

## Chapter Four The Enlightenment 1700-1789

### European Society in the Eighteenth Century

#### **Population Growth**

- Steady rise in population
  - Fewer wars and epidemics, increase in hygiene and sanitation
  - Improved food supply
- Increase population → higher demands for food, jobs, goods and services
- Many people migrated from the country side
- Huge pop boom – disadvantaged/discontent people

#### **Land Use and Agriculture**

- Southern Euro was dry with sparse rain – northern coast more rain, more agriculture
- Used natural fertilizers and crop rotation – yields still low
- Many farms owned by aristocrats, farms owned by residents were managed better
- Agriculture became commercialized – landlords wanted to make more profit
- England, Italy, Netherlands – used dykes and drainage canals
- Jethro Tull – introduced steel plow, seed drill
- Charles Townsend – method of crop rotation to ensure no field was left fallow
- Above known as the agricultural revolution – gradually extended through Euro
- Some landlords exercised right to control land – reclaimed common land and rented out strips
  - Known as “enclosure” – Parliament passed acts in favour of landlords
  - Lead to riots by displaced peasants & social conflict
- Agricultural revolution most prevalent in parts of Euro, Britain, Netherlands
- France and northern Italy had agric improvements but used little enclosure

### The Beginning of the Industrial Revolution

- Came in the 1750s – gradual series of changes in agriculture, trade, industry
- John Kay invented flying shuttle – cut cotton weaving time in half
- Richard Arkwright – spinning jenny and water-power frame
  - Both increased productivity, lead to urbanization and ↑consumerism

#### **Luxury and Consumerism in the Eighteenth Century**

- Voltaire – “the superfluous is necessary” → consumerism creates jobs and stimulates commerce
- Br. Francois Quesnay – believed rural economy was root of national wealth
  - Coined phrase *laissez faire* (no interference) – more open market
- Spread of commercial capitalism throughout Western Euro
- Joint-stock companies increased volume of trade, merchant banking became more widespread
  - Money flowed into hands of new middle/merchant class and out of hands of monarchs and nobles

#### **The Weakening of the Nobility**

- Most land in Euro owned by nobles

- Nobles: members of privileged families that claim to be descendants of warriors
- Enjoyed profits and demanded obedience from those on farm
- Some people owned their farms, most paid rent to nobles, worked for wage on land owned by church/middle-class landowner
- Peasants couldn't negotiate wages = serfs, obliged by law to provide labour
- 18<sup>th</sup> century, social authority of nobility weakened in Euro and France
- Louis 14<sup>th</sup> died – most of Euro governed by monarchs
  - Kings and emperors often unhappy with nobility's greed

### **Government in the Eighteenth Century**

- Largely dictated by dynastic ambitions of powerful ruling families served by nobles
- Royal court – where nobility could get power and rewards
  - Full of personal intrigue and scandal
- Rulers human and therefore fallible; could get sick/insane
- Monarchies constrained by tradition, religion, obedience to legal precedents
- After Louis 14<sup>th</sup> died, Louis 15<sup>th</sup> too young to rule and it became a time of novelty and change in French culture

### **Europe after Louis 14<sup>th</sup>**

- Families struggling to increase territory and wealth
  - Spanish Bourbons, French Bourbons, Hanoverians in Britain, Hapsburgs in Central Euro, Romanovs in Russia, Hohenzollern Prussia
- Southeast Euro very cautious of Ottomans (large Islamic power)
  - Overlords of Balkans, Middle East, North Africa
- Conflicts based on expanding territories, not religious/philosophy
- Military glory was focus for powerful groups, peace preparation for next war
- Wars occurred only in summer months and never far from supplies; battles avoided
- Foreign policy decisions made in England, France and Holland
  - Other areas monarchs/aristocrats continues to decide how/when to have war

