

# Common Themes/Topics in rationalist literature

Emphasis on logic and reason for solutions to human problems.

Distrust of the mystical and **disbelief** in the supernatural

Faith in the senses

Sense of nationalism (**patriotism**)

Belief in progress through education

Belief in basic human goodness

Authority is meant to be **questioned**

Through the use of reason, everyone is capable of finding **truths** about the universe

God created the universe but does not interfere in its workings (a religious belief called Deism)

# Deism

Deism was a belief that emerged in the 17th and 18th centuries that humans can know God through reason and the observation of nature, rather than by revelation, the supernatural, or miracles.

Believed God created the earth and scientific law, and that studying nature and serving fellow man through public service was to honor His creations.

Rejected the Puritan idea of predestination - believed humans, not God, made their own destinies.

# Rationalist Literature

Genre/Style of literature:

Mostly devoted to philosophy, ethics, science, and politics (like the [Declaration of Independence](#))

Persuasive essays and pamphlets

Speeches

Journals

Biographies