**Enlightenment Philosopher Quotes**

**Thomas Hobbes:**

“During the time men live without a common power [government] to control them, they are in a state of war; every man against every man. In such a condition there is no industry, no arts, no society, and the life of man solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short.”

“[It is not wisdom but Authority that makes a law.](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/t/thomashobb378768.html)”

“I put for the general inclination of all mankind, a perpetual and restless desire of power after power, that ceaseth only in death.”

“The obligation of subjects to the sovereign is understood to last as long, and no longer, than the power lasteth by which he is able to protect them.”

**John Locke:**

“... whenever the Legislators endeavor to take away, and destroy the property of the people, or to reduce them to slavery under arbitrary power... the people then have a right to resume their original liberty, and, by the establishment of a new legislative, provide for their own safety and security, which is the end for which they are in society.”

“Where there is no law there is no freedom.”

“Freedom of men under government is to have a standing rule to live by, common to every one of that society, and made by the legislative power vested in it; a liberty to follow my own will in all things, when the rule prescribes not, and not to be subject to the inconstant, unknown, arbitrary will of another man”

“Government has no other end, but the preservation of property.”

**Rousseau**:

“Force does not constitute right... obedience is due only to legitimate powers.”

“Liberty is not to be found in any form of government; she is in the heart of the free man; he bears her with him everywhere.”

“The very right to vote imposes on me the duty to involve myself in public affairs, however little influence my voice may have in them.”

“To renounce liberty is to renounce being a man, to surrender the rights of humanity and even its duties.”

“Man is born free; and everywhere he is in chains. One thinks himself the master of others, and still remains a greater slave than they.”

“What then is government? An intermediate body set up between the subjects and the Sovereign, to secure their mutual correspondence, charged with the execution of the laws and the maintenance of liberty, both civil and political.”

**Montesquieu**:

“When the legislative and executive powers are united in the same person, or in the same body of magistrates, there can be no liberty; because apprehensions may arise, lest the same monarch or senate should enact tyrannical laws, to execute them in a tyrannical manner.”

“Power ought to serve as a check to power.”

“The tyranny of a prince in an oligarchy is not so dangerous to the public welfare as the apathy of a citizen in a democracy.”

“There is no crueler tyranny than that which is perpetuated under the shield of law and in the name of justice.”

“We must have constantly present in our minds the difference between independence and liberty. Liberty is a right of doing whatever the laws permit, and if a citizen could do what they forbid he would no longer be possessed of liberty.”