

## ENLIGHTENER'S PHILOSOPHY AND ITS REFLECTION IN ENGLISH LITERATURE

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***Annotatsiya:** Enlightenment saw in the literature, first and foremost, a means of reforming social life based on the education of students, as one of the means of achieving a specific goal. Particular attention was paid to the arts and genres that provide opportunities for the realization of enlightenment goals. Prominent figures in the Enlightenment, such as Diderot and Lessing, created special studies on theatrical art and drama.*

***Key words:** Rationalism, Empiricism, Individualism, Progress, Skepticism, Secularism, Humanism, Equality, Deism, John Locke, Alexander Pope, Jonathan Swift, Samuel Johnson, Daniel Defoe, Jane Austen.*

### INTRODUCTIO

In the Enlightenment literature, the genre of fiction, especially the novel, which allows for a comprehensive artistic analysis of life and the expression of a holistic artistic concept, is very well developed” writes Izzat Sultan, a wellknown literary scholar. He developed a number of new genres, such as the Epistolary Novel (O. Goldsmith, Philosophy of the World, Montesquieu's Persian Letters), The Educational Novel (Russian: Julia or Eloise), and The Philosophical Story (Diderot), new possibilities for the creation of human character were discovered, and new methods and tools were introduced. Enlightenment literature, distinguished by its anti-feudal nature, was imbued with the philosophical and political teachings of the bourgeoisie, which was fighting against feudalism, was still in a progressive spirit at the time, and used the popular movement. In this regard, the literary scholar E.Khudoyberdiyev expresses the following views: “Intelligence is the key to enlightenment,” he said. They

overestimated the intellectual activity of man, his human qualities, condemned the oppression and ignorance that are alien to man, and at the same time, they made a great mistake by overestimating the idea of enlightenment and its power. “As a result, they have been given the illusion that an educated, just, and enlightened tyrant should rule at the head of the state”. The aesthetic views of Enlightenment literature were valued in that they served the educational value of art in the interests of the reconstruction of society. Eighteenth-century writers created enlightened political-philosophical novels, philosophical narratives, and dramatic works of political-moral character. Enlightenment writers saw literature as a tool for the ideological struggle of an emerging new class. Their positive protagonists were civic courage, hard work and initiative, as well as an exaggeration of the idea of generosity. A particular approach to the subject in this literature would be in line with the requirements of that historical period, the views being sought to rebuild the world. Although the Enlightenment movement does not appear in a uniform, revolutionary, and consistent manner in Western European countries, it has one thing in common for progressive literature, which is its anti-feudal nature. The great representatives of Enlightenment literature in England were the novelists Daniel Defoe, Jonathan Swift, Samuel Richardson, Henry Fielding, the popular poet Robert Burns, and others. The Enlightenment movement in France produced artists known for their socio-political, philosophical and literary activities, such as François Voltaire, Denis Diderot, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Pierre Auguste Beaumarchais. The German Enlightenment, on the other hand, produced great literary scholars, playwrights, and public figures such as Gotthold Ephraim Lessing, Friedrich Schiller, and Johann Wolfrang Goethe. We know from history that every nation has achieved great heights with its sharp talents, and the people have contributed to the enrichment of the nation's spiritual treasury by relying on their oral creations, have great writers. Following the historical period of Puritan American literature, a new literary movement during the middle 18th century to the early 19th century from Europe introduced a new school of thinking in literature. The Age of

Enlightenment sprouted new ideas concerning philosophical ideas of liberty and freedom. Enlightenment literature also explored the concepts of democracy and reasoning. The central ideas of Enlightenment literature surrounded itself, in a sense, as a rejection of religion, specifically church dogma, in favor of new ideas that focused on reasoning. The rise of these ideas resulted from the advances of empirical science, skepticism toward old traditions and authority, and the focus on reasoning and intelligence. Enlightenment writing show more conten. Calvinism perspectives of religion were still prevalent, but the rise of Deism emphasized God as a powerful clockmaker who left the world after its creation. Many new ideas were introduced such as how leadership should be gained by meritocracy instead of birthrights. Other ideas from Enlightenment thinkers emphasized scientific explanations and observations of the world, and highlighted the importance of human 's rights. Another consequences of these political and radical shifts in thinking during this time brought about new ideas that galvanized revolutions such as the American Revolution. The entire shift from a society influenced greatly by God and puritan values to a society influenced by Enlightenment concepts helped to influence prominent writers. These writers influenced by Enlightenment ideas included Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Paine who contributed their own voices concerning Enlightenment philosophy and thinking in their respective writings of “The Way to Wealth” and “The Crisis, show more content. In the pamphlet, Paine uses moral reference to God, and refers to God as a way to inspire and convince plainly to the colonists the importance of American Revolutionary war against the king and Great Britain. Paine used rational examples to oppose traditional government, specifically the authority of the British government, and tried to convince the colonists the king’s tyrannical actions. He speaks openly about having “little superstition” yet uses God as a reference to connect to the people, and emphasizes how “God Almighty” would not leave the Colonists unsupported from the British “military destruction” (W. W Norton & Company Inc. 648). By contrasting the King as a “murder”, Paine reminds the Colonists the tyrannical, unrighteous actions the King has imposed

on the people such as the unfair right to “bind us in all cases whatsoever” as an act similar to that of “slavery” . The American Enlightenment was a period of intellectual fervor in the thirteen American colonies in the 18th to 19th century, which led to the American Revolution and the creation of the United States of America. The American Enlightenment was influenced by the 17th- and 18th-century Age of Enlightenment in Europe and native American philosophy. According to James MacGregor Burns, the spirit of the American Enlightenment was to give Enlightenment ideals a practical, useful form in the life of the nation and its people.

### **CONCLUSION**

Western European literature, especially English literature, has gone through specific stages of development in its centuries-long history. The general importance of literature is that it always raises important social issues of the time and forms a certain attitude of the people to those issues. The British and French bourgeois revolutions of the XVII-XVIII centuries destroyed the old medieval period. It struck the feudal era, which had ruled for more than a thousand years. Absolute monarchy was abolished in England. England was the first in Europe to embark on the path of capitalist development. Blood classicism, which dominated Western European literature in the 17th century, was replaced by Enlightenment literature, more precisely, Enlightenment realism, in the 18th century.

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