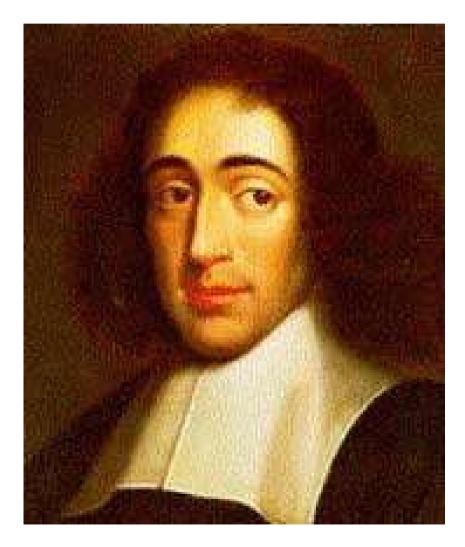
### Baruch (Benedictus) de Spinoza

Philosophy 22N Spring, 2004 G. J. Mattey

#### **Vital Statistics**



- Born, 1632, Amsterdam
- Died, 1677
- Single
- School-teacher
- Lens-grinder
- Led a solitary life



#### Important Events

- Circa 1639-49, attended the Talmud Torah school in Amsterdam
- 1649, dropped out of school to help in his family's importing business
- 1652, studied Latin, natural philosophy, and Cartesian philosophy
- 1656, excommunicated from the Sephardic Jewish community for "monstrous deeds" and "abominable heresies," temporarily expelled from Amsterdam

Important Events (cont.)

- Circa 1660, wrote *Short Treatise on God, Man and His Well-Being*
- 1662, probably finished On the Emendation of the Intellect
- 1663, published *Descartes' Principles of Philosophy* and *Metaphysical Thoughts*
- 1670, anonymously published *Theological-Political Treatise*, condemned by Church Council of Amsterdam as "forged in Hell by a renegade Jew and the Devil"

## Important Events (cont.)

- 1672, initiated a diplomatic mission to the French army, nearly killed by a mob as a spy
- 1673, turned down offer of Professorship of Philosophy at the University of Heidelberg
- 1674, *Theological-Political Treatise* banned in the Netherlands
- 1675, met with Leibniz, completed *Ethics*
- 1677, dies of "phthisis," a lung disease probably caused by inhalation of glass dust



# Important Events (cont.)

- 1677, *Ethics* published posthumously, along with
  - Letters
  - Political Treatise
  - Treatise on the Emendation of the Intellect
  - Grammatical Compendium of the Hebrew Language