UNIT IV
1450-1750
The Early Modern Era

Table of Contents
1. The Protestant Reformation and Absolutism
What can this picture tell you about the monarchies of the time period?
THE FRAGMENTATION OF WESTERN CHRISTENDOM

• The Protestant Reformation began with Christian Humanism
  – reforming the Catholic Church

• Christian humanists believed in human’s ability to reason and improve themselves
  – If you read the classics you would be more moral
  – In order to change society, they must first change the members of society

• Erasmus
  – Christianity should show people how to be good people, instead of providing a belief system to practice to be saved
    • The external things, pilgrimages, fasts, and relics, were not important
THE FRAGMENTATION OF WESTERN CHRISTENDOM

• Reasons for the peoples want for reform in Catholicism.
  – Corruption
  – Greed
  – Materialistic
• Relics
• Indulgences
THE FRAGMENTATION OF WESTERN CHRISTENDOM

– The Protestant Reformation

• Martin Luther sent his Ninety Five Theses to Church Superiors, Oct. 31, 1517
  – Attacked the sale of indulgences
    » “As soon as the coin in the coffer rings, the soul from purgatory springs.”
  – Attacked the idea that salvation came from faith and good works
    » Works = by product of faith
  – Attacked corruption in the Roman Catholic Church; called for reform
  – Argument reproduced with printing presses and widely read
  – Enthusiastic popular response from lay Christians, princes, and many cities
THE FRAGMENTATION OF WESTERN CHRISTENDOM

• Luther was excommunicated in 1521 from the Catholic Church, became an outlaw when refused to meet with Charles V (HRE)
• Was protected from the Fredrick of Saxony (put into hiding)
  – When he thought his life was in jeopardy: “I am fed up with the world, and it with me. I am like a ripe stool, and the world is like a gigantic anus, and so we’re about to let go of each other.”
• Reform spread outside Germany
  – By mid-sixteenth century, half the German people adopted Lutheran Christianity
  – Protestant movements popular in Swiss cities, Low Countries
  – English Reformation sparked by King Henry VIII's desire for divorce
    » The English Reformation was rooted in politics, not religion
    » It started with Henry VIII’s first wife.
THE WIVES OF HENRY VIII
CATHERINE OF ARAGON

- Had been married to Henry’s brother Arthur who died
- Married Henry in 1509
- She had six children but only one survived daughter, Mary
- Henry divorced Catherine as he had fallen in love with her lady in waiting
- Henry had convinced himself that since Catherine had been married to his brother, Arthur, they were sinfully related, and the marriage wasn't valid.
- The pope did not see it this way and was unwilling to annul the marriage, Henry turned to his own church courts
ANNE BOLEYN

• Married Henry in 1533, while pregnant
• Because of this Henry was excommunicated from the Catholic Church because he was married to two women
• Was his mistress (one of many), it is believed Henry had two illegitimate sons already
• Had two children but only one survived, a daughter, Elizabeth
• Anne was arrested for being unfaithful to Henry
• She was beheaded, 1536
JANE SEYMOUR

- Born in England
- Jane was betrothed to Henry within 24 hrs of Anne’s death, 1536
- She had one child, a son, Edward VI, 1537
  - Mary and Elizabeth are considered illegitimate
- Jane died two weeks after giving birth
ANNE OF CLEVES

- Born in Germany
- Henry had a painting of her but when he met her he thought she was ugly,
- They married but did not live together, 1540
- They had no children
- Henry divorced her, 1540
KATHERINE HOWARD

• Born in England, married in 1540
• She was the cousin of Anne, and Elizabeth’s Aunt
• She was very attractive, 19 yrs-old, Henry was 49
• There were no children
• Henry heard rumours she was being unfaithful, did not believe it until the Archbishop confirmed it
• She was beheaded, Elizabeth is devastated, 1542
KATHERINE PARR

• Born in England
• Married Henry 1543
• She had been married twice before
• They had no children
• Henry married her to look after him in his old age
• She outlived him as Henry died in 1547
THE FRAGMENTATION OF WESTERN CHRISTENDOM

