

18th Century Economy and Society

I. **The Agricultural Revolution** (17th and 18th centuries)

A. The state of agriculture in 1700

1. Peasants and artisans had about the same standard of living as in the Middle Ages
 - a. Most people battled hunger and lacked sufficient clothing and decent housing
 - b. Agriculture had changed little since the Middle Ages
2. 80% of western Europe's population were farmers; percentage was even higher in eastern Europe
 - The Netherlands was the only exception; more urban and mercantile
3. Agricultural output was very low compared to modern standards
 - a. Medieval open field system was predominant
 - b. Failed harvests occurred once or twice a decade, on average resulting in famines
 - c. People were malnourished, making them more susceptible to disease
 - d. Science was essentially a branch of theology and had no real application in agriculture
4. **Open field system**
 - a. Common lands were open and strips of land for agriculture were not divided by fences or hedges
 - b. Open fields were farmed as a community
 - c. Agriculture in villages changed little from generation to generation; based largely on community and family traditions
 - d. Exhaustion of soil was a common problem
 - e. Eventually, 1/3 to 1/2 of lands were allowed to lie fallow on any given year so that the soil could recover
 - f. Villages maintained open meadows for hay and natural pasture
 - g. Peasants were often taxed heavily
 - h. Serfs in eastern Europe were far worse off than farmers in western Europe
5. In the 18th century, England, the Netherlands and France became leaders for increased agriculture, industry and trade that resulted in population growth

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B. Features of the Agricultural Revolution

1. Increased production of food

- Increased crop and animal yields could feed more people

2. New methods of cultivation

- Crops were grown on wastelands and uncultivated common lands

3. Selective breeding of livestock

- Led to better cultivation as a result of healthier animals

C. Science and technology was applied to agriculture

1. The Low Countries led the way

- a. Increased population meant that finding new methods of agriculture became paramount

- Growth of towns and cities created major markets for food produced in the countryside
- Regional specialization in the Netherlands resulted: certain areas for farming, certain regions for fishing and shipping; towns and cities for mercantile activities

- b. By mid-17th century, the Dutch enclosed fields, rotated crops, employed heavy use of manure for fertilizer and planted a wide variety of crops

- Free and capitalistic society provided profit incentives for farmers to be productive

- c. Drainage

- Much of Holland had once been marshland or covered by ocean waters
- The Dutch became world leaders in reclaiming wetlands through drainage
- **Cornelius Vermuyden** was the most famous of the Dutch engineers in drainage techniques
- Drainage was later used extensively in southern England to create new farm lands

2. England

- a. By 1870, crop yields had tripled since 1700 with only a 14% increase in people working the land

- b. **Charles Townsend pioneered crop rotation**

- As English ambassador to the Netherlands, he witnessed Dutch use of nitrogen-rich crops such as turnips and clover to replenish soil so that fallowing was not necessary
- Townsend later drained much land back at home in England
- Employed crop rotation: turnips, peas, beans, clover and potatoes
 - Some nicknamed him "Turnip" Townsend

Use space below for notes:

- Enriched soil provided more food for livestock
 - Manure was used for fertilizer
 - c. Increased food for livestock meant mass slaughter of animals was no longer needed prior to winter
 - Animal feed was now available to sustain livestock through the winter
 - People ate more fresh meat rather than preserving surplus meat through salting
 - d. By 1740, new agricultural techniques had become popular among much of the English aristocracy
 - e. **Jethro Tull** (1674-1741)
 - Good example of how the empiricism of the scientific revolution was applied to agriculture
 - His **seed drill** allowed for sowing of crops in a straight row rather than scattering it by hand.
 - Used horses for plowing rather than slower oxen
 - f. **Robert Bakewell** (1725-95) pioneered selective breeding of livestock
 - Larger and healthier animals were developed
 - Resulted in increased availability of meat, wool, leather, soap and candle tallow
 - More manure became available for fertilizing
- D. New foods: the **Columbian exchange** resulted in a revolution in diet (see below)
1. New foods from the New World became increasingly available in the 17th and 18th centuries
 2. Potatoes and corn were among the most important: highly nutritious and relatively easy to grow.

Use space below for notes:

The Columbian Exchange

From the New World to Europe

- **Diseases:** syphilis
- **Plants:** potatoes, corn, tomatoes, pineapple, tobacco, beans, vanilla, chocolate
- **Animals:** turkeys
- Gold and silver

From Europe to the New World

- **Diseases:** small pox, measles, bubonic plague, influenza, typhus
- **Plants:** wheat, sugar, rice coffee
- **Animals:** horses, cows, pigs, sheep, goats, chickens

