

Chapter 18 - The Enlightenment and the American Revolution. (1707-1800).

- (1) Philosophy in the Age of Reason.
- (2) Enlightenment Ideas Spread.
- (3) Britain at Mid-Century.
- (4) Birth of the American Republic.

| Hobbes. | Locke. | Bach. | Voltaire. | Rousseau. |
|---------|--------|-------|-----------|-----------|
| 1651. | 1690. | 1721. | 1759. | 1762. |

(1) Philosophy in the Age of Reason.

Setting the Scene.

During the Enlightenment philosophers felt they could use reason to discover natural laws that govern human behavior. This period is the Age of Reason.

Two Views of the Social Contract.

In 1600s two Englishmen set forth ideas destined as key to the Enlightenment. Hobbes and Locke had ideas that change view of individual's role in society.

Hobbes.

Thomas Hobbes. (1588-1679). 'Born premature when mother heard of oncoming Armada.' At 40, he took Euclid's geometry as starting point to make mechanical model of universe (man and society). Mechanism (based on motion) was to greatly influence thinking over next few centuries. Witness to upheaval of civil war in England in 1640s. Fled to France. 1651. Publishes "Leviathan."

Hobbes sees state of nature sans government as "solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short." Promulgates absolute monarch thesis. Says people (wholly selfish) should escape chaos of everyday life, give up their freedom to ruler who guarantees peace and order. In his state Hobbes saw ruler as absolute with men having no right to rebel since this would break the social contract and be illogical.

Hobbes has no interest in individual liberty.

Locke.

John Locke. (1632-1704).

1690. Publishes "Two Treatises on Government" anonymously.

Locke agrees with Hobbes that the purpose of government is to create order in society but contends that people are reasonable and would cooperate with each other and could rebel if ruler were tyrant. Ruler stays in power only as long as he has consent of those governed. He said people had natural rights, including right to life, liberty, and property (later popular in France and America). Fled to France. Holland. Returns in 1689 to England. Empiricist. All knowledge comes from experience.

1700s. Philosophes (philosophers) expand on Locke's idea of natural rights with thought that the use of science and reason would lead to continued human progress on social issues: religious tolerance, freedom of speech/press, education, slavery, torture, etc.

Physiocrats are philosophes looking to use natural laws to explain economics. Physiocrats (anti-mercantilism) urge rulers to encourage farming instead of hoarding gold and silver and favor free market in which all goods can be bought and sold without controls. Favor Laissez-faire.

1776. Adam Smith publishes "Wealth of Nations" supporting free market.

Separation of Powers.

Baron de Montesquieu. (1689-1755). Aristocrat. First philosophe.

1748. Writes "The Spirit of Laws" (1748).

After reading Newton and Locke.

Writes about various forms of government.

Favors English constitutional monarchy (with a responsible nobility): separation of powers: legislature, executive, judiciary, checks and balances.

Montesquieu starts the study of bonds between political patterns and social forms now called political and social sciences. (Polysci college major.)

The Philosophes and Society.

Voltaire. (1694-1778). French. Middle-class. Jesuit-trained. Radical. Migrator.

Writes 70 works.

Praises Newton and Locke.

Favors 'enlightened monarch'.

Sees man, through reason, finding moral value.

Denis Diderot. (1713-84). French. 'Man of letters.' Born in Champagne, Jesuit-trained. Moves to Paris. Bohemian. Occasionally imprisoned. He represents radical spirit of "A new world is born."

1751. He supervises (1751-76) the publication of a huge (35 volume) encyclopedia that summarizes human knowledge up to then.

Catholic Church (France) bans book because articles criticize religious persecution!

1753. He visits Catherine II the Great who gives him financial help.

Very prolific. Versatile: novelist, dramatist, satirist, philosopher, critic, and brilliant letter writer.

Jean-Jacques Rousseau. (1712-1778). Poor. Born in Calvinist Geneva. Runaway at 16. Catholic convert.

1762. Writes "The Social Contract."

'Ideal society' has people contract with each other, not a ruler.

"Man is born free; and everywhere he is in chains."

His slogan. "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity."

Human nature is basically good. Society corrupts people.

Complainer. Critic. Sees himself as model of estranged 'modern man' cut off from his true nature.

His belief in equality and will of majority makes him spokesman of common people.

(2) Enlightenment Ideas Spread.

Setting the Scene.

Enlightenment ideas spread in other ways: newspapers & journals, societies' reports, public lectures, coffee houses, songs and pamphlets.