• John Calvin, French convert to Protestantism
  – Organized model Protestant community in Geneva in the 1530s
    » enforced moral discipline.
  – Calvinist missionaries were successful in Scotland, Low Countries, also in France and England
  – Believed in the concept of predestination (about the only thing Luther will object)
THE FRAGMENTATION OF WESTERN CHRISTENDOM

- The Catholic Reformation
  - The Council of Trent, 1545-1563, directed reform of Roman Catholic Church
  - The Society of Jesus (Jesuits) founded 1540 by Ignatius Loyola
    - High standards in education
    - Became effective advisors and missionaries worldwide
THE CONSOLIDATION OF SOVEREIGN STATES

- Constitutional states and absolute monarchies
  • Constitutional states of England and the Netherlands
    - Characterized by limited powers, individual rights, and representative institutions
    - Constitutional monarchy in England evolved out of a bitter civil war, 1642-1649
  • Absolutism in France, Spain, Austria, and Prussia
    - Based on the theory of the divine right of kings
  • The Sun King of France, Louis XIV (reigned 1643-1715)
    - Model of royal absolutism: the court at Versailles
    - Large standing army kept order
    - Promoted economic development: roads, canals, promoting industry and exports
    - Kept his nobles distracted
Venus Room
Apollo Room, Throne Room
War Room or Council Room
Council Room
Dog Room, where Louis XV's favorite dogs slept
Gold Plate room
Louis XVI’s library
Louis XV’s dining room
Louis XVI’s games room
Chapel
VERSAILLES STATISTICS

- 2,000 acres of grounds
- 12 miles of roads
- 27 miles of trellises
- 200,000 trees
- 210,000 flowers planted every year
- 80 miles of rows of trees
- 55 acres surface area of the Grand Canal
- 12 miles of enclosing walls
- 50 fountains and 620 fountain nozzles
- 21 miles of water conduits
- 3,600 cubic meters per hour: water consumed
- 26 acres of roof
- 51,210 square meters of floors (168,011.8 square feet)
- 2,153 windows
- 700 rooms
- 67 staircases
- 6,000 paintings
- 1,500 drawings and 15,000 engravings
- 2,100 sculptures
- 5,000 items of furniture and objects d'art
- 150 varieties of apple and peach trees in the Vegetable Garden
Population growth and urbanization

- Population growth
  - American food crops improved Europeans' nutrition and diets
  - Increased resistance to epidemic diseases
  - European population increased from 81 million in 1500 to 180 million in 1800

- Urbanization
  - Rapid growth of major cities, for example, Paris from 130,000 in 1550 to 500,000 in 1650
  - Cities increasingly important as administrative and commercial centers
EARLY CAPITALIST SOCIETY

• Early Capitalism and Industrialization
  – The nature of capitalism
    • Private parties sought to take advantage of free market conditions
    • Economic decisions by private parties, not by governments or nobility
    • Forces of supply and demand determined price
  – Supply and demand
  – New institutions and services: banks, insurance, stock exchanges

• ADAM SMITH
  – Founding fathers of economics
  – Wrote The Wealth of Nations
    • said the government had three jobs: protect people from invasions, protect from injustices and keep up public works such as roads and canals
    • said that if the government lets the people pursue self interests, everyone will benefit (laissez-faire)
EARLY CAPITALIST SOCIETY

– Social change in early modern Europe
  • Early capitalism altered rural society: improved material standards, increased financial independence of rural workers
  • Profits and ethics
    – Medieval theologians considered profit making to be selfish and sinful
    – Adam Smith: society would prosper as individuals pursued their own interests
    – Capitalism generated deep social strains also: bandits, muggers, witch-hunting
  • The nuclear family strengthened by capitalism
    – Families more independent economically, socially, and emotionally
    – Love between men and women, parents and children became more important
SCIENCE AND ENLIGHTENMENT