E. The **Enclosure Movement** in England

1. Began in the 16th century
 - a. Landowners sought to increase profits from wool production by enclosing fields for raising sheep
 - b. Differed from 18th century enclosure that was based largely on agriculture
2. Enclosure of fields intensified in the 18th century
 - a. End to the open field system
 - Landowners consolidated their scattered holdings into compact fields that were fenced
 - Common pasture lands were also enclosed
 - b. Resulted in the commercialization of agriculture
 - Large landowners prospered and invested in technology (machinery, breeding, cultivation methods)
 - Increased number of large and middle-sized farms
 - Parliament passed over 3,000 enclosure acts in the late-18th century and early 19th-century that benefited large landowners
 - **Corn Laws** in 1815 benefited landowners
 - High tariffs placed on foreign grain
 - Drove up the price of English grain in England
 - Hurt the poor as they couldn't afford price increases for food
 - One of most notorious examples of a law that benefited the wealthy at the expense of the English peasantry
3. Enclosure's impact on the peasantry
 - a. Many were forced off lands that had once been common
 - b. Many moved to towns or cities looking for work since work was less available in the countryside
 - Many found work in factories or in poor houses
 - c. Many became impoverished farm laborers
 - d. In some cases, enclosure freed men to pursue other economic opportunities, such as the cottage industry
 - e. Women now had no way to raise animals on common lands for extra money

Use space below for notes:

4. Impact on women
 - a. In traditional communities, women had been an indispensable part of a household's economic survival
 - Women farmed, raised animals and oversaw important functions of the household
 - b. Enclosure of common lands meant that women (and men) were forced off the land
 - c. Economic opportunities for women thus decreased significantly
 - d. Many families with daughters were eager to get them out of the house as they were an extra mouth to feed
 - e. Young women increasingly went to towns or cities where they became domestic workers, or in many cases when there were no alternatives, prostitutes.
 - f. Families who were able to get by in the countryside often supplemented their income through the cottage industry, or putting-out system (mostly for spinning or weaving)
 - Women played an important role in spinning and weaving
5. A strict hierarchical system emerged
 - a. A few landowners (**gentry**) dominated the economy and politics
 - b. Strong and prosperous tenant farmers rented land from the large landowners
 - c. Some small peasant farmers owned their own land
 - d. A huge number of peasants became wage earners on farms or in the cottage industry
6. Struggles between landowners and peasants occurred
 - Game laws were passed on behalf of landowners whereby any animals on owners' vast lands could not be hunted for food
 - Peasants who were without food would risk severe punishment if they were caught hunting for food on an owner's land

7. Historical debate on the impact of the enclosure movement
 - a. Traditional view
 - Enclosures pushed thousands of peasants out the countryside or resulted in abject poverty for those who remained
 - Theory put forth by the socialist Karl Marx in the 19th century
 - b. More recent research
 - Negative effects of enclosure are exaggerated
 - Many thousands remained in the countryside working as prosperous tenant farmers, small landowners or wage earners.
 - As much as 50% percent of England's farmland was already enclosed by 1750
 - In 1700 there was a ratio of two landless laborers for every self-sufficient farmer; that number was not significantly larger by 1750
 - In the late 17th and early 18th century lands were enclosed by mutual agreement between all classes of landowners in villages
 8. Enclosure did not spread significantly to western Europe
 - a. France did not develop enclosure as national policy and after the 1760s peasants in the provinces strongly opposed enclosure
 - b. Eastern Europe did not see fundamental agricultural changes until the 19th century
- D. Impact of the Agricultural Revolution
1. Led to Europe's population explosion in the 18th century (see below)
 2. The Enclosure movement altered society in the countryside
 - Common lands were enclosed thus changing traditional village life
 - Widespread migration to cities resulted in urbanization
 - Women were adversely affected
 3. The cottage industry emerged as a means of supplementing a farm family's income
 4. Economically, the increased supply of food resulted in lower food prices that enabled people to spend more money on consumer goods.

II. Population Explosion

- A. Limits on population growth prior to 1700
 - 1. Famine, disease and warfare kept population growth in check
 - 2. Not until the mid-16th century did Europe's population reach pre-Black Death levels in the early 1300s.
- B. Causes
 - 1. Agricultural revolution made more food available to larger populations
 - 2. New foods such as the **potato** became a staple crop for the poor in many countries (e.g. Ireland)
 - 3. Improved food transportation due to better roads and canals
 - 4. Better diet resulted in stronger immune systems in people to fight disease
 - 5. Disappearance of the bubonic plague after 1720
 - 6. Improved sanitation in towns and cities
 - 7. 18th century wars were less destructive on civilian populations
 - 8. Advances in medicine were NOT a significant cause
- C. Population growth had reached a plateau between 1650 and 1750 but began to grow dramatically after 1750.
- D. Between 1700 and 1800 the European population increased from about 120 million to about 190 million people.

