

Lecture Notes

- The Age of Absolutism (1550 ~ 1800)

- Monarchy - a government that has a sole ruler usually the leader of a family line of rulers
- During the Renaissance... there is an artistic, cultural, religious and scientific change in the air. HOWEVER, the need for government remains unchanged
- Extreme changes (The Renaissance) result in an extreme form of monarchy, an ABSOLUTE MONARCHY
- POL - Why would absolute monarchs claim divine right?
Answer: to justify their authority to rule

- 3.1 - Absolute Monarchy in Spain & France

- 1492- Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand sponsor Columbus's voyage to establish a western trade route to Asia
- Columbus discovers the New World and begins Spanish conquest of the Americas
- Spain finds gold and vast lands, it opens up greater trade throughout the world and becomes the richest nation in Europe

- The First Modern European Power (1519-1556)

- Holy Roman Emperor and Spanish King Charles V is a devout Catholic but later begins to divide the Holy Roman Empire in order to avoid war w/ Protestant and nationalistic forces emerging in Europe
- Charles V was the leader of the Hapsburg empire
- POL - Why did Charles V have difficulty governing his empire?
Answer: Hapsburg lands were spread out too far to govern
- Charles V hands over Spain, the Netherlands, and its American empire to his son Phillip (age 29) on his birthday

- King Philip II is strong, powerful, Catholic, and very detailed-oriented
- Quote: "It is best to keep an eye on everything"

- Absolute Monarchs:

- ruled in all areas of society
- the source of law, not subject to it
- subjects owe direct allegiance to the monarch, not the feudal lords or regional princes
- absolutism - THE EXPLOITATION FOR POWER
- Divine Right - the king/queen derives power from God to pursue certain holy missions
- *Philip thinks he is the guardian of the Catholic Church, ensuring power through **divine right***
- dominated culture by being the primary patron of the arts
- Phillip was the reason for the Council of Trent - AND THE SPANISH INQUISITION

- Spain's Golden Age

- Academies of science and mathematics
- Arts and Culture

○ Protestant Civilizations

- (Phillip II ?) will challenge the powerful Protestant monarch of England for ultimate power on the high seas
- Phillip II vs. Elizabeth I
 - JULY 1588!- Phillip launches the Spanish Armada, which arrives along the coast of England
 - Unfortunately, storms, poor Spanish communication, and British naval genius led to the ambush of the Armadas
 - POL - What was NOT a reason for Spain's decline in power?
Answer: idk

■ "Nature abhors a vacuum"

○ Louis XVI - the Sun King

- Breaking News: Big-Time Catholic Just Supported Heliocentricity Holy Crap This Dude is Progressive He Is Literally The Sun
- Breaking Breaking News: He Is Also Literally Just The State Oh My God
 - "I am the State"
- oh yeah marie antoinette

● 3.3 Britain Becomes Enlightened

- June 15, 1215 - Magna Carta is signed by King John
 - The nobles have rights - and by extension - all citizens
 - The monarch must obey the law
 - The tension between the barons (nobles) leads to meetings of the royal court - otherwise known as a COUNCIL
 - By the 1230's, this council was called a PARLIAMENT (important.)
- Unlike any other country, Henry uses the Parliament for money and legitimacy
 - This makes him NOT an absolute monarch
- 1553 - Queen Mary I (Bloody Mary)
 - Has no use for Parliament & Protestants and self-destructs
- 1558 - Queen Elizabeth I
 - "I know I have the body of a weak and feeble woman, but I have the heart and stomach of a lion and of a king of England too"
 - She believes in the "Divine Right", but wants it to apply to ALL Christians and IN cooperation w/ Parliament
- 1558 - Defeat of the Spanish Armada (England gets REKT LOL1!!!!1!!) (oh god)
- POL - What was the main reason Elizabeth I worked with Parliament?
Answer - She needed to raise funds
- 1603 - Elizabeth I died along with the entire Tudor bloodline - Tudor family surrenders the throne to the Stuart family (VERY CATHOLIC)
 - Head of the family: King James I
 - England + Scotland = Great Britain
- King James is Britain's first absolute monarch
 - He is a believer in the Divine Right of Kings
 - He hates Parliament