### **The Enlightenment**

- Most people thought only of their needs and the needs of their loved ones
- Thinkers of Enlightenment in France were called *philosophes*
- Much debate over obedience to tradition and beliefs
- Thinkers praised action of the free market
- Thinkers promoted rationalism (faith in human reason); encouraged cultural optimism
- Some promoted return to state of nature, and return to “natural religion”
- Supported the need for human rights
  - All of the above important changes in relationship b/w individual & society

### **Literacy and Book Production**

- Many people hostile to change and literacy; people only need education sufficient to do its job
- 18<sup>th</sup> century – government advisors convinced education was an advantage
  - Portugal – primary schools ordered to be in every jurisdiction
- Pre-1456 people copied texts; 1500 more writers and readers – movable press
- Enlightenment – info passed through printed pages, newspapers, pamphlets

- Enlightened individuals held discussion groups called *salons*

### **The Encyclopedia**

- Published in France starting in 1751, completed in 1765
  - 300 writers, 72 000 articles, editors: d'Alembert and Diderot
- Condemned by the Pope because it used science to scorn Christianity
- Embodied ideals of the Enlightenment more than any other work
- France forbade further production at beginning of 7 Years War 1756; some protected the contents; war over and it was published

### **Freemasons and the Enlightenment**

- Freemasons: members of fraternal order of free thinkers influential in 18<sup>th</sup> century Euro
  - Legend – founders “the Craft” were builders of ancient Jewish Temple in Jerusalem
- Many associate Freemasonry with the Templars
- Promoted freedom of speech, thought, belief
- 1789 most medium towns in Euro had at least one Masonic lodge

### **The Enlightenment Ideas**

- Portugal, Spain, Italy – Enlightenment thinkers had to confront religious censorship and Inquisition
- German states and Austrian Empire had many barriers and new philosophical thought was frowned upon
- Britain, France, Holland, Denmark – fewer constraints on debates...
- Euro areas with Ottoman rule – tiny possibility of encountering works of Enlightenment
  - Gaps in knowledge and different ideas among different groups
- Enlightened – changes and improvements vs. resistance from satisfied people
- Enlightenment criticized unquestioned obedience to authority (royal/religious)
- Rational optimism – Voltaire's *Candide* – hallmark of Enlightenment
- Deism: philosophical trend during Enlightenment, advocated simplification of religious rituals
  - Believed God did not directly participate in human affairs
  - God created the universe then just let it run
- Had many followers because it kept idea of a supreme power
- Some thinkers renewed moral, religious, artistic systems of “Golden Age”
- 18<sup>th</sup> century intellectuals promoted religious tolerance, rejected miracles
- “My mind is my church” –belief in God w/o intolerance of earlier centuries
- Counter movements to rational religion – John Wesley: Wesleyans (Methodists) emphasized emotion over tradition, biggest appeal in poor and lower middle class

### **Foremost Enlightenment Thinkers**

#### **John Locke**

- *Essay Concerning Human Understanding* – relationship of “innate ideas” to human thought, language, limits of human understanding
  - Purpose: make reader critical of what is believed by virtue rather than evidence

- Discussed experiences that lead to elaboration of simple and complex ideas
- Defended right to own property, need for elected government
- Can leave state of nature to join ordered society where government acts on your behalf, if they do not act on your behalf the people can overthrow the government
- Theories seen in Canada and the United States

### **Baron de Montesquieu**

- A judge in the Court of Appeal of Bordeaux (France), writer, amateur scientist
- *The Persian Letters* – never been to Persia, made factually incorrect statements
- Aim to make French readers look at their country the same way as a foreigner
- Conveys the idea that laws/social customs are products of conditions in society
- *Spirit of the Laws* – influential work on society policy
- Stated that laws are “the necessary relationships deriving from the nature of things”
  - Nature of things in politics, aristocracy, monarchy
  - Monarchy held in check by aristocracy – best form of government
- Showed good and bad of all political systems, pondered effects of climate/social/sexual customs