III. Proto-Industrialization: the Cottage Industry ("Putting-Out" System)

- A. Rural industry became a major pillar of Europe's growing economy in the 18th century
 - 1. Rural population was eager to supplement its income
 - 2. Merchant-capitalists in cities were eager to draw on cheap labor in the countryside rather than paying guild members in towns higher fees
 - 3. Thus, early industrial production was "put out" into the countryside: the "putting-out system"
 - 4. Manufacturing with hand tools in peasant cottages came to challenge the urban craft industry

B. Cottage industry

1. Merchant-capitalist would provide raw materials (e.g. raw wool) to a rural family who produced a finished or semi-finished product and sent it back to the merchant for payment
 - Cottage workers were usually paid by the number of pieces they produced
2. Merchants would sell the finished product for a profit
3. Wool cloth was the most important product
4. The Cottage industry was essentially a family enterprise.
 - a. Work of four or five spinners needed to keep one weaver steadily employed.
 - b. Husband and wife constantly tried to find more thread and more spinners.
 - "Spinsters" were widows and unmarried women who spun for their living.
 - c. Sometimes, families subcontracted work to others
5. Problems with the cottage industry
 - a. Constant disputes between cottagers and merchants occurred over weights of materials and quality of cloth.
 - b. Rural labor unorganized and usually difficult for merchants to control.
 - c. Merchant-capitalists' search for more efficient methods of production became profound resulting in growth of factories and the industrial revolution.

C. Results

1. Thousands of poor rural families were able to supplement their incomes
2. Unregulated production in the countryside resulted in experimentation and the diversification of goods
 - Goods included textiles, knives, forks, housewares, buttons, gloves, clocks and musical instruments

D. The cottage industry flourished first in England

1. Spinning and weaving of woolen cloth was most important
2. In 1500, half of England's textiles were produced in the countryside
3. By 1700, that percentage was higher
4. The putting-out system in England spread later to Continental countries (e.g. France and Germany)

- E. Proto-industrialism technology (prior to steam engine)
1. 1733, **John Kay** invented the **flying shuttle** which enabled weaver to throw shuttle back and forth between threads with one hand.
 2. 1764, **James Hargreaves** invented the **spinning jenny** which mechanized the spinning wheel.
 3. 1769, **Richard Arkwright** invented the **water frame**, which improved thread spinning.
 - 1780s, Arkwright used steam engine to power looms which required factory production of textiles.
 - Many historians consider this the beginning of the industrial revolution
 4. 1779, **Samuel Crompton** invented the **spinning mule** which combined the best features of the spinning jenny and the water frame.

III. **Mercantilism** and the **Atlantic Economy**

- A. European maritime expansion in the 18th century
1. World trade became fundamental to the European economy
 - a. Sugar became the most important commodity produced in the Atlantic trade; tobacco, cotton, and indigo were also important
 - b. The slave trade was enormous
 2. Spain and Portugal revitalized their empires and grew economically from renewed development.
 3. Netherlands, Great Britain, and France benefited the most.
 4. By far, England had the largest number of emigrants to the New World at this time.
- B. Characteristics of mercantilism
1. Main goal: economic self-sufficiency
 2. A country or empire sought to create a favorable balance of trade by exporting more than it imported
 - Tariffs (customs duties) were placed on imports
 3. **Bullionism:** countries sought to build up large reserves of gold and silver and prevent the flow of these precious metals out of their country
 4. Colonies were acquired to provide raw materials (and markets) for the mother country
 5. States granted monopolies to large companies (e.g. British East India Co., Dutch East India Co.)
 6. Encouraged development of domestic industries so that a country would not have to buy a finished product from a rival country

C. Great Britain

1. Became the world's leading maritime power in the 18th century.
 - a. The **Bank of England** (1694) provided an important source of capital for economic development
 - b. The **Act of Union** (1707) unified England and Scotland; the Scots sought the benefits of trade within the English empire.
2. British mercantilism differed from France in that gov't economic regulations often served the private interest of individuals and groups as well as public needs of the state.
 - a. In contrast, authoritarian states (like France) sought an economic system that primarily benefited the state rather than businessmen and workers.
 - For example, the intendant system was extended throughout the French empire
 - b. **Navigation Acts** were passed by Parliament to increase military power and private wealth.
 - First act passed in 1651 and sought to reduce Dutch domination of the Atlantic trade
 - Issued by Oliver Cromwell and extended by Charles II in 1660 and 1663
 - Required that most goods imported from Europe into Great Britain be carried on British-owned ships with British crews or on ships of the country producing the specific good.
 - Gave British merchants and ship owners virtual monopoly on trade with the colonies.
 - Colonists required to ship their products (sugar, tobacco, cotton) on British ships and to buy almost all of their European goods from Britain.
3. The **Triangular Trade**
 - a. Revolved around the West Indies in the Caribbean and included North America and Africa.
 - b. One route: finished goods from Britain to the North American colonies where raw materials (fish, rice, oil, timber) were then placed on ships and sent to Jamaica or Barbados, where these goods were traded for sugar that would be sent back to Britain for refining.
 - c. Another route: New England colonies shipped rum to Africa where slaves would then be placed on ships headed to the West Indies and traded for molasses which was then shipped northward to

the American colonies.

