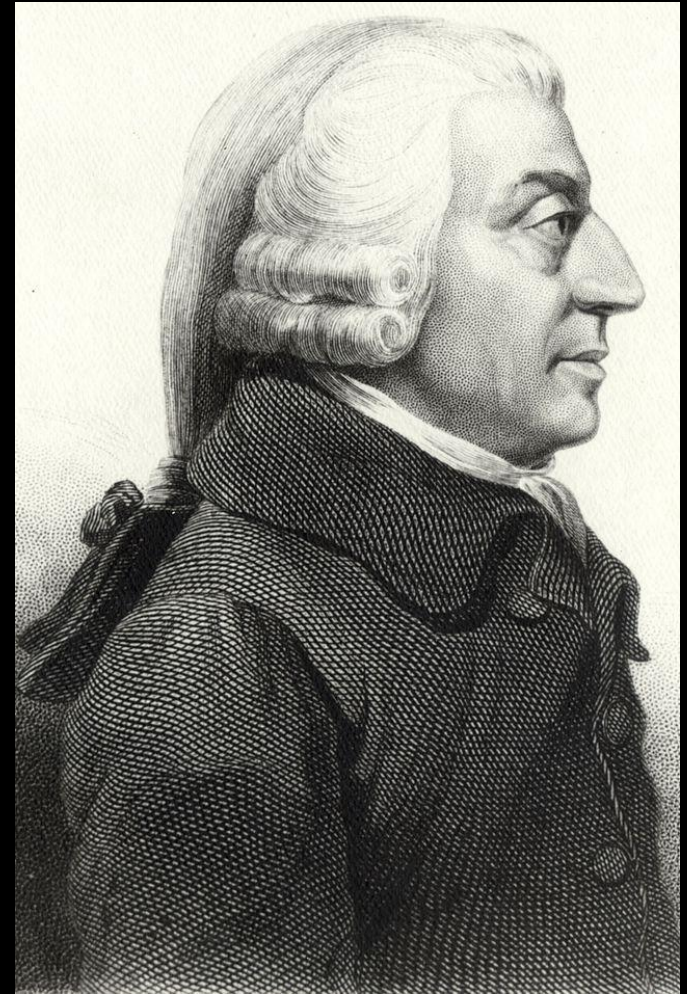
America's Enlightenment and Great Awakening



A period marking the contrasting
ideas of intellectual reason and
religious emotionalism

