by C. B. A. Behrens
The enlightenment thinkers, especially John Locke and Montesquieu, heavily influenced the thinkers of that era. Montesquieu was influenced by the evolution of English government going on right before his eyes. All of this had a tremendous effect on the English colonies in America. Each of the colonies had produced governments with written constitutions, separation of powers, court systems and for the time, expanded suffrage. There are different opinions regarding how much the ideas of the Enlightenment inspired the French Revolution depending on who you read. However, it is fairly obvious that evolving ideas in various fields (such as political theory) in France during the eighteenth century helped to influence the French Revolution, particularly after it started. Society, Government, and the Enlightenment: The Experiences of Eighteenth-Century France and Prussia. Article. Jun 1986. Wong, in contrast, argues that up to the late eighteenth century, both Europe and China experienced "Smithian growth" of the market and the commercial economy, though both remained within the natural limitations identified by the classical economists as a feature of an agrarian economy. Neither in China nor in Europe (vide some of the proto-industrialisation literature) did such growth necessarily contain within itself the seeds of industrialisation. Europe, but not China, later experienced a sharp rupture caused by the new industrial technology. Society, Government and the Enlightenment: The Experiences of 18th-Century France and Prussia by C.B.A. Behrens Thames and Hudson, 248 pp, £16.00, August 1985, ISBN 0 500 25090 1. Religious Toleration and Social Change in Hamburg 1529-1819 by Joachim Whaley Cambridge, 248 pp, £25.00, August 1985, ISBN 0 521 26189 9. Can the history of Prussia really be as dreary and barren as most of the books make it sound? Only German specialists can say, but little that they choose to tell us in English suggests that German scholarship is unearthing a new and unfamiliar Prussia bursting with unsuspected col