

DOCUMENT REPORT: THE PROBLEM OF EVIL

i. Description and Purpose

The [first] assignment of this course is a document report on François-Marie Arouet's (otherwise known as Voltaire) (1694–1778) satirical novel *Candide* (1759). You will carefully and critically read through *Candide* and reflect upon Voltaire's treatment of the problem of evil. What was he arguing about the existence of evil in the world? What type of vision of the world was he satirizing? Who was he criticizing and why? These are just a few of the questions you need to ask yourself as you read through *Candide*. The purpose of this assignment is to think about the increasing level of scepticism during the eighteenth century in a personal God who created "the best of all possible worlds." This document analysis provides you with an opportunity to exercise your historical imagination and to engage with a primary source in a critical fashion. You must think about Voltaire's biases and how he viewed the world he was experiencing.

ii. Important Details

Due Date, Time, and Place: To determined (email before midnight)

Length: [XX] pages (double-spaced, 12-font)

Sources:

- Voltaire. "Candide." In *Candide and Other Stories*. Translated by Roger Pearson. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006): 3–88.