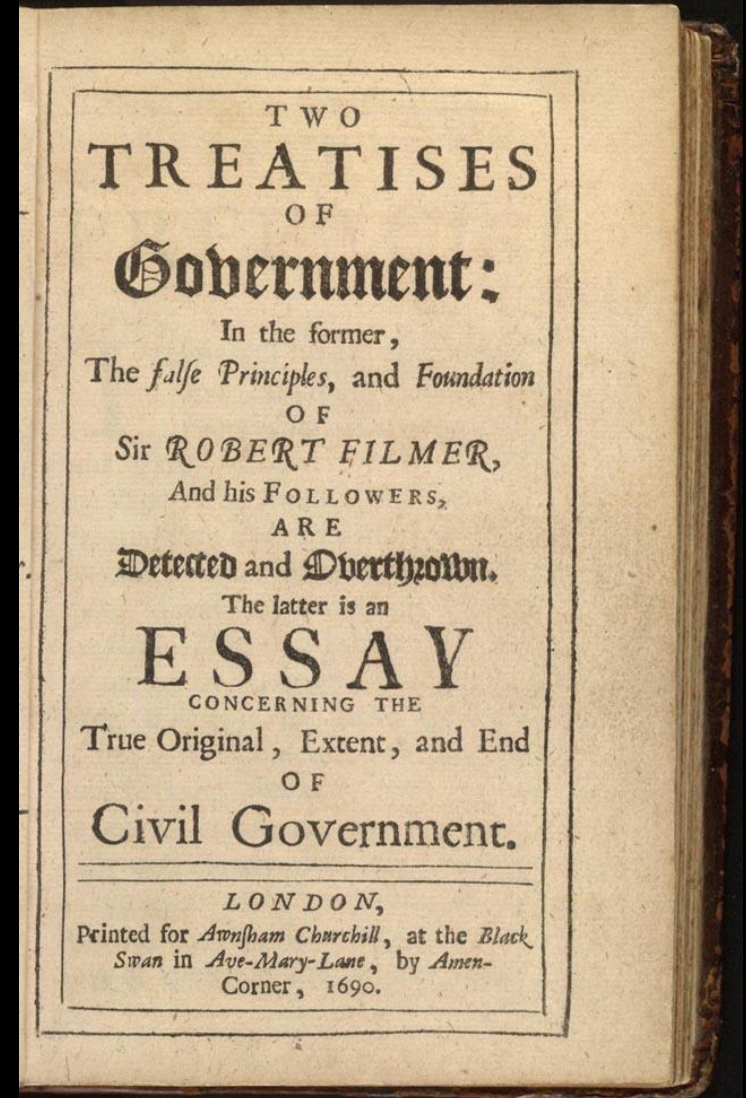
The Enlightenment

- Using reason and logic to explain the world and advance society
 - Started with European elite (upper class and nobility) in the mid-17th Century
- Isaac Newton
- John Locke – social contract
- Voltaire – separation of church & state
- Rousseau – private property & popular sovereignty
- Montesquieu – separation of powers
- Adam Smith - capitalism



John Locke

- Character of individuals was not fixed
 - changed through education
- Governmental power was not derived through god to monarchs
 - derived from the need to preserve “life, liberty, and property” of the governed
- Locke's political theory was founded on social contract theory.

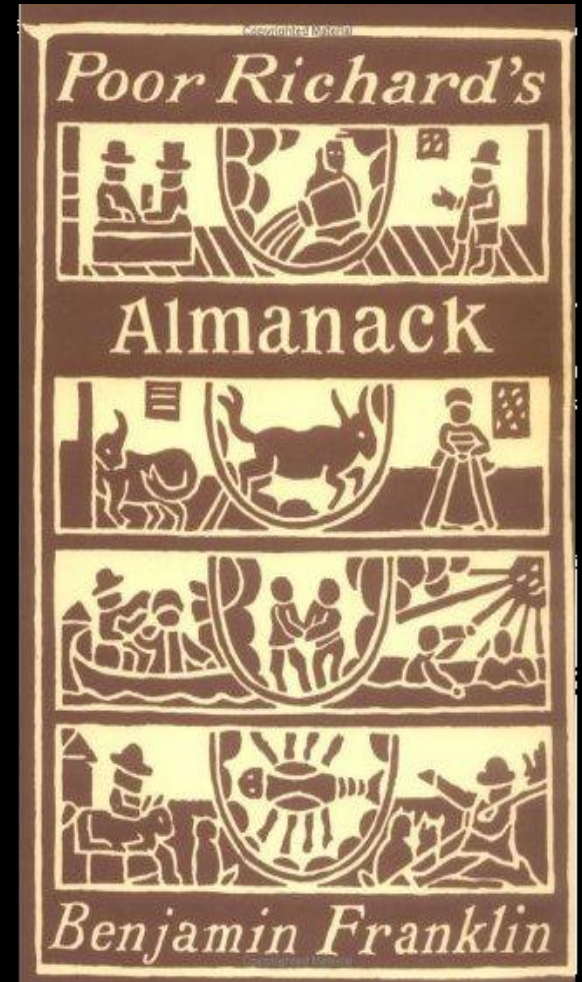


The American Enlightenment

- The European Enlightenment expanded into the colonies
- emphasis upon economic liberty, republicanism and religious tolerance
- Attempts to reconcile science and religion resulted an inclination toward deism
- New-model American style colleges
 - Columbia, Yale, W&M
 - non-denominational moral philosophy replaced theology

American Enlightenment

- Benjamin Franklin
 - *Poor Richard's Almanack*
 - Lending Libraries
 - Practical inventions
- Thomas Jefferson
 - Classicist and Republicanism
- Thomas Paine
 - Author & Inventor
 - *Common Sense*
- Liberalism & Republicanism



The American Colonies were the most literate society in the world (90% of males in NE, 40% of females). England averaged about 30%.