- The reconception of the universe
  - The Ptolemaic universe: A motionless earth surrounded by nine spheres
    - Could not account for observable movement of the planets
    - Compatible with Christian conception of creation
  - The Copernican universe
    - Nicolaus Copernicus suggested that the sun was the center of the universe, 1543
    - Implied that the earth was just another planet
SCIENCE AND ENLIGHTENMENT

– The Scientific Revolution
  • Johannes Kepler (1571-1630) demonstrated planetary orbits to be elliptical
  • Galileo Galilei (1564-1642)
    – With a telescope, Galileo saw sunspots, moons of Jupiter, mountains of the moon, and distant unknown stars
    – Galileo's theory of velocity of falling bodies (Objects fall at the speed of which it dropped not its weight) anticipated the modern law of inertia (move on straight path unless some force alters its course)
    – Because of his views, at the age of 68, Galileo was tried and convicted of heresy in the Roman Inquisition.
The church had this to say “The view that the sun stands motionless at the center of the universe is foolish, philosophically false, and utterly heretical, because it’s contrary to Holy Scripture.”

Galileo responded “With a sincere heart I curse and detest the said errors contrary to the Holy Church, and swear that I will nevermore in future say or assert anything that may give rise to a similar suspicion of me.” Then as he was leaving said, “And yet the Earth does move.”
• Isaac Newton (1642-1727)
  – Published *Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy* in 1686
  – Offered mathematical explanations of laws that govern movements of bodies
  – Newton's work symbolized the scientific revolution--direct observation and mathematical reasoning

– Created the universal law of gravitation which says that every object in the universe is attracted to every other object by a force called gravity
  • This is why the planets don’t float off in a line but rather “fall” around the sun
  • This law will show how one law can explain all motions in the universe
SCIENCE AND ENLIGHTENMENT

– The Enlightenment
  • Science and society
    – Enlightenment thinkers sought natural laws that governed human society in the same way that Newton's laws governed the universe
    – John Locke: all human knowledge comes from sense perceptions
    – Adam Smith: laws of supply and demand determine price
    – Montesquieu: used political science to argue for political liberty
    – Center of Enlightenment was France where philosophes debated issues of day
  • Voltaire (1694-1778)
    – French philosophe, champion of religious liberty and individual freedom
    – Prolific writer; wrote some seventy volumes in life, often bitter satire
JOHN LOCKE

- Locke said that each person is born with a blank mind.

- John Locke said people were molded by their experiences that came through their senses.

- Thought Divine Right was crap.

- Legislators owe their power to a contract with the people.

- Felt all human beings are guaranteed certain unalienable rights from their creator... life, liberty, and property.
• Came up with the idea of separation of powers and the checks and balance system (i.e. the three different branches of government: judicial, legislative, and executive.
VOLTAIRE

• “All men are born equal, it is not birth, but virtue that makes the differences.”
• “I may not agree with what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.”
• Voltaire considered himself a Deist...

• French philosophe, champion of religious liberty and individual freedom
• Prolific writer; wrote some seventy volumes in life, often bitter satire
The word "Deism" is derived from the Latin word for God: "Deus." Deism involves the belief in the existence of God, on purely rational grounds, without any reliance on revealed religion or religious authority.

Deists:
- Deism says that God created the universe which runs like a clock, it was set in motion and allowed to run without His interference.
- Do not accept the belief that God revealed himself to the world through writings (like the Bible and the Qur'an or other religious texts)

Disagree with strong Atheists who assert that there is no evidence of the existence of God.

Deists regard their faith as a natural religion, as contrasted with one that is revealed by a God or which is artificially created by humans.

They reason that since everything that exists has had a creator, then the universe itself must have been created by God.
SCIENCE AND ENLIGHTENMENT

• Impact of Enlightenment
  – Weakened the influence of organized religion
  – Encouraged secular values based on reason rather than revelation
  – Subjected society to rational analysis, promoted progress and prosperity

• The philosophes believed in natural rights for all people
  – These rights included equality before the law, freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and the right to assembly, hold property and pursue happiness
  • Have you ever heard these things before?