

## 1. Voltaire (1694 – 1778)



**Born:** 21 November 1694, Paris, France

**Died:** 30 May 1778, Paris, France

**Full name:** Francois-Marie Arouet

**Nickname:** Zozo

**Parents:** Marie Marguerite d’Aumart,  
François Arouet

### Quotes:

- ★ “It is difficult to free fools from the chains they revere.”
- ★ “Those who can make you believe absurdities can make you commit atrocities.”
- ★ “God gave us the gift of life; it is up to us to give ourselves the gift of living well.”

### About:

Voltaire, pseudonym of François-Marie Arouet, is one of the greatest of all French writers. Although only a few of his works are still read, he continues to be held in worldwide repute as a courageous crusader against tyranny, bigotry, and cruelty. His most famous works included the fictitious *Lettres philosophiques* (1734) and the satirical novel *Candide* (1759). The former – a series of essays on English government and society – was a landmark in the history of thought. Today it is considered one of the great monuments of French literature.

## 2. Johannes Kepler (1571 – 1630)



**Born:** 27 December 1571, Weil der Stadt, Germany

**Died:** 15 November 1630, Regensburg, Germany

**Education:** Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen (1589–1591),

**Known for:** Kepler's laws of planetary motion, Kepler conjecture, Rudolphine Tables

### Quotes:

- ★ “Nature uses as little as possible of anything.”
- ★ “Truth is the daughter of time, and I feel no shame in being her midwife.”
- ★ “Planets move in ellipses with the Sun at one focus.”

### About:

Johannes Kepler was a German mathematician and astronomer who discovered that the Earth and planets travel about the sun in elliptical orbits. He gave three fundamental laws of planetary motion. He also did important work in optics and geometry. Though Kepler is best known for defining laws regarding planetary motion, he made several other notable contributions to science. He was the first to determine that refraction drives vision in the eye, and that using two eyes enables depth perception.

### 3. Enrico Fermi (1901 – 1954)



**Born:** 29 September 1901, Rome, Italy

**Died:** 28 November 1954, Chicago, Illinois, United States

**Education:** Leiden University (1923–1924), more

**Parents:** Alberto Fermi, Ida de Gattis

**Awards:** Nobel Prize in Physics, Matteucci Medal, Max Planck Medal, Hughes Medal, Franklin Medal, Rumford Prize

#### Quotes:

- ★ It is no good to try to stop knowledge from going forward.
- ★ Ignorance is never better than knowledge.
- ★ There's two possible outcomes: if the result confirms the hypothesis, then you've made a discovery. If the result is contrary to the hypothesis, then you've made a discovery.

#### About:

Enrico Fermi was an Italian physicist and the creator of the world's first nuclear reactor, the Chicago Pile-1. He has been called the "architect of the nuclear age" and the "architect of the atomic bomb". He was one of very few physicists to excel in both theoretical physics and experimental physics. In 1938, Fermi was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics "for his demonstrations of the existence of new radioactive elements produced by neutron irradiation, and for his related discovery of nuclear reactions brought about by slow neutrons."

## 4. Leonhard Euler (1707 – 1783)



**Born:** 15 April 1707, Basel, Switzerland

**Died:** 18 September 1783, Saint Petersburg, Russia

**Children:** Carl Euler, Helene Euler, Charlotte Euler, Johann Euler, Christof Euler, Karl Euler

**Parents:** Marguerite Brucker, Paul Euler

**Education:** University of Basel (MPhil)

**Fields:** Mathematics and physics

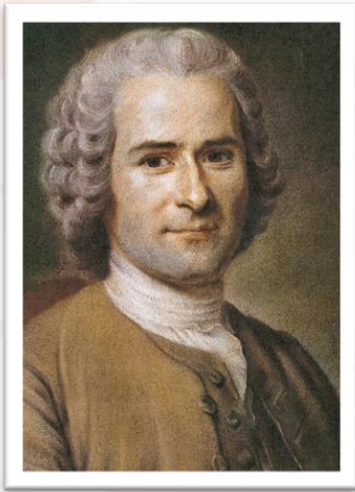
### Quotes:

- ★ Madam, I have come from a country where people are hanged if they talk.
- ★ “Nothing takes place in the world whose meaning is not that of some maximum or minimum.”

### About:

Leonhard Euler was a Swiss mathematician, physicist, astronomer, geographer, logician, and engineer who founded the studies of graph theory and topology and made pioneering and influential discoveries in many other branches of mathematics such as analytic number theory, complex analysis, and infinitesimal calculus.

## 5. -Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778)



**Born:** 28 June 1712, Geneva, Switzerland

**Died:** 2 July 1778, Ermenonville, France

**Region:** Western philosophy

**School:** Social contract Romanticism

**Main interests:** Political philosophy, music, education, literature, autobiography

**Notable ideas:** General will, Human nature, Popular sovereignty

**Parents:** Isaac Rousseau, Suzanne Bernard Rousseau

**Plays:** Pygmalion

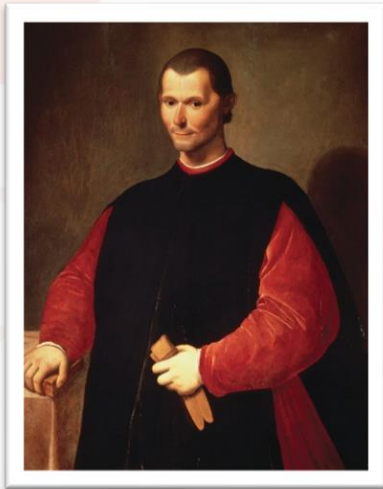
### Quotes:

- ★ “People who know little are usually great talkers, while men who know much say little.”
- ★ “The world of reality has its limits; the world of imagination is boundless.”
- ★ “Man is born free, and everywhere he is in chains.”

### About:

Jean-Jacques Rousseau was a Genevan philosopher, writer, and composer. His political philosophy influenced the progress of the Enlightenment throughout Europe, as well as aspects of the French Revolution and the development of modern political, economic, and educational thought. Jean-Jacques Rousseau is famous for reconceiving the social contract as a compact between the individual and a collective “general will” aimed at the common good and reflected in the laws of an ideal state and for maintaining that existing society rests on a false social contract that perpetuates inequality and rule by the rich.

## 6. Niccolo Machiavelli (1469 – 1527)



**Born:** 3 May 1469, Florence, Italy

**Died:** 21 June 1527, Florence, Italy

**Nationality:** Italian

**Influenced:** Thomas Hobbes, Jean-Jacques Rousseau,

**Influenced by:** Leonardo da Vinci, Plato, Aristotle, Dante Alighieri

### Quotes:

- ★ “Everyone sees what you appear to be, few experiences what you really are.”
- ★ “If an injury has to be done to a man it should be so severe that his vengeance need not be feared.”
- ★ “The lion cannot protect himself from traps, and the fox cannot defend himself from wolves. One must therefore be a fox to recognize traps, and a lion to frighten wolves.”

### About:

Niccolò di Bernardo dei Machiavelli was an Italian diplomat, author, philosopher, and historian who lived during the Renaissance. He is best known for his political treatise *The Prince*, written about 1513. He has often been called the father of modern political philosophy and political science. Niccolò Machiavelli was an Italian Renaissance political philosopher and statesman and secretary of the Florentine republic. His most famous work, *The Prince* (1532), brought him a reputation as an atheist and an immoral cynic.