- Much of this trade, however, was illegal under the Navigation Laws but traders, both English and American, made fortunes nonetheless

D. The Dutch Republic

1. During the first half of the 17th century the Netherlands was the world's dominant maritime power: "Golden Age of the Netherlands"
 - a. The middle class (burghers) dominated politics and the economy
 - b. The government remained decentralized and did not impede the economy.
 - c. A large degree of religious toleration enabled foreigners to live there without persecution
2. The three **Anglo-Dutch Wars** between 1652 and 1674 damaged Dutch shipping and commerce.
 - a. New Amsterdam seized by England in 1664; renamed "New York"
 - b. By the late 17th century, the Dutch were falling behind English in shipping, trade, and colonies.
 - c. However, the English and Dutch became allies to stop expansion of Louis XIV in late 17th century.
3. The wars of Louis XIV further weakened Dutch trade in the Atlantic
4. The Netherlands shifted their attention to banking rather than trade and managed to survive intact
 - a. First country to perfect the use of paper currency.
 - b. Stock market in Amsterdam was the most important in Europe
 - c. Created a central bank

E. The **Slave Trade**

1. The dramatic growth in the Atlantic trade was due in large part to the use of slave labor
2. About 10 million Africans were transported to the New World in the 17th and 18th centuries
 - a. Half of the slave trade occurred aboard British ships; 25% on French ships; and the rest on Dutch, Portuguese, Danish and American ships
 - British and French governments gave chartered companies monopolies over the slave trade in the 17th and early 18th century.
 - Forts ("factories") were set up on the West African coast to oversee and protect the slave trade
 - Independent slave traders broke the slave trade monopoly by the 1730s

- b. Most slaves were actually captured by rival African tribes who traded slaves for European goods such as cloth, alcohol and weapons
 - Many slaves captured in the African interior died on forced marches to the West African coast.
 - c. Between 20% and 1/3 of slaves died en route to the New World while on slave ships (the **"Middle Passage"**)
 - d. Most slaves were taken to Brazil or the West Indies, usually to work sugar plantations
 - e. As many as 400,000 ended up in British North America in colonies such as Virginia, Maryland and South Carolina.
3. The slave trade dwindled significantly by the 1780s
- Most of the subsequent increase in the New World slave population came from natural population growth

F. The "Bubbles"

1. Both Britain and France faced massive national debts due to numerous wars fought in the 17th and early 18th centuries.
2. The **South Sea Bubble**, 1720
 - a. 1719, the British government gave the South Sea Company rights to take over the national debt.
 - The company had been given a monopoly of the slave trade with Latin America a few years earlier.
 - The company would presumably make a profit from the interest collected from the gov't on the debt
 - b. When investors didn't make their money back fast enough the company converted the debt owed them into shares of stock.
 - c. A speculative frenzy drove stock prices higher as investors believed prices would continue upward
 - d. The bubble burst in 1720 resulting in the first large-scale financial crash
 - It took years to restore confidence in the British government's ability to repay its debts
3. The **Mississippi Bubble**, 1720
 - a. The Mississippi Company was granted a monopoly by the French government on trade with French Louisiana in North America
 - b. In 1719, the company took over France's national debt in exchange for company shares of stock.
 - c. In 1720, after dramatic price increases in stock

shares, the price of the stock collapsed and the Mississippi Company was ruined.

- d. The national debt in France remained staggering and played a role in the French Revolution 7 decades later

G. **Colonial Wars** (could be considered part of a "Second Hundred Years' War"—1689-1815)

1. Background

- a. Britain and France were the two main adversaries in the colonial wars for empire

- Between 1701 and 1783 both countries engaged in a series of wars over the issue of maritime trade and colonial expansion
- France had the largest army on land and was working to build up its naval forces
- France sought to support Spain

- b. The Netherlands and Spain were in relative decline

- c. In effect, these wars were world wars since they involved fighting in Europe, the high seas and the New World.

2. **War of Spanish Succession** (1701-1713)

(Also discussed in Unit 3.1 in the section "Wars of Louis XIV")

- a. The prospect of the Bourbons (Louis XIV and his grandson) controlling both France and Spain (and their empires) became a major threat to Britain in North America and the balance of power in Europe

- Britain's American colonies along the east coast would be surrounded by New France in the North and Spanish territory in Florida and in the West.

- b. **Treaty of Utrecht** (1713)

- France lost Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and the Hudson Bay territory to Great Britain
- Spain lost the *asiento* to Britain: the West African slave trade with the New World
- Spain agreed to allow one British ship of merchandise per year through Panama.
 - This was Britain's attempt to crack open the Spanish colonial market to British goods

3. War of Jenkins' Ear (began in 1739)

- a. Started over issue of Spain's allegation of British abuse regarding the Treaty of Utrecht provision that allowed Britain to send one ship of merchandise to Central America per year.

