Chapter 18

The European States

EQ: What is enlightened absolutism and how did Prussia, Austria, and Russia portray it?

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| BACKGROUND | \*Most of Europe was ruled by monarchs, but ideas of natural laws and rights spread.  \*Religious toleration, education, freedoms of speech and press forced monarchies to rule in a new way.  \*Enlightened Despotism or Absolutism is a debatable term used for Eastern Europe leaders that ruled with influence from the philosophes. |
| FRANCE, BRITAIN, AND DUTCH | \*Expansion into the New World created a new economic axis along Atlantic Seaboard instead of Mediterranean.  \*France weakens internally under Louis XV’s decisions, a mistress (Pompadour) de facto leader, defeat in the 7 Years War, and unhappy/hungry populace.  \*In Britain, Parliament continues to dominate, but a German (Hanover) King replaces Anne because he is Protestant in 1714.  \*Britain gains power globally gaining Canada and India after 7 Years War.  \*Crazy George III (1760-1820) often criticized but works with William Pitt the Younger to get support of merchants and industrial classes.  \*Dutch in decline and internal power struggle ensues from Orangists and Patriots. |
| ABSOLUTIST IN CENTRAL/EASTERN EUROPE | \*Frederick II of Prussia highly educated and cultured (friend of Voltaire) created an honest and efficient bureaucracy.  \*Made many reforms in free speech and religion, but still used the nobility to control the masses. Complete control of the military as well.  \*Austria-Habsburgs known for great culture, architecture (Vienna), diversity, and a declining Empire.  \*Maria Theresa (1740-80) reorganized Austria/Bohemian lands, modernizes the army, and strengthens Austria.  \*Joseph II abolishes serfdom, gives religious freedom, but it fails miserably.  \*Catherine the Great born a German princess learns Russian and must act shrewdly to retain power after husband Peter III is murdered by a faction of nobles.  \*Reorganized Russia and gave nobility more power and made life worse for peasants.  \*Cossacks, led by Pugachev, revolted but captured and executed.  \*Catherine expands Russian land by defeated Ottoman Turks and gains 50% of Poland (Thaddeus Kosciuszko) which was divided among 3 nations. |

WARS AND DIPLOMACY

EQ: What were the causes and effects of the Seven Years’ War?

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| War of Austrian Succession 1740-1748 | \*Charles VI without male heir, agrees that daughter Maria Theresa is recognized around Europe with the Pragmatic Sanction.  \*Frederick ignores Sanction and invades/conquers Austrian Silesia.  \*Battles of Europe’s powers erupt around the world until the Aix-la-Chapelle Treaty…but it is a prelude to the Seven Years’ War. |
| Seven Years’ War  1756-1763 | \*European Theater: British/Prussians v. Austrian/French/Russians.  \*After early victories, Frederick II is under attack but saved when Peter III takes the throne in Russia and withdraws troops from Prussia.  \*India Theater: British v. French  \*Both favored different Indian Princes, but Robert Clive’s persistence wins it for Britain. French withdraw.  \*American Theater: British/Colonists v. French/Native Americans  \*Back and forth battle mostly along the current Canada/US border.  \*William Pitt utilizes British navy and seize Montreal, the Great Lakes area, and Ohio Valley.  \*France cedes Canada, land east of Mississippi to Britain. Spain transfers Florida to British and France gave Louisiana Territory to Spanish as per Treaty of Paris 1763. |

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CHANGE

EQ: What changes occurred in the agriculture, finance, industry and trade during the 18th century?

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| Population Growth | \*Throughout Europe, despite colonization, populations increase late 18th century.  \*More food, better diets, new crops, end of plague, and more marriages are cause. |
| Family Life | \*Still patriarchal with arranged marriages the norm.  \*Child care changed significantly with less use of wet nurses, treating babies/children as such in terms of games and clothing.  \*So many babies being born led to infanticide and high numbers of abandoned babies.  \*Northern and Western Europe saw later marriages resulting in smaller families. |
| Agriculture Revolution? | \*Debated topic, but food growth did increase in the 18th century.  \*Likely reasons: end of the “Little Ice Age”, more farmland, increased crop yields, and more livestock.  \*Technology and innovation aided more food such as Jethro Tull’s hoe/seed planter. |
| Economics | \*Change from gold/silver to ‘banknotes’ or paper money.  \*Cottage Industry- mostly textile, families take raw materials and made cloth.  \*Expansion of merchants, craftspeople, shopkeepers, etc. as consumerism increased.  \*Trade between European powers and their colonies increased profits but had dire effects for African slaves. |
| Social Order | \*Peasants still paid tithes- often 1/3 of their crops despite being “Free”.  \*Nobility (2-3 % of population) still dominated society and involved in military and government.  \*Aristocrats had their Country House- vast estates showing off their privileges.  \*Towns and cities grew but often under control of an oligarchy.  \*Poverty and disease rampant with unsanitary living condition leads to beggars. |
|  | Activity: Create a 10 question multiple choice quiz on Enlightened Absolutism.   1. THREE identify questions, FOUR higher level questions, and THREE stimulus based questions. 2. Be sure to indicate the answer for each question. 3. Do NOT make any questions directly from notes- must be researched from book or internet. 4. Do NOT copy any questions/answers from textbook or internet. 5. Upload onto FOCUS when complete.   \*A stimulus based question is one that uses a quote, chart, picture, etc. as part of the question. |