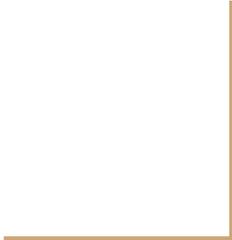




THIS DAY IN HISTORY

MAY 16, 1717





What Happened?
Voltaire imprisoned in Bastille



Who was Voltaire?

- Born as Francois-Marie Arouet into an aristocratic family in 1694 in Paris, France.
- Well educated.
- Developed an interest in literature and writing early in his youth.
- His father wasn't supportive of his desire to become a writer and urged him toward a different career.



Voltaire

- Voltaire began to form his identity as a writer around 1720s during the reign of Louis XIV and XV
- He had difficulties establishing himself as a popular figure in Regency literary circles
- After the death of Louis XIV, under the morally relaxed Regency, Voltaire became the wit of Parisian society, his epigrams widely quoted.



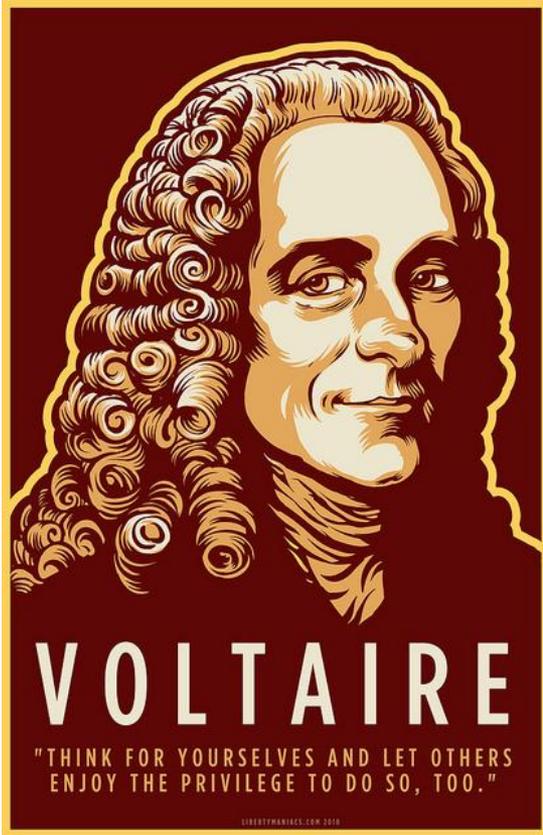
**I disapprove
of what you say,
but I will defend
to the death
your right to say it.**



Causes

- After releasing his poem, *La Henriade*, which included satirical attacks on politics and religion he was arrested.
- Voltaire's time in prison failed to dry up his satirical pen.
- Imprisoned again in 1726 for a verbal altercation with an influential aristocrat. He was soon released under the condition that he leave.

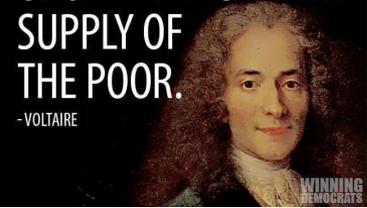
Causes



- Voltaire embraced England and learned English by daily theater visits.
- The cultural and intellectual climate of England at this time (1726 to 1729) delighted the young Voltaire.
- Returned to France and released his *Lettres Philosophiques*, criticising French religious and political institutions.
- Forced into exile in Champagne and Lorraine in 1734.

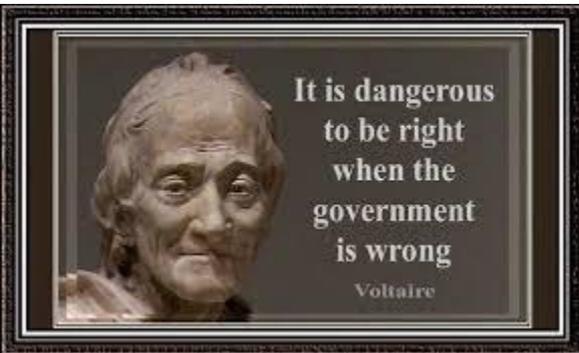
THE COMFORT OF
THE RICH DEPENDS
UPON AN ABUNDANT
SUPPLY OF
THE POOR.

-VOLTAIRE



WINNING
DEMOCRATS

Present day consequences.



Now considered one of the most influential philosophers in History.

Although It wasn't easy to be a social reform writer in 18th century France, a champion of freedom of thought and religion, Voltaire attempted to bring about social reform of 18th century France, through his writing. His ideas were adopted during the French Revolution.

He also greatly influenced American society. Voltaire's emphasis on reason and justice, and his political satire influenced figures such as Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson. His affirmation of civil rights and the principle of religious freedom were included in the Bill of rights and its guarantees of freedoms of speech, the press, and religion.

Political Satire



If you want to know who controls you, look at who you are not allowed to criticize.

~ Voltaire

AZ QUOTES