- b. Spanish officials boarded a British ship suspected of smuggling goods into Latin America and cut off ear of Captain Jenkins, a British officer.
 - Jenkins kept his ear in a jar of brandy and presented it to Parliament 7 years later
 - c. In response, King George II went to war with Spain.
 - d. Conflict expanded into the War of Austrian Succession in 1740.
4. War of Austrian Succession (1740-1748)
(Previously discussed in the sub-section "Wars of Frederick the Great" in Unit 4.1)
- a. Involved battles between England and France in North America and India.
 - b. Spain fought effectively in keeping its empire intact
 - c. The Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle (1748) essentially preserved the status quo in the colonial empires
5. **Seven Years' War** (French & Indian War: 1754-63)
(Previously discussed in the sub-section "Wars of Frederick the Great" in Unit 4.1)
- a. Biggest world war of the 18th century
 - b. Began in the disputed Ohio Valley of North America when a young American officer, George Washington, engaged a French force protecting Ft. Duquesne (modern-day Pittsburgh) in 1754.
 - c. French forces (and their Amerindian allies) fought British and American colonial forces for control of North America.
 - This war became part of the larger Seven Years' War in Europe
 - d. **William Pitt**, Britain's new prime minister, changed Britain's war strategy in the middle of the war by focusing more attention on North America.
 - e. Britain's Royal Navy defeated France's navy in various engagements on the high seas
 - France planned to invade Great Britain but devastating naval losses ended such an attempt
 - British trade prospered as a result
 - France's trade dropped to 1/16 of its prewar level
 - France's sugar trade with its West Indian colonies was choked off
 - Britain took control of French posts near Calcutta and Madras in India

- f. When Spain entered the war on France's side, Britain seized Cuba and the Philippines from Spain
 - g. **Treaty of Paris (1763)** – ended the 7 Years' War
 - Most important European peace treaty since the Treaty of Westphalia in 1648
 - France was completely removed from North America
 - France lost Canada to Britain as well as all its colonial possessions east of the Mississippi River.
 - As compensation for Spain's support in the war, France gave the Louisiana territory (including New Orleans) to Spain
 - France had to accept British domination in India, especially Bengal (although it was allowed to keep its posts there)
 - This later proved significant as India became Britain's most important colonial possession in the 19th and early 20th centuries
 - Spain ceded Florida to Britain in return for Cuba and the Philippines
 - h. Britain thus became the world's dominant colonial empire
6. **The American Revolution (1775-1783)**
- a. In hopes of weakening Britain's world empire, France gave significant financial and military support to the United States in its successful war for independence.
 - b. The 13 American colonies had been Britain's most valuable colonial possessions as both a source for raw materials and a large market for British goods.
 - By 1775, about 2.5 million people lived in the colonies (over 1.6 million from England alone)
- H. Colonial Latin America
- 1. Spain
 - a. In the 18th century, Spain's colonies remained an important part of the Atlantic economy
 - Silver mining recovered in Mexico and Peru
 - Quadrupled between 1700 and 1800
 - Accounted for 1/2 the world's supply of silver
 - b. The Spanish empire recovered under the reign of Philip V (Louis XIV's grandson)
 - It's navy became the 3rd most powerful in the world (behind Britain and France)

- c. After the War of Spanish Succession Spain improved its control over the empire
 - Enlightened despotism of Charles III expanded economic and administrative reforms
 - d. **Creoles—Spaniards born in Latin America—came to rival the power of Spanish authorities**
 - Strove to recreate a European-style aristocracy in Latin America
 - Some were wealthy class merchants who benefited from smuggling activities
 - Indians were shifted from forced labor to debt peonage on owners' lands
 - About 20% of the American population
 - e. **Mestizos were children born to Spanish fathers and Indian mothers**
 - Eventually represented about 30% of the population
 - f. **Amerindian population constituted about 70%**
 - Land owners believed Amerindians should do the hard labor in the countryside
 - g. **Black slavery remained in the sugar plantations of Cuba and Puerto Rico**
2. Portuguese Brazil
- a. Sugar plantations in Brazil required massive numbers of slaves
 - b. By early 19th century, half of Brazil's population was of African descent
 - c. The Portuguese, Indian and African populations in Brazil intermixed socially to a greater degree than in the Spanish empire, resulting in a multi-color population.

IV. Life in the 18th Century

A. Marriage and the Family prior to 1750

- 1. The nuclear family was the most common in pre-industrial Europe.
 - a. Young married European couples established their homes apart from their parents.
 - b. 3-generation households usually entailed a parent moving in with a married child.
- 2. **On average, the age at marriage was higher prior to 1750, especially for the lower classes**
 - a. Late 20s or older for both men and women
 - b. Couples could not marry until they could support themselves economically.
 - c. Peasant sons often had to wait until their father's death to gain land (through inheritance).