- 1604 - King James translated the Bible from Greek & Hebrew into English - The King James Bible
- He has NO use for those who wish to “purify” the Anglican Church
- 1620 - Puritans arrive in New world
- **1642 - King Charles I executed**, son is exile
- 1660 - King Charles II restores the Church of England, restarts it all
 - tolerates Protestants and restores Parliament
 - English colonies expand in the New World here
- 1664 - King Charles II gives New Amsterdam to his kid brother James - the Duke of York as a birthday present
 - renamed New York
- Thomas Hobbes (British)
 - Pessimistic view of human nature - People are greedy & chaotic, and only government can create peace and order out of it
 - in favor of the absolute monarchy
 - people and government enter into a SOCIAL CONTRACT wherein people give up their natural rights for an organized society
 - if the people break the SOCIAL CONTRACT, then government can assume greater control of society
 - the book: Leviathan (1651)
- 1685 - King James II takes over
 - very Catholic, very absolutist
 - He wants to dissolve Parliament (sir that is not how it works)
 - LET THAT BABY FALL
- The Age of Enlightenment - **AGE OF REASON** - and Scientific Revolution
 - During the Age of Enlightenment, philosophes used reason *to explain why people act the way they do*.
 - “Natural Laws of Human Behavior”
 - Thomas Hobbes was the first modern philosopher - writes the book *Leviathan* (1651)
 - The cover reflects the views of the book, with Charles I ruling over the countryside
 - oh yeah baby skin - he makes the real decision in the “name of the people”
 - People and government enter into a SOCIAL CONTRACT wherein people give up their natural rights for an organized society. If the people break the SOCIAL CONTRACT, then the government can assume greater control of society.
 - **HOBBS:**
 - pessimistic view of human nature
 - believed that humans were naturally cruel and selfish - SIMILAR 2 CALVIN
 - believed in an absolute monarchy
 - wanted a SOCIAL CONTRACT
 - **LOCKE:**

- optimistic view of human nature
- believed in a constitutional monarchy
- had more faith in society
- **MONTESQUIEU:**
 - democracy is BAD SOMETIMES
 - if everyone is equal, then everyone deserves EQUAL TREATMENT regardless of the circumstances
 - INSPIRED JAMES MADISON
- Checks and Balances
 - Legislative - Congress
 - If $\frac{2}{3}$ of Congress disagrees w/ President
 - Executive - President
 - President can veto a law
 - Judicial - Supreme Court
- **VOLTAIRE:**
 - believed in free speech, opposed divine right, etc.
 - wrote *Candide* - the first modern satire
 - disguised his beliefs in these works of fiction
- Diderot wrote the first modern *Encyclopedia* (1751 - 1789) to change the general way of thinking
- **ROSSEAU:**
 - the SOCIAL CONTRACT - losing NATURAL freedom for CIVIL freedom
- **WOLLSTONECRAFT:**
 - A Vindication of the Rights of Women (1792) - her book
 - daughter - Mary Shelley
 - believed that women had natural rights but her duties were limited to home and family
 - believed that we should reject the notion of male superiority being part of "nature's plan"
 - wanted women to be educated so they could also participate in the Social Contract
- **SMITH:**
 - wrote The Wealth of Nations (1776)
 - INSPIRED ALEXANDER HAMILTON
- **Mercantilism** - an economic theory that emphasized the prosperity & autonomy of the Mother Country via favorable trade policy w/ her colonies
- **PRINCIPLES OF THE ENLIGHTENMENT:**
 - **Rationalism/Reason** - belief that truth can only be arrived at by reason
 - **Cause & Effect** - belief that everything has a cause & effect, which can be discovered via observation & experiments
 - **Natural Law** - belief that the universe is guided by simple laws pre-ordained by God (e.g. gravitation). Denial of the possibility of miracles, which contradicts these natural laws

- **Progress** - belief that society & individuals can be improved & progress towards perfection. Denial of the medieval view that humanity is in a state/decline from a Golden Age or the distant past
- **Freedom** - belief that individuals should be free to make up their own minds & form their own beliefs w/o being restricted by superstition, religious dogma, or autocratic government
- **Happiness** - belief that a morally good life is a happy life
- **THE FRENCH REVOLUTION - LIKE ALL OF IT**
 - Absolutism is a **requirement** for the Renaissance
 - Monarchs funded the creative voices of the Renaissance
 - You need growth in ALL AREAS
 - Bastille storming - July 14, 1789
 - Declaration of the Rights of Man - “liberty, equality, and fraternity”