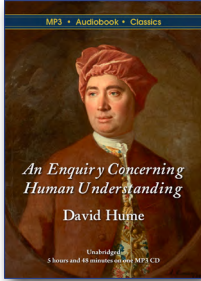


Enlightenment Classics



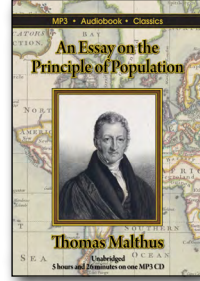
An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding

Author: David Hume
 Read by: Multiple readers
 Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
 Length: 5 hours and 54 minutes
 Genre: Philosophy

An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding (1748) by David Hume is a shortened revision of his *A Treatise of Human Nature*. In revising he eliminated material from the *Treatise* and focused on clarifying and emphasizing its most important elements. The resulting book articulates Hume's theory of knowledge in a logical sequence of incremental steps. The first sections outline the epistemology, and the latter sections

discuss its application to specific topics. Hume holds that mental activity falls into two groups: direct impressions of experience and ideas, which are memories and. He goes on to treat the association of ideas, the nature of understanding and doubt, and the roles of habit and probability. His arguments take the reader to the edge of what he acknowledges are the limits of knowledge, and in doing so he delves into the difficult subjects of liberty and miracles. The book was highly influential upon release and is rightly regarded as a classic in modern philosophy.

Catalog: DB-1213
 UPC: 0701236969313
 MSLP: \$10.99

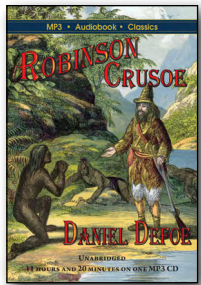


An Essay on the Principle of Population

Author: Thomas Malthus (1741 - 1803)
 Read by: Multiple readers
 Length: 5 hours 26 minutes
 Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
 Genre: Science, Economics

An Essay on the Principle of Population (1798) was the most influential work on the subject of population of its time. In it Malthus formulated the Iron Law of Population, which holds that an increase in the supply of labor leads inevitably to lower wages and thus to poverty, famine and disease. He held that population generally increased in times and places of plenty until demand for resources exceeded supply, and that epidemics, famines and wars that stymied growth also masked the fundamental problem. He proposed that the only solution was to limit the birth rate through moral restraint on a wide scale. The book fueled debate on the size of the British population and helped speed the passage of the Census Act of 1800, which mandated a national census to be conducted every ten years. Malthus revised the work over the course of six editions, incorporating new material and changes in his thinking. The book has been cited as an important influence in the development of the theory of natural selection by Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace.

Catalog: DB-1098
 UPC: 0683422134227
 MSLP: \$10.99



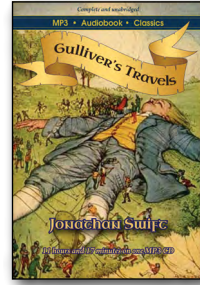
Robinson Crusoe

Author: Daniel Defoe
 Read by: Mark F. Smith
 Length: 11 hours 20 minutes
 Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
 Genre: Action & Adventure Fiction

Robinson Crusoe (1719) is a fictional autobiography that tells the story of an English plantation who is shipwrecked off the coast of South America and marooned on an island for 28 years. He salvages tools and supplies sufficient to build a dwelling, reads the Bible, encounters native cannibals and manages to free and adopt one of the captives as a companion, dubbed Friday. He and Friday eventually defeat the natives, and Crusoe returns to England by way of Portugal and Spain. *Robinson Crusoe* was the first novel to

Catalog: DB-1018
 UPC: 0684758936011
 MSLP: \$12.99

appear in English and was based in part on a memoir by a Scottish seaman who had been similarly marooned. Defoe used the plot as a framework and added fantastic and humorous events that give the story much of its appeal. Told in a straightforward style laced with wit and irony, it dug deep into the mind of the character, highly original at the time. The book became an instant hit, going through four editions in the first year, and has remained a bestseller ever since.

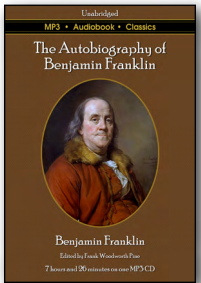


Gulliver's Travels

Author: Jonathan Swift
 Read by: Lizzie Driver
 Length: 11 hours 17 minutes
 Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
 Genre: Action & Adventure Fiction, Satire

George Orwell called *Gulliver's Travels* one of the six essential works in all literature. A parody of the traveler's tale genre popular at the time exemplified by *Robinson Crusoe*, the book recounts four voyages in which the naive Gulliver is taken by accidents to strange and foreign lands. He first finds himself a giant among tiny people, then a tiny person among giants. He is rescued by a flying island of feckless rationalists pursuing absurd projects, then classed with hideous humanoid Yahoos by the noble equine race of idealists the Houyhnhnms. Cast out by fate again and again, the once adventurous and optimistic Gulliver returns to England a misanthropic recluse, choosing to spend his time at the stables instead of society. A biting satire on human nature, *Gulliver's Travels* was an instant hit when it appeared. It was published anonymously and changes were made to avoid censure by the government. The publisher used five printers to keep up with demand, which sold out in its first week.