The Father of America's Enlightenment

- *Poor Richards Almanack*: a collection of essays, maxims, and proverbs.
 - Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise
 - Well done is better than Well said.
 - A penny saved is a penny earned
 - There will be sleeping enough in the grave.



A black and white image of Benjamin Franklin's handwritten signature, which reads "B. Franklin" in a cursive script.



The Philadelphia Hospital, the nations first—courtesy of Franklin



Deism

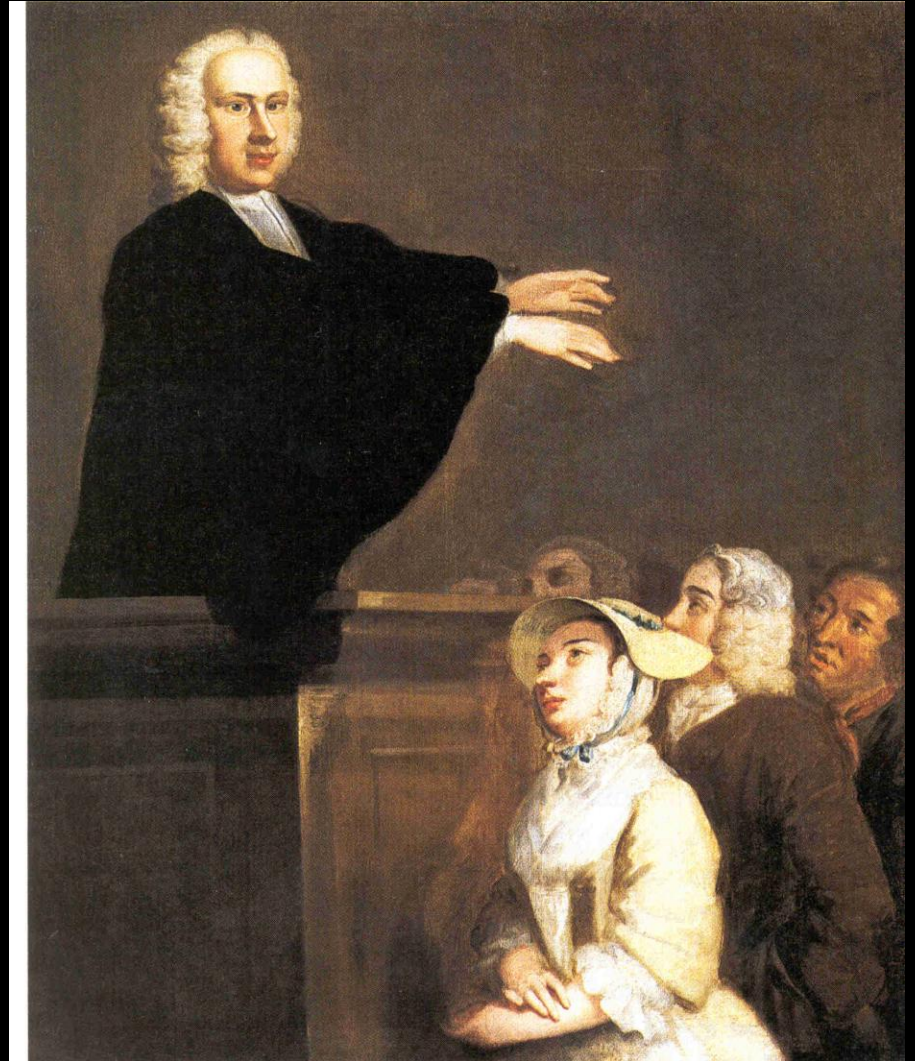
- Deists: rational god who created the universe not to intervene.
- Religion? Viewed as valuable as it regulated morals.
- Intellectuals raised as Christians who believed in one god, but found fault with organized religion



Thomas Paine published *The Age of Reason*, a treatise that helped to popularize deism throughout the USA and Europe