### **Francois-Marie Arouet de Voltaire**

- Completed play *Oedipus* in Holland
- Wrote *Philosophical Letters on the English* – praised English law, science, philosophy, and religious tolerance
- Wrote *The Century of Louis 14<sup>th</sup>*
- 1750 invited to Germany by Prussian king Frederick the Great; lasted two years until the *philosophe* clashed with the Prussian’s despotic temperament
- 1750-60s became involved in crusades on behalf of victims of injustice
- Signed all his letters with *Ecrasez l’infame* (crush infamy)
- Wrote *Essay on the Manners and Spirit of Nations*
- Believed it was more important to study the recent past

### **Cesare Beccaria**

- Had strong views on changing the criminal justice systems treatment of accused
- Enjoyed discussions in *Le Café* – people could discuss ideas here and drink coffee, no invitation required, casual atmosphere
- Wrote *On Crimes and Punishments* – called for end of judicial torture and capital punishment
- Many enlightened rulers showed desire to follow Beccaria’s book
- Facchini, a monk, wrote book denouncing him as enemy of religion...
- Many in Europe remained in favour of torturing and executing criminals

### **Jean-Jacques Rousseau**

- Most concerned with the moral reform of society
- Could not accept the enlightenment notion that the world was improving
- In *The Social Contract* he stated “Man was born free, and everywhere he is in chains”
- Converted to Catholicism as teenager; worldview had Protestant influence
  - Looked down on luxury, strong sense of individual responsibility
- Music teacher – wrote about music for the *Encyclopidia*
- Praised the natural “savage” state over the civilized one

- Wrote *Discourse on the Arts and Sciences* – won competition; published; famous
- Published *The Social Contract* – condemned by Paris parliament
- Put forward new concepts of political authority he called “general will” and “the common good”
- Attracted by idea of childhood innocence corrupted by adulthood and sexuality

### **Adam Smith**

- One of the most famous economists
- Proponent of free trade
- *Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations* – need for free trade, invisible hand should regulate through supply and demand
- Industrialist whose ideas were later used to legitimize exploitation of the working class

### **Immanuel Kant**

- Studied ethics, logic, metaphysics, aesthetics which influenced later philosophy
- Saw religious matters at the heart of the enlightenment

### **Edmund Burke**

- Presented conservative view of political situation – concern about French Revolution and consequences of widespread reforms (in book *Reflections on the Revolution in France*)
- Believed in importance of established institutions and traditions – throwing these out for new “natural” rights would result in chaos
- Society was a contract/partnership

### **Johann Gottfried von Herder**

- In *Ideas on the Philosophy of the History of Mankind* – future of society lived with “the tireless, peaceful Slavs”
- Emphasized feelings, emotions, need for shared sentiments
- People without a common language was absurd

### **Marquis de Condorcet**

- The last of the *philosophes*; marked end of Enlightenment
- Critic of *ancient regime*; welcomed 1789 revolution
- Wrote “the testament of enlightenment” : *Sketch for a Historical Picture of the Progress of the Human Mind*; history of humanity
- Helpful in founding the Society of the Friends of the Blacks – anti-slavery

### **The Marquise du Chatelet**

- Prominent and powerful general in the French army
- Translated Sophocles’ play, took algebra, studied law, learned Flemish, studied philosophy and scientific theories
- Translated Bernard Mandeville’s *Fable of the Bees*

### **The Enlightenment Embraced and Resisted**

- Euro – more rational government, standardization, free markets, better training for officials, open justice, end to judicial torture
- Catholic countries – enlightenment was enemy of faith
- Many archbishops, bishops, parish priests – started looking down on traditional activities
- Enlightenment – weakened some traditional forms of belief

### Enlightened Despotism

- Political literature, philosophy, art of French Enlightenment influenced new breeds of monarchs
- Students of new science of good government to mobilize human and material resources

#### **Frederick the Great**

- Defined new type of monarch: enlightened despot; one who is an absolute ruler but acts with reason
- Granted religious tolerance, freedom of press, established law code, enforced general educational reforms
- Personal beliefs described as humanist not Christian
  - Seen in his *Political Testament*