- d. Peasant daughters and family had to accumulate a small dowry to help her future husband to buy land or build a house.
- 3. Some areas required legal permission or approval of local lord or landowner for marriage.
 - a. Austria and Germany had legal restrictions on marriage well into 19th century.
 - b. Local governments believed that without regulating marriages, lower classes would create more paupers, abandoned children and more gov't money would need to be expended on welfare.
 - c. This pattern helped maintain some balance between population and resources.
- 4. Many men and women never married.
 - Approximately 40% to 60% of women between 15 & 44 were unmarried at any given time.
- 5. Children
 - a. Rate of births out of wedlock was fairly low
 - Reflected powerful social controls of traditional villages, especially the open-field villages
 - Parents, village elders, priests, and landlords pressured young couples to marry if a pregnancy occurred.
 - b. Premarital sex was generally limited to couples who were already thinking about marriage.
 - c. Numbers of children per family
 - If wife & husband lived to age 45, odds about 50% of giving birth to 6 or more children.
 - Infant mortality was high.
 - 20% in economically viable areas.
 - 33% in poorer areas.
 - 50% survival rate into adulthood was considered good.
- B. New patterns of marriage & legitimacy emerged after 1750
 - 1. The growth of the cottage industry with its increased income resulted in higher rates of people marrying for love instead of just purely economic reasons.
 - a. Young people did not have to wait as long to become financially independent.
 - b. Arranged marriages for economic reasons declined
 - c. Laws and regulations on marriage, especially in Germany, were often ignored.
 - d. Factory workers after 1780 followed marriage pattern of cottage workers.

2. The explosion of births was caused by increasing illegitimacy: 1750-1850.
 - a. Illegitimacy rates as high as 33% in certain areas.
 - b. Fewer girls abstaining from premarital sex and fewer boys married girls they impregnated.
 - c. Mobility encouraged new sexual and marital relationships which were less subject to parental pressure and village tradition.
 - d. In Germany, illegitimate births were a result of open rebellion against class laws limiting marriage among the poor.
 - Illegitimacy declined when marriage restrictions were rescinded.
3. Women in cities and factories had limited economic independence.
 - a. Young women were not motivated by visions of emancipation and sexual liberation.
 - b. Most city women probably looked to marriage and family life as an escape from hard lifestyle.
 - c. Many intended marriages did not take place as poor economic and social conditions scared men away from the commitment.
- C. Attitudes toward children began to change during the 18th century
 1. Child care and nursing
 - a. Poorer women generally breast-fed their infants for much longer periods than in the 20th century.
 - Resulted in spacing births of children from 2 to 3 years apart due to decreased fertility.
 - Infants more likely to survive on mother's milk than on artificial foods.
 - b. Women of aristocracy and upper-middle class seldom breast-fed
 - This was also true of wives of artisans who lived comfortably
 - Believed it was crude, common and beneath their dignity.
 - Wet-nurses hired to breast-feed their children.
 - Many babies sent to countryside
 - Wet-nursing took two to three years.
 - "Killing nurses" were negligent, resulting in the death of many or most babies in their custody.

2. Infanticide

- a. Early medieval church denounced infanticide; viewed each human life as sacred.
- b. Yet, infanticide was rampant due to severe poverty.
- c. "Overlaying" occurred in many cases with a parent rolling over and suffocating a child in bed.
- d. Foundling hospitals emerged, first in Paris then throughout Europe
 - Many poor women left babies on the doorstep of churches.
 - By 1770, 1/3 of all babies born in Paris were immediately abandoned to the foundling home; 1/3 of those came from married couples.
 - Foundling home in St. Petersburg cared for 25,000 babies in the early 19th century; receiving 5,000 new babies a year.
 - Half of all babies died within a year; at worst, 90% died.
 - Some social critics claimed that foundling hospitals promoted "legalized infanticide."

3. Child-rearing

- a. Children were often treated indifferently and with strict physical discipline.
 - The use of wet-nurses is a good example.
 - Because of such high mortality rates, parents were reluctant to become too emotionally attached to their children.
- b. Doctors often declined to care for sick children believing there was little that could be done.
- c. **"Spare the rod and spoil the child"** –term coined by novelist **Daniel Defoe**
 - Many children worked in factories at a young age and were severely disciplined.
 - Many believed the task of parents was to break their will to make them obedient.
- d. Humanitarianism and Enlightenment optimism regarding human progress emphasized better treatment of children.
 - Rousseau encouraged greater love and understanding toward children.
 - Increasingly, parents grew closer to their children.

