



# Western Civilization from 1650 to the Present

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## TOPIC 2.2. PHILOSOPHY IN THE WAKE OF SCIENCE

Supplement to Chambers, *The Western Experience*, Chapter 16: Culture and Society in the Age of the Scientific Revolution, pp. 551-587.

<p><b>NEW DIRECTIONS IN THOUGHT: Absolutism vs. Constitutionalism</b></p>	<p>The Scientific Revolution proved that the ancient and medieval world views had been incorrect. The shocking revelation that the earth was not the center of the universe opened the door to skepticism and raised questions about other important aspects of life, including politics.</p> <p>Two political philosophers took the lead in constructing theories of how men should live together in society. Because their starting points were so different, their conclusions were at opposite poles.</p> <p>See the PowerPoint presentation “Philosophy in the “Wake of Science” and the charts “New Directions in Thought: Absolutism vs. Constitutionalism” and “Hobbes vs. Locke” in Course Documents for details.</p>
<p><b>ONLINE RESOURCES</b></p>	<p>For more information on this topic, explore one or more of the following online resources:</p> <p><a href="#">Thomas Hobbes</a>: Brief biography with list of works and references</p> <p><a href="#">The Leviathan</a>: Hobbes’ most famous work.</p> <p><a href="#">John Locke</a>: His life and works.</p> <p><a href="#">Second Treatise on Government</a>: Locke’s most famous work.</p>
<p><b>DISCUSSION QUESTIONS</b></p>	<p>Drawing on the resources you have had an opportunity to explore (textbook, course documents, online resources, library resources), answer one or more of the following questions:</p> <p>Discuss the political philosophies of Thomas Hobbes and John Locke. How did each view human nature, natural rights, and the role of government?</p> <p>Would you rather live under a government designed by Hobbes or by Locke? Why</p>