Rousseau #2

- His most famous work was *The Social Contract*.
- JJR questioned authority - absolute monarchy and religion.
- JJR was passionate, he hated political and economic oppression.
- Influenced later revolutionaries, both middle class and socialist.

JEAN-JACQUES ROUSSEAU

- People are basically good but become corrupted by society (like the absolute monarchy in France).
- For Rousseau, the ***social contract*** was the path to freedom: people should do what is best for their community.
- The ***general will*** (of the people) should direct the state toward the common good. Hence, the good of the community is more important than individual interests.

Rousseau #3 - Quotes

- Man is born free, and everywhere he is in chains.
- Force does not constitute right... obedience is due only to legitimate powers.
- Free people, remember this maxim: we may acquire liberty, but it is never recovered if it is once lost.
- Gratitude is a duty which ought to be paid, but which none have a right to expect.
- It is unnatural for a majority to rule, for a majority can seldom be organized and united for specific action, and a minority can.



