

Chapter 14, Section 4 (Pages 472–477)

The World of European Culture

Big Idea

Art and literature reflect people’s spiritual perceptions and the human condition. As you read, complete a chart like the one below summarizing the political thoughts of Thomas Hobbes and John Locke.

Thomas Hobbes	John Locke



Read to Learn

Art after the Renaissance (page 472)

Making Inferences

How did baroque churches and palaces reflect a search for power?

The artistic Renaissance came to an end when a new movement, **Mannerism**, emerged in Italy. Mannerism rejected Renaissance principles of balance, harmony, and moderation. The rules of proportion were ignored, and elongated figures were used to show suffering, heightened emotion, and religious ecstasy.

The **baroque** movement replaced Mannerism. Baroque artists tried to combine classical ideals with spiritual feelings. Their work also reflected a search for power. Baroque churches and palaces were magnificent and richly detailed. Kings wanted people to feel awe when they looked at them. Baroque painting was known for its use of dramatic effects. Perhaps the greatest figure of the baroque period was the Italian architect and sculptor Bernini. Bernini completed St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome. Caravaggio, from Italy, and Peter Paul Rubens, from the Spanish Netherlands, were noted Baroque painters. Artemisia Gentileschi was prominent, though less well-known than male artists. She was the first woman to be elected to the Florentine Academy of Design.

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Read to Learn

Golden Age of Literature (page 474)

Determining Cause and Effect

Why did Elizabethan playwrights write to please everyone?

In England, a cultural flowering took place in the late 1500s and early 1600s. The period is often called the Elizabethan Era, as much of it took place during the reign of Elizabeth I.

Drama expressed the energy of the time. The most famous dramatist of all was William Shakespeare. Because Elizabethan audiences included all the classes, playwrights wrote to please everyone. In his comedies and tragedies, he showed keen insight into human psychology and a remarkable understanding of the human condition. Shakespeare also wrote sonnets, a style of poetry.

In Spain, Miguel de Cervantes wrote the novel *Don Quixote*. By using two main characters, a knight and his earthy squire, Cervantes showed the duality of human character. The knight is a lofty idealist. The squire is a realist. They come to appreciate each other's point of view.

Spanish plays were so popular that every large town had a public playhouse, including Mexico City in the New World. Playwright Lope de Vega wrote perhaps 1,500 plays that set the standard for others. Lope de Vega wrote to please people, but his writing was of very high quality.

Political Thought (page 476)

Comparing and Contrasting

What was the difference between how Hobbes and Locke viewed life before society was organized?

Thinkers in the seventeenth century were concerned with order and power. Thomas Hobbes wrote a work called *Leviathan*. Hobbes claimed that before society was organized, life was brutal, nasty, and short. He thought that humans were guided by a ruthless struggle for self-preservation, not moral ideals or reason. People formed states to keep themselves from destroying one another. The ruler should have absolute power, and rebellion should be suppressed.

John Locke wrote *Two Treatises of Government* in 1679 and 1680. Locke believed that before society was organized, humans lived in a state of equality and freedom. All humans had certain **natural rights**, rights with which they were born. These included rights to life, liberty, and property. People established a government to protect their rights and judge those that violated them. If the government failed to protect citizens' natural rights, the people had the right to remove or alter the government.

Locke was not an advocate of democracy, but his ideas were used by the Americans and the French to support demands for constitutional government, the rule of law, and the protection of rights.

