

## ENLIGHTENERS' PHILOSOPHY AND ITS REFLECTION IN ENGLISH LITERATURE.

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### ABSTRACT

This article delves into the profound influence of Enlightenment philosophy on English literature. By tracing the philosophical principles of the Enlightenment period and their manifestation in literary works, it highlights the profound impact of intellectual currents on literary expression.

**KEYWORDS:** enlightenment, humanism, liberalism, intelligence, society, literature, poetry.

### INTRODUCTION

The Enlightenment era, spanning the 17th and 18th centuries, marked a significant intellectual and philosophical shift in Europe, characterized by a newfound emphasis on reason, science, and individual liberty. This period of enlightenment gave rise to a plethora of philosophical ideas that challenged traditional beliefs and paved the way for social and political change. One of the hallmarks of the Enlightenment was its impact on literature, as writers and thinkers sought to reflect and explore these new philosophical concepts through their literary works. This introduction sets the stage for an in-depth exploration of how Enlightenment philosophy influenced English literature, examining the ways in which writers grappled with and responded to the ideas of reason, empiricism, humanism, and progress. By contextualizing the Enlightenment within the literary landscape of England, this study aims to uncover the nuanced relationship between philosophy and literature during this transformative period.

### THE ENLIGHTENMENT

The eighteenth-century intellectual and cultural movement known as the Enlightenment, or the Age of Reason, placed an emphasis on reason over superstition and science over blind faith. Enlightenment intellectuals such as Voltaire, John Locke, and Isaac Newton used the press to challenge conventional wisdom and disseminate new concepts about inquiry, transparency, and religious tolerance across Europe and the Americas. These artists are recognized for their contributions to literature, philosophy, and socio-political activism. Nonetheless, the German Enlightenment gave rise to eminent playwrights, literary critics, and public leaders like Gotthold Ephraim Lessing, Friedrich Schiller, and Johann Wolfrang Goethe.

Alexander Pope is a highly esteemed figure in eighteenth-century English poetry. He is a well-known English poet who has written essays, poetry, and criticism. On May 21, 1688, Alexander was born in London. A gifted poet, essayist, critic, satire, and writer overall. With his "Critical essay" (1711), "The Breakdown of the Lock" (1712), and "Windsor Forest" (1713), Pope achieved literary acclaim. Pope had a reputation as a well-known poet before he was 25. Alexander Pope's 1713 English translation of Homer's Iliad was seen as a significant national incident. All the scholars of that era concurred to complete the eight-volume translation. The Iliad translation was released in 1715 and 1720. According to enlightenment literature, student education is the main means of transforming social life. Because of this, the protagonists of enlightenment fiction frequently engage in an open ideological conflict. Lyric poetry, or poetry that carries on the Classical and Renaissance traditions, is enhanced by numerous new works that incorporate ideas from the Enlightenment. Poet Alexander Pope was crucial in this regard; he is well-known for his critical works that scathingly denounced the vices of society. Alexander Pope is highly regarded in English literature due to his significant contributions to eighteenth-century English poetry. This English poet is well-known for his critical works, essays, and poetry. His unwavering belief was that he was a committed advocate of moral and artistic principles.

### CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this study has illuminated the profound influence of Enlightenment philosophy on English literature. Through an analysis of key texts and authors, we have observed how Enlightenment ideals such as reason, empiricism, humanism, and progress permeated literary works of the period, shaping themes, characters, and narratives. By tracing the trajectory of Enlightenment thought in English literature, we have gained insight into the complex interplay between philosophy and artistic creation, highlighting the enduring relevance of these ideas in shaping our understanding of literature and society.

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