The Challenge of New Ideas.

In Paris, elsewhere in France, wealthy women held salons (Fr. 'salle'=room) or informal gatherings, at which writers, musicians, painters, and philosophes exchanged ideas.

Salons.

* During 1700s. Madame Marie Therese de Geoffrin. (1699-1777). She begins holding salons. French patron of literature. Born in Paris. Marries a rich man at age 15 who soon dies and left her a fortune.

She has genuine love of learning and art. Not 'middle-class' (book).

* Louise de Warens supports Rousseau and his wife.
Rousseau notably gave away five children.

* Emilie du Chatelet. (1706-49). French scholar and writer. Outstanding beauty. She learn Latin and Italian with her father

(a baron) and studies math/science after her marriage at 19 (1725). When 31 (1737) she meets Voltaire (1694-1778) who moves into her husband's estate.

She becomes a noted physicist and mathematician.

She translates work of Newton (1642-1727) from Latin into French, which is posthumously published in 1759.

Enlightened Monarchs.

European rulers who saw Enlightenment improving social conditions in their countries saw themselves as "enlightened monarchs." Centralize their power. Curb nobles' power.

In Prussia, Frederick II invites Voltaire to court. Allows religious freedom.

In Austria, Maria Theresa (1717-80) and son Joseph II (1741-90) tried to put Enlightenment principles into practice. Marie Theresa passes laws to limit serfdom. Joseph II abolishes serfdom, allows freedom of press, bans torture, and ends religious persecution: equality to Jews, limits to Catholic Church.

In Russia, Catherine II invites Diderot to visit. Corresponds with Voltaire.

The Arts and Literature.

1700s. Classical Greek influence: Art. (ideal and graceful form).
Architecture. (simple elegance).

Composers. Early 1700s. Johann Sebastian Bach (religious).
George Frederick Handel ('Messiah').

Late 1700s. Franz Joseph Haydn (symphonies).
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (genius).

The novel (a long work of prose fiction) develops into an art form.

1719. Daniel Defoe writes "Robinson Crusoe," a middle-class hero.

(3) Britain at Mid-Century.

Setting the Scene.

Britain embraces mercantilism and builds a colonial and commercial empire.

At the same time (1700s) Britain develops a constitutional monarchy, a political system somewhere in between absolute monarchy and democracy.

Rise to Global Power.

Union With Scotland.

1707. Act of Union. England merges with Scotland.

New entity. United Kingdom of Great Britain.

Ireland.

English rulers give land to Protestant settlers over Catholic owners.

Irish fiercely resist English rule. Uprisings. Repression.

Growth of Constitutional Government.

Political Parties.

Two political parties emerge in England in the late 1600s.

- (1) Whigs. Favor exclusion of James.
Pro Protestant. Anti Catholic.
Back Glorious Revolution.
Represent Business interests.
Support Religious toleration.
Favor Parliament over the crown.
- (2) Tories. Landed aristocrats.
Want to preserve older traditions.
Favor the king and strong Anglican Church.
Oppose any alteration in succession.

1679. Tories defeat Whigs' Exclusion Act.

Accept (in exchange) Habeus Corpus Act: basic guarantee of individual rights: any prisoner merits a 'writ' to be brought before a judge for a statement of charges.

1681. * King Charles II rules from 1681 without parliament.

King Charles dies in 1685 avowing Catholicism.

James II and the Glorious Revolution.

1685. James II (1633-1701) inherits the throne.

Ignores Test Act.

Places Catholics in high slots.

Parliament does not move against king because it expects his

Protestant daughter Mary to be next on throne.

1688. But James's second wife, a Catholic, has son who is heir to throne.

1689. Parliament installs Mary and husband William (Dutch Netherlands) as joint rulers.

But - before they can get throne - they have to sign a

Bill of Rights to insure Parliament's power and protect English liberties.

English Bill of Rights.

It included several provisions that made Parliament stronger than the monarchy.

* Parliament was not paid so its members were wealthy!

1689. Act of Toleration.
Assures all Protestants freedom to worship.
Does not assure Catholics freedom to worship.

Ireland and Scotland.

1689. King James led rebellion in Ireland (to get back English throne).
His army lost Battle of the Boyne.
1701. Act of Settlement.
Parliament passes legislation. Only Anglican could inherit English throne.
1707. Act of Union.
Parliament negotiates joining kingdoms of England and Scotland.

