

## University of Baghdad

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Thesis Title	The religious tolerance in the men of letters in the eighteenth century		
Year	2011		
Abstract	<p>Century, following Spinoza, Bayle and Locke's writing, the question of a religious tolerance is in the centre of the debates. Voltaire, Montesquieu, Rousseau and Diderot, according to their visions of the problem, developed a theory around a notion which would give birth later to the freedom of conscience principle. Fictions, and especially the novels, allowed these authors to increase the spreading of a tolerance notion. Even if anti-Fanaticism has been an object of consensus between enlightenment Philosophers, it is necessary to admit that their conception of tolerance implied many differences of opinion. In his Dictionnaire Philosophique, Voltaire appeared as the most dauntless champion; but what about the Traitésur la tolerance? Was Diderot's indifference to all religion favorable to the proclamation of a tolerance? In their confrontations, especially against Voltaire and Rousseau, Enlightenment writers did not all the time observe the same demand. It is important to define, according to our corpus, these takings of position. Nevertheless, it should not be appropriate to cast on pervious periods modern ideals. This would lead to the danger of anachronism. Enlightenment writer were indeed, confronted to historical situations as well as cultural and ideological backgrounds completely different from ours.</p>		