D. Work Away from Home

1. Many young people worked within their families until they could start their own households.
 - a. Boys typically ploughed and wove (as part of the cottage industry).
 - b. Girls spun thread and tended to the animals.
2. Increasingly, many boys worked away from home
 - a. Boys in towns might be apprenticed to a craftsman for 7 or 14 years to learn a trade and perhaps be admitted to a guild.
 - Not allowed to marry during this period.
 - b. More often, young men would drift from one tough job to another
3. Large numbers of girls also worked away from home at an early age.
 - a. Opportunities more limited than for men.
 - b. Domestic service in another family's household was most common job.
 - c. Most hoped to save money for their parents and for marriage.
 - d. Working away from home benefited parents who had one less mouth to feed.
 - e. Servant girls had little real independence
 - Girls were vulnerable to physical mistreatment by their mistresses.
 - Often became sexual victims
 - Upper classes commonly exploited servants sexually
 - If girl became pregnant she was quickly fired.
 - Prostitution and petty thievery often became only alternatives.

E. Education

1. The beginnings of formal education for the masses took root; largely inspired by Protestantism.
 - a. Aristocracy and rich had a two-century head start beginning in the 16th century with special colleges, often run by Jesuits.
 - b. "Little schools" of elementary education began to appear in 17th century.
 - Boys and girls from age 7 to 12 were instructed in basic literacy and religion.
 - c. The Church of England and "dissenting groups" such as the Puritans founded "charity schools" to instruct poor children.
 - d. Scotland created a network of parish schools for all citizens to teach reading of the Scriptures.

2. France established Christian schools starting in 1682 which taught religion as well as reading and writing.
 3. Starting in 1717, Prussia led the way with universal compulsory education.
 - a. Inspired by old Protestant idea that every Christian should be able to read the Bible
 - b. Education also seen as way to make the population effectively serve the state.
 4. Enlightenment commitment to greater knowledge through critical thinking reinforced interest in education during 18th century.
 5. Literacy by 1800:
 - a. Almost 90% of Scottish male population; only 1 in 6 in 1600.
 - b. 2 out of 3 males in France; in Normandy, 90%; only 1 in 6 in 1600.
 - c. Over 50% of male Brits; only 25% in 1600.
 - d. Women were increasingly literate but lagged behind men in general.
- F. Increased life expectancy
1. The life spans of Europeans increased from 25 to 35 years in the 18th century.
 - a. Largely the result of the disappearance of the plague and starvation.
 - b. More time spent by children on education and preparation for adulthood.
 2. Development of public health techniques important breakthrough of 2nd half of 18th century.
 - a. Improved practices in sanitation.
 - b. Mass vaccinations (see Jenner below)
 - c. Better clothing (due to proto-industrialization)
 - d. Improvements in developing warm dry housing.
 - e. Adequate food (due to the agricultural revolution)
 3. Diet and nutrition underwent significant changes during the 18th century.
 - a. The diet of ordinary people improved.
 - Poor people's diets usually consisted of grains and vegetables.
 - The potato improved the diet of the poor with vitamins A and C.
 - Most Irish lived almost exclusively on the potato; lived in abject poverty
 - Average male ate 8 to 10 lbs a day!
 - The crop produced more food per acre
 - By end of 18th century, potato an important food in much of Europe.

- b. Greater variety of vegetables existed in towns and cities
 - c. Upper classes consumed much meat and fish and alcohol.
 - Few fruits and vegetables eaten.
 - Greater affluence meant that some people indulged in less nutritious food (e.g. sugar).
 - d. Northern, Atlantic Europe ate better than southern, Mediterranean Europe.
 - The English ate the best of all.
4. Medical improvements
- a. The bubonic plague had largely disappeared from Europe in the 17th century.
 - This was due to the increased resistance to the disease, the displacement of the Asian black rat, and better hygiene, improved public health and sanitation
 - b. The conquest of smallpox was the greatest medical triumph of the 18th century.
 - 17th century: 25% of deaths in Great Britain caused by smallpox
 - Smallpox killed perhaps 60 million people in the 18th century; 400,000 per year on avg.
 - 80% of Europeans contracted it; many were scarred for life
 - Lady Mary Wortley Montagu introduced a Turkish technique of vaccination in the 18th century but it was roundly criticized.
 - c. **Edward Jenner (1749-1823)**
 - 1778, created the foundation for the science of immunology with his vaccine for smallpox.
 - Discovered inoculating patients with cowpox would control onset of small pox.
 - d. Humanitarianism of late 18th century led to hospital reform.
 - Ventilation improved and filth eliminated as disease believed to be caused by bad air.
 - Spread of infection was reduced
 - First humane mental hospital founded in England in 1790

- G. Religious reform continued in the 18th century.
1. Pietism and Methodism provided a challenge to established churches
 2. **"Pietism"** in Germany caused its Protestant revival.
 - a. The emotional content of Christian faith was emphasized; enthusiasm in prayer, worship, preaching, and life itself, was the key concept.
 - b. Reasserted earlier radical stress on "priesthood of all believers."
 - Reduced chasm between official clergy and Lutheran laity that had existed since the Reformation.
 - Bible reading and study extended to all classes, thus spurring public education.
 - c. Pietists believed in practical power of Christian rebirth in everyday affairs.
 - Reborn Christians expected to lead good, moral lives and come from all sectors of society.
 3. **John Wesley** (1703-1791) founded **Methodism**
 - a. Influenced by Pietism in Germany
 - b. Wesley concerned about complacency of religion in England (also the skepticism of the Enlightenment and deism)
 - c. Wesley often preached in open fields to large numbers of people
 - Particularly popular among the lower classes
 - d. Rejected the Calvinist idea of predestination
 - He believed all men and women who earnestly sought salvation might be saved.
 - His message was one of hope and joy, of free will and universal salvation.
 - e. Methodism eventually developed into a new denomination.