#### **Catherine the Great**

- One of the most successful Euro monarchs
- Excelled at empire building, established first college of medicine, appointed woman as Director of the Academy of Science, doubled number of civil servants in Russia
- Commissioned building of theatres, palaces, wrote operas, donated books
- Provided money to farmers, encouraged immigration, increased number of factories, focused on silver mining and fur trade
- Liberated the millions of serfs in Russia

### Art In The Early Eighteenth Century

- Continuation of style and aesthetics of 17<sup>th</sup> century, strongly influenced by Louis 14<sup>th</sup>
- Louis established Royal Academy of Painting and Sculpture – so all “official” art met the standards set by the state (furthered by Palace of Versailles)
- Versailles prime example of 18<sup>th</sup> century desire to subordinate nature of the power of human intellect
- All over Euro families tried to emulate architectural achievement of Versailles

#### **Rococo**

- Versailles was countered by the more sensuous style called rococo “loose stones”
  - Meant to serve *appartements* being build in Paris
- Rococo interiors were smaller, lighter, people feel at ease
- Rococo salon became important part of society
  - Influential women the dominant figures here & great minds of the age
- Antoine Watteau – show doomed society, pleasure seeking individuals conscious of the fact that pleasure is fleeting
- Jean-Baptiste-Simeon Chardin – homage to life of the French middle class; shift of attention from aristocracy to growing middle class

### Music In The Eighteenth Century

- Divided into two sections: first half dominated by baroque, second saw emergence of classicism
- Music reflected wealth and power of those who commissioned it
- Baroque masters – Bach, Handel experimented and made lasting achievements

- Baroque – meant to arouse emotions by complex logic, unifying themes and variations; typical forms – fugue, prelude, the cantata
- Handel master of opera; opera most popular entertainment for aristocrats and common people alike
  - One of the directors of the Royal Academy of Music
- Four masters in development of classical style were – Haydn, Mozart, Schubert, Beethoven
  - During this time orchestra was developed, symphonies composed
- Smaller groups performed chamber music – reflected private atmosphere of salons
  - String quartets, woodwind octets, concerto

### Literature In The Eighteenth Century

- England dominated literary scene in 18<sup>th</sup> century
- Started with Restoration of the English monarchy after Puritan Revolution, ended with French Revolution
- England, being run by Walpole who had no interest in literature, forced writers to look to publishers to make a living
- Literature began to focus on the affairs of middle class; came to protest political and moral corruption of ruling bodies of church and state
- Satire born, literature powerful social tool

### **Literary Theory**

- Restoration period starting in 1600 signaled start of neoclassical movement in literature
- Writers expressed ideas through classical ideals of order, simplicity, reason
- French literature had great impact on English society; English writers felt English literature should stay true to tradition – resisted influences
- English writers called neoclassical period the Augustan Age b/c literature strongly influenced by Roman writers Virgil & Horace
- Poetry of Augustan age strictly formal
- A very disciplined form was the heroic couplet; each contained pronouncement on nature, society, or humanity
- Alexander Pope *Essay on Man* – “Know then thyself, presume not God to scan. The proper study of mankind is Man”
- Blank verse and unrhymed iambic pentameter became popular
- A reaction to Puritanism resulted in genre of Restoration Comedy
- Ideas and opinions expressed in newspapers
- France had salon, England had coffeehouse
- Masters of social criticism – Alexander Pope and Jonathan Swift

### **The Letters of Madame de Graffigny**

- Body of work contained novels, plays, over 2500 letters – shows life of woman in Enlightenment
- Published *Letters of a Peruvian Woman* – bestseller
- Letters showed problems of travel, how it felt to be cold, ill, poorly housed, lacking money

### **The Eighteenth-Century Novel**

- Rebirth of the novel
- Defoe wrote *Robinson Crusoe* and *Moll Flanders*
- Samuel Richardson was master of the novel form with book *Pamela*
- Samuel Johnson – neoclassical humanist, defended ideals of Augustan Age; his death signaled end of Augustan Age and beginning of romantic period in English literature