The Ideological Tug of War in 18th Century America

Great Awakening 1700

Constitution 1800

Declaration of Independence

Jonathan Edwards/Calvinism/ Puritanism

Benjamin Franklin/Deism/ Age of Reason / Enlightenment Ideals

Pulling us back

Pulling us forward

**Puritan Thought:**
- Human nature is essentially bad; all humans were born in sin and deserve damnation
- God is revealed in the Bible
- Government should enforce codes of behavior based on religious tenets
- Imagination and knowledge may be evil in some cases

**Enlightenment Thought:**
- Man is capable of improving through the use of his mind and conscience
- Education and science are essential to the happiness of man
- Civil and religious liberty are essential to man’s interests
- There can be no human authority to which man ought to be accountable for his religious opinions