Catalog: DB-1039
 UPC: 0684758936035
 MSLP: \$11.99



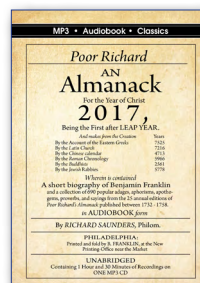
Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin

Author: Benjamin Franklin
 Read by: Gary Gilberd
 Length: 7 hours and 25 minutes
 Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
 Genre: Biography, Autobiography

In the words of biographer Walter Isaacson, Franklin was "the most accomplished American of his age and the most influential in inventing the type of society America would become." *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin* is Franklin's own record of his life, written between 1771 and 1790 and incomplete and unpublished at the time of his death. It languished until his grandson William Temple Franklin published the first three parts in London in 1818.

Catalog: DB-1071
 UPC: 0684758936516
 MSLP: \$11.99

Franklin's legacy of "firsts" continues to our time: *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin* was the first full-length recorded book in history, recorded by actor Michael Ryer and released in 1969.



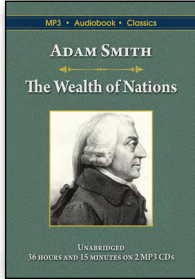
Poor Richard's Almanack

Author: Benjamin Franklin
 Read by: Michelle Fry
 Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
 Length: 1 hour and 30 minutes
 Genre: Humor, Philosophy

Poor Richard's Almanack was a yearly almanac published by Benjamin Franklin using the pseudonym Richard Saunders, the "Poor Richard" of the title. Almanacs offered an amalgam of weather forecasts, sunrises, sunsets, phases of the moon, and tides along with household tips, puzzles and other amusements. Both useful and entertaining, they were immensely popular, and none more so than Franklin's, which sold quite well, as many as 10,000 copies per year, and made him a wealthy man. Published for 25 years between 1732 and 1758, the pamphlet was known for its wordplay and extensive sprinkling of witty and wise sayings throughout, many of which have found their way into the American vernacular. Some 690 of these aphorisms and sayings are collected here.

Catalog: DB-1211
 UPC: 0701236969290
 MSLP: \$9.99

Enlightenment Classics

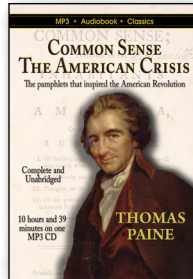


The Wealth of Nations

Author: Adam Smith (1723 - 1790)
Read by: Stephen Escalera
Format: 2 MP3 CDs in DVD case
Length: 36 hours and 15 minutes
Genre: Economics, Political Philosophy

The Wealth of Nations is a profound work that helped lay the intellectual foundations of the modern world. Over a period of seventeen years Adam Smith assembled notes and observations of discussions among economists and spent ten years writing a treatise that offered a practical reformed economic theory to meet the challenges of the emerging Industrial Revolution and replace increasingly obsolete mercantilist and physiocratic economic theories. The notion that individuals guided by their enlightened self-interest will achieve an economic outcome that benefits the public at large is a sacred tenet of neoclassical economics, as is the related idea of "an invisible hand" that creates economic equilibrium and prosperity when markets are allowed to operate freely. The book was an instant success when it was published in 1776 and went through five editions in Smith's lifetime. The ideas and policies articulated by Smith have influenced countless economists and authors as well as governments and organizations over the ages. It continues to be a fundamental work in classical economics to this day.

Catalog: DB-1011
UPC: 0683422134975
MSLP: \$19.99

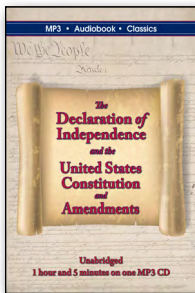


Common Sense and the American Crisis

Author: Thomas Paine
Read by: Multiple readers
Length: 10 hours and 35 minutes
Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
Genre: History, Political Philosophy

This volume contains the pamphlets by Thomas Paine that inspired the American Revolution. *Common Sense* argued for seeking independence from Britain when the matter was the issue of the day. Reasoned and written in a clear, simple style, Paine structured *Common Sense* as a sermon to make his case, drawing together the drive for independence with prevailing dissenting Protestant tenets to forge a uniquely American political identity. Published January 10, 1776, it became an instant sensation. The first of sixteen *The American Crisis* pamphlets published during the American Revolution begins with "These are the times that try men's souls..." Signed "Common Sense," Paine's writings clarified the issues, improved morale, appealed to the good sense of the English and argued against a negotiated peace. George Washington had it read aloud to the Continental Army before the Battle of Trenton to bolster morale.