William and Mary (1689-1694) rule.
William alone (1694-1702) rules.
Anne, James's daughter, (1702-1714) rules.
George, German, starts Hanover line, (1714-1727).

Growth of Constitutional Government.

The English civil war and then the Glorious Revolution made Britain a limited constitutional monarchy. The key word is 'limited.'

Britain does not have a formal written constitution but, instead, all acts of Parliament, documents like Magna Carta, Petition of Right, Bill of Rights, and traditions as well as customs.

Political parties.

Wealthy Whigs (limit royal power) favored strong navy to protect trade.

Less-landowning Tories usually defended royal power against challenges by Parliament.

Cabinet. King William (late 1600s). First to choose advisers from one party.

Prime Minister. George I spoke only German, relied on Sir Robert Walpole, who is considered to be the first prime minister of Britain.

George III Reasserts Royal Power.

1760. George III becomes king.
George III feels Parliament under Whigs took too much power from the king during the period 1770-1782.
George III supervises government and appoints ministers.
1775. Parliament (George's cronies) pass harsh measures on colonists.
1776. American Revolution.

(4) Birth of the American Republic.

Setting the Scene.

1763. Patrick Henry (1736-99) was 27 when he rails against unpopular tax. Colonists want same rights people in England won in Glorious Revolution.

The 13 English Colonies.

1700-1763. Colonies expand on own. Britain is preoccupied wars in Europe. Colonies had more landowners (more land). More males in elected assembly.

Growing Discontent.

Parliament had passed Navigation Acts which reflected mercantilist ideas.

1763. Seven Years' War (French & Indian War) ends.

George III feels colonies should defray costs of British troops kept in North America (Canada). George III urges Parliament to pass a series of laws to raise revenue from colonies.

1765. The Stamp Act. (1765)

Parliament seeks tax on various items (Europeans had paid) like newspapers, deeds, wills, to dice, playing cards.

Colonists object to taxation without representation (in Parliament). Only colonial assemblies had right to impose taxes on colonies. Enforcement. Riots. Boycott British goods. Repeal request.

Relations get even worse between 1765-1775 from new taxes.

1773. Boston Tea Party outrages Britain.

1774. Parliament passes 'Intolerable Acts.'

Puts Massachusetts under military rule.

First Continental Congress meets.

Declaring Independence.

1775. April. First shots fired at Lexington (Patriots' Day).

May. Second Continental Congress meets (Philadelphia).

1776. July 4. Delegates agree on Declaration of Independence.

Document explains that colonies are separated from Britain.

Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826) is familiar with ideas of Newton, Locke, and the French philosophes. Jefferson echoes Locke.

Locke wrote in "Two Treatises" (in 1690) that people had natural rights, including the right to life, liberty, and property.

Jefferson says that he did not read Locke dissertation.

Yet Jefferson uses the phrase 'life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness' in the Declaration of Independence.

In any case, Colonists contend they have the right to rebel.

The American Revolution.

American Revolution lasted between 1775 to 1783.

Opposing Forces.

Well-trained British troops occupied major cities but they were far away from supplies.

Colonists were patriots fighting (ambush) in home territory for families and homes.

George Washington (1732-99) suffers several defeats, reorganizes colonial forces, then wins.

Battles.

1776. Trenton and Princeton.

1777. Saratoga.

1778. France declares war on Britain in February, 1778.

1781. Yorktown (1781). Defeat of Cornwallis. Virtual end of war.

A New Constitution.

Between 1781-1789. Articles of Confederation.

The new republic uses these articles that provide most power in states.

1787. Leaders meet to revise Articles. But decide to draft a new constitution instead.

1788. Individual states ratify Constitution of U.S. after much debate and compromise.

The Constitution created a federal republic with power divided between the federal government and states. A central feature of the federal government was separation of powers among legislative, executive and judicial branches.

The Impact of Enlightenment Ideas.

Framers of the Constitution absorbed ideas of Locke and Montesquieu and Rousseau and had studied history. Montesquieu was influential with regards to separation of powers (checks & balances) to prevent tyranny.

1791. Bill of Rights. (Asked by several states.)
The bill consisted of first ten amendments to the Constitution:
Freedom of speech, press, religion.
Right to trial. No unreasonable home search.

Impact of the American Revolution.

1788. When the states ratified the Constitution the revolutionary era in America ends to many in Europe (elsewhere).

Colonists in North America had broken away from powerful British rulers and created government that put the ideas of the Enlightenment into practice.

Declaration of Independence and Constitution of U.S. were models for others.