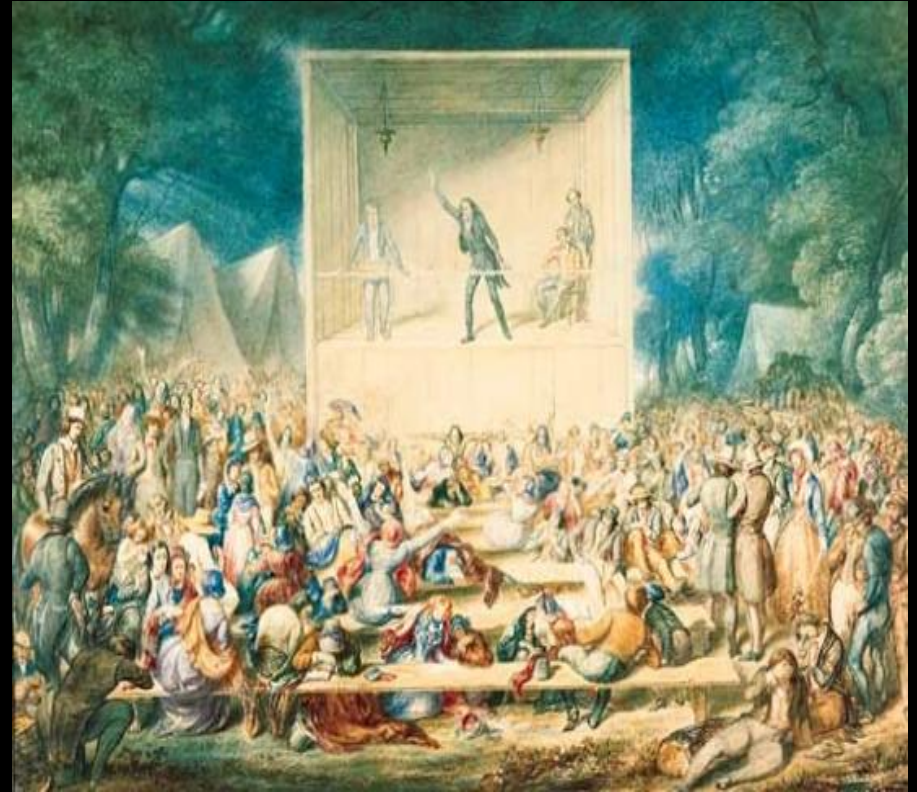
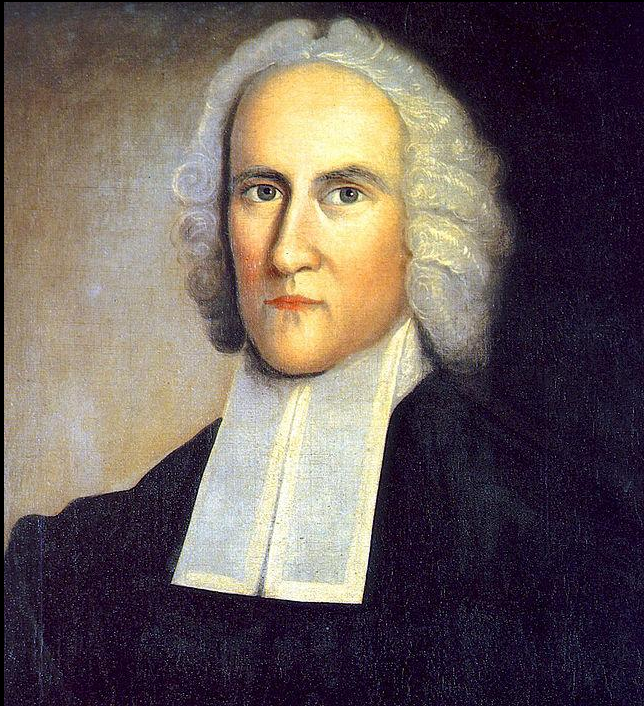
1st Great Awakening

- Began in the mid 1730's, when Americans had fallen "asleep" religiously.
- Religion was an emotionally charged matter.
- Revivals were held to restore the faith.