Catalog: DB-1037
UPC: 852679827439
MSLP: \$12.99



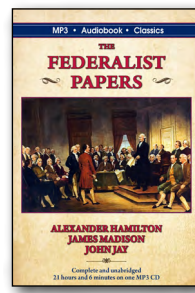
The Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution and Amendments

Author: Thomas Jefferson, The Constitutional Convention
Read by: Multiple readers
Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
Length: 1 hour and 40 minutes
Genre: Political Philosophy, History

The Declaration of Independence is a list of grievances against King George II and the assertion of natural and legal rights designed to explain why the Congress had voted to declare independence. Thomas Jefferson composed the declaration under the editorial supervision of John Adams and Benjamin Franklin. *The United States Constitution* articulates the structure and powers of the federal government and serves as the supreme law of the land.

Catalog: DB-1191
UPC: 0683422135118
MSLP: \$9.99

It originally consisted of seven articles. The document was created by the Philadelphia Convention of 1787, ratified in 1788 and put into force in 1789. The original language of the articles and all amendments remain intact and can only be modified by a succeeding amendment. This practice was put into force with the first series of ten amendments ratified in 1791 that are known as the *Bill of Rights*, an articulation of rights not defined in the seven articles of the constitution. There are twenty-seven amendments in all.



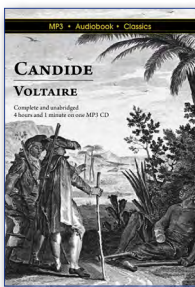
The Federalist Papers

Author: Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, & John Jay
Read by: Multiple readers
Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
Length: 21 hours and 6 minutes
Genre: Political Philosophy, Essays, History

The Federalist Papers is a series of 85 articles arguing in favor of ratification of the United States Constitution by the thirteen original colonies. During the Constitutional Convention that met in 1787 to revise the Articles of Confederation, James Madison and Alexander Hamilton advocated instead for the creation of a new government. The delegates agreed on the principles contained in Madison's Virginia Plan and produced the Constitution, which was submitted to the states in September 1787.

Catalog: DB-1190
UPC: 0683422134937
MSLP: \$14.99

The Federalist papers were written in response to criticism of the Constitution. The articles were first published between October 1787 and August 1788 in newspapers and then published in 1788. Hamilton is the author of 51 articles, Madison the author of 26, and John Jay, who fell ill, authored 5. In the words of historian Richard B. Morris, they are an "incomparable exposition of the Constitution, a classic in political science unsurpassed in both breadth and depth by the product of any later American writer."

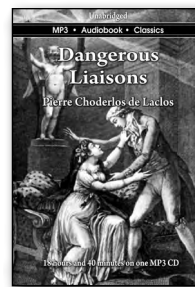


Candide

Author: Voltaire (1694 - 1778)
Read by: Paul Adams
Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
Length: 3 hours 44 minutes
Genre: Fantasy Fiction, Satire

Is this the best of all possible worlds? Voltaire's *Candide* doesn't ask the question so much as he's force fed the answer. Raised in a sheltered environment with the words of Leibnizian positivism dropped into his by his tutor, Dr. Pangloss, Candide accepts that all is for the best. Armed with this sunny belief he leaves the comfort of home for the big bad world only to duck and cover as the big bad world hits back. He learns one thing for sure: if this is the best of all possible worlds, then the Creator is an under-achiever. Subjected to trial after trial, witnessing the many injustices that are the fact and fabric of the world of experience, Candide learns that one must tend one's garden. Written in the mid-18th Century in the Age of Enlightenment this brilliant satire delivers an eloquent argument in a matter-of-fact voice bathed in the humor that stings with the barb of truth.

Catalog: DB-1052
UPC: 0684758936172
MSLP: \$10.99



Dangerous Liaisons

Author: Pierre Choderlos de Laclos (1741 - 1803)
Read by: Multiple readers
Length: 18 hours 40 minutes
Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
Genre: General Fiction

Dangerous Liaisons (1782) is an epistolary novel consisting of four volumes of letters written by and to the various characters. It was viewed as scandalous when it was first published for its frank and pitiless exploration of seduction, revenge and malice; some consider it a depiction of the perversions of the decadent French aristocracy just prior to the French Revolution. The story centers on the rivalry of two aristocrats, Marquise de Merteuil and Vicomte de Valmont, who use seduction to manipulate and humiliate others. Merteuil seeks to corrupt the virtuous young Cecile de Volanges, while Valmont has his sights on seducing the married Mme de Tourvel. Spite and revenge drive each to pursue the object of the other's desire, the rivalry escalates to war, and the two duel to settle the score. One dies, and damage, guilt and suffering inhabits the lives of the survivors.

Catalog: DB-1142
UPC: 0683422134418
MSLP: \$13.99