

# HIST 202 - ROYALTIES AND REVOLUTIONS: PRE-MODERN TO MODERN WORLDS

*Discussion Readings and Focus Questions for:*

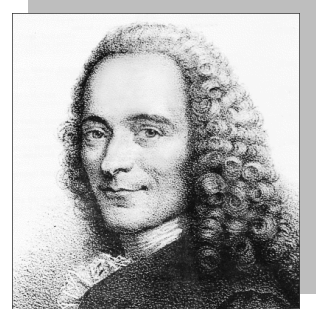
*Unit Two:*

*The Enlightenment and the Origins of Revolution:  
"Dare to Know!"*

## Document Reading for Unit II:

Immanuel Kant, "What is Enlightenment?" (.pdf)

Voltaire, *Candide* (selected chapters)



## Discussion 1:

### Questions on Chapter 3: Candide's Escape from the Bulgarians

1. What was the preacher like in Holland? What kinds of things did he say?
2. Who helped Candide finally? Who did not help? What was the religion of each?
3. How might this story be a criticism of Christianity? Would that be dangerous?

### Questions on Chapter 4: How Candide Found Pangloss Again

1. What happened to Cunegonde and her family?
2. What disease does Pangloss contract? Trace the "genealogy" of this disease.
3. Did this "genealogy" break the rules of this society?

## Discussion 2:

### Questions on Chapter 16: 2 Travelers, 2 Women, and 2 Monkeys

1. Describe **in detail** what the lost travelers hear and actually see
2. What do the travelers do about it, and what is the reaction of the women?
3. What do they find out afterwards was actually happening before?
4. What could be the meaning of this story, according to Cacambo? What do you think Voltaire could be up to here? Was it a dangerous message?

### Questions on Chapters 17 and 18: Eldorado in the Eyes of Europeans

1. Who are the "villagers?" What do the travelers believe they have found?

2. Describe the old man's house, and what Eldoradians are like
3. What is their religion? Do they have priests, monks, many gods? Why not?
4. Describe the way these people worship. Would Europeans be surprised?
5. What do they ask about meeting the King, and what is actually the custom when meeting him? Would this surprise them?
6. Is there Science in Eldorado? Describe it.
7. What is amazing about the King? Although a monarchy, is Eldorado a "tyranny?"
8. As you see it, how is Eldorado in stark contrast to 18<sup>th</sup> century Europe?

### Discussion 3:

#### Questions for Chapter 20: Candide and Martin at Sea

1. Who is Martin, and what does he think about the world and the existence of God?
2. What happens to the Spanish and Dutch ships fighting? What was on the sunken ship?
3. What does Candide conclude from this, and what does Martin add?
4. According to Candide, God "punished" the captain of the Dutch pirate ship. Does Martin agree? What is Voltaire up to here?

#### Immanuel Kant, "What is Enlightenment?"

1. How does Kant, in a few words, describe "enlightenment?"
2. What things work against most of humanity not becoming enlightened?
3. What is required for enlightenment to occur?