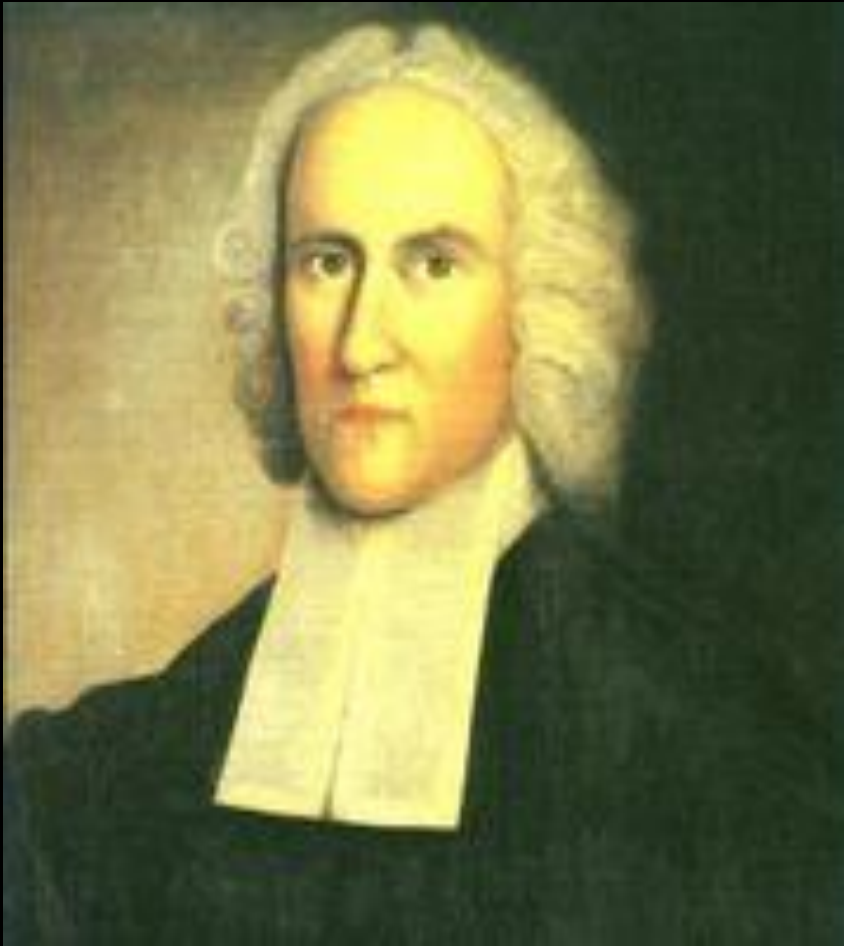
1st Great Awakening

- Evangelical Protestant Movement
- Focused on emotional conversion
- First shared event in the American colonies (nationalism)



- Jonathan Edwards sermon "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God"
- George Whitefield

Jonathan Edwards



- “The god that holds you over the pit of Hell, much as one holds a spider or other loathsome insect over the fire abhors you...his wrath toward you burns like a fire; he looks upon you as worthy of nothing else but to be cast into the fire.”

George Whitfield



- His tours inspired thousands to seek salvation, after one Connecticut tour the population of the church jumped from 630 in 1740 to 3,217 one year later!

New Lights vs. Old Lights

New Lights

- Part of the new “revivals”
- Felt that religious message had run astray.
- Baptists, Methodists, and Presbyterians

Old Lights

- Traditional “old” beliefs within the colonies.
- Congregationalists
- Quakers
- Anglicans





Impacts of the Great Awakening

- Foundation of new colleges:
 - Princeton (New Light Presbyterians)
 - Dartmouth (NH) Congregationalists
- Appeal to African and Native Americans
- Religious toleration, the new protestant movements were very willing to work together.
- Decline of “Old light” groups such as the Quakers, Anglicans, and Congregationalists.
- Increase of Presbyterians, Baptists, and Methodists, all revival groups of the period.
(American Protestantism)