V. The Arts in the eighteenth century

A. Visual Arts

1. **Rococo** (mid-eighteenth century France)
 - a. Identified with the court of Louis XV.
 - b. Lighter elements and more curves and natural patterns than the heavier baroque style
 - c. Highly decorative
 - d. More intimate settings; less grandiose than baroque
 - e. Many works focused on playful scenes of the aristocracy and bourgeoisie



Watteau: *Pilgrimage to Cythera* (1721)



Fragonard: *The Swing* (1767)

- f. Antoine Watteau (1684-1721): first great Rococo painter
 - *Pilgrimage to Cythera*, (1721)
 - g. Jean-Honoré Fragonard (1732-1806): *The Swing* (1767)
2. **Neoclassicism** (late-18th, early 19th centuries)
- a. Characteristics
 - Sought a return to the artistic style of ancient Rome, Greek ideals, and the Renaissance
 - Simplicity, balance, symmetry, restraint
 - b. **Jacques-Louis David** (1748-1825) was the most important artist of the movement
 - *Death of Socrates* (1787) is seen as perhaps the first major work of the movement.
 - He painted numerous works glorifying the French Revolution
 - c. Neoclassical architecture became popular in many public buildings and private residences.
 - The arch de triomphe is such an example.
 - Washington, D.C. saw numerous buildings created in the "empire" style.
- B. Music: **Classical Style**
- 1. The neo-classical ideas in the visual arts influenced music as well with the ideals of balance, symmetry and restraint.
 - 2. **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart** (1756-1791), **Franz Joseph Haydn** (1732-1809), and **Ludwig van Beethoven** (1770-1826) became the masters of the new style
 - a. Moved away from the dense baroque textures of J. S. Bach and Handel
 - b. Simple, tuneful melodies and clearer forms
 - c. The **symphony** developed as an important genre



David: *The Death of Socrates* (1787)



Jacques-Louis David, *Napoleon Crossing the Saint-Bernard* (1801).

David became Napoleon's official court painter after the coronation in 1804. David (1748-1825) was one of the central figures in the French Neoclassical style of the late-18th century and after 1800 developed his "Empire style" that borrowed from the Venetian style of warm colors.



Though planning began in 1806, the Arc de Triomphe was not fully completed until the mid-1830s. It stands at the western end of the Champs Élysées. It is a good example of the Neoclassical style.

Terms to Know

Agricultural Revolution	Anglo-Dutch Wars
open field system	Slave trade
Cornelius Vermuyden	"Middle Passage"
Charles "Turnip" Townsend	South Sea Bubble
crop rotation	Mississippi Bubble
Jethro Tull	War of Spanish Succession
seed drill	Treaty of Utrecht
Robert Bakewell	<i>asiento</i>
Columbian exchange	Seven years' War
Enclosure movement	Treaty of Paris
Corn Laws	American Revolution
population explosion	<i>creoles</i>
Proto-Industrialization	<i>mestizos</i>
cottage industry ("putting out" system)	"Spare the rod and spoil the child"
flying shuttle	Edward Jenner
spinning jenny	Pietism
water frame	John Wesley
spinning mule	Methodism
mercantilism	Rococo
Atlantic economy	Neoclassicism
sugar	Jacques-Louis David
bullionism	Classical Style (music)
Bank of England	Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Act of Union, 1707	Franz Joseph Haydn
Navigation Acts	Ludwig van Beethoven
Triangular Trade	symphony
Dutch Republic	

Essay Questions

Note: This sub-unit is a high probability area for the AP exam. In the past 10 years, 5 questions have come wholly or in part from the material in this chapter. Below are questions that will help you study the topics that have appeared on previous exams.

1. Discuss the features of the Agricultural Revolution. How did the Agricultural Revolution affect European society in the 18th century?
2. Analyze the causes of the population explosion in the 18th century? What were some of the new social challenges posed by population growth?
3. Analyze the importance of proto-industrialization on the development of England's economy in the 18th century.
4. Analyze the role that mercantilism played on the Atlantic economy during the 17th and 18th centuries.
5. What factors paved the way for the rise of the Dutch Republic as an economic power?
6. To what extent did the colonial wars of the 18th century impact the European balance of power?
7. To what extent did demographic and social trends of the 18th century impact the European family?

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