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CHAPTER 17:

Philosophy in the Age of Reason

1. Key Concepts

- **What was the Enlightenment?**
 - A revolution in thinking that applied **reason** and the scientific method to all aspects of society—government, law, religion, and economics.
 - It was sparked by the **Scientific Revolution**; if reason could discover natural laws of science, it could also discover natural laws that govern human behavior and society.
- **Natural Law**
 - Rules discoverable by reason that govern human nature.
- **Thomas Hobbes vs. John Locke**
 - **Thomas Hobbes:**
 - View of Humans: People are naturally cruel, greedy, and selfish.
 - **Social Contract:** To escape a "brutish" life, people must give up their freedom to a powerful ruler (an **absolute monarchy**) in exchange for law and order.
 - Book: *Leviathan*.
 - **John Locke:**
 - View of Humans: People are basically reasonable and moral.
 - **Natural Rights:** Rights people are born with **life, liberty, and property**.
 - Purpose of Government: To protect natural rights. If it fails, the people have the **right to overthrow** it.
 - Book: *Two Treatises of Government*.

2. The Philosopher

- **Philosopher:** French Enlightenment thinkers who believed reason could reform society.

- **Montesquieu:**
 - Advocated for **separation of powers** into three branches: legislative, executive, and judicial.
 - Proposed **checks and balances** to prevent any one branch from becoming too powerful.
 - Book: *The Spirit of the Laws*.
- **Voltaire:**
 - Fought for **freedom of speech** and religious tolerance.
 - Used satire to criticize the government, aristocracy, and the Catholic Church.
- **Denis Diderot:**
 - Edited the *Encyclopedia*, a 28-volume set of books that spread Enlightenment ideas and attacked superstition, injustice, and slavery.
- **Jean-Jacques Rousseau:**
 - Believed people are naturally good but are corrupted by society.
 - **Social Contract:** Society agrees to be governed by the **general will** (what is best for the community).
 - Book: *The Social Contract*.
- **Mary Wollstonecraft:**
 - Argued for women's rights and **equal education** for girls and boys.
 - Book: *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*.

3. New Economic Thinking

- **Physiocrats:** French economists who advocated for **laissez-faire** economics.
- **Laissez-faire:** The policy of allowing businesses to run with little or no government interference.
- **Adam Smith:**
 - Argued for a **free market** regulated by **supply and demand**.
 - Believed government should protect society, administer justice, and provide public works.
 - Book: *The Wealth of Nations*.

Enlightenment Ideas Spread

1. Challenging the Old Order

- **Censorship:** Government and church authorities restricted access to ideas by banning and burning books to protect the old order.

- **Salons:** Informal social gatherings where writers, artists, and philosophers exchanged ideas. Hosted by women like **Madame Geoffrin**.

2. Arts and Literature

- **Baroque** (1600s): A grand, ornate style reflecting the power of courts and churches.
- **Rococo** (1700s): A lighter, more elegant, and charming style that moved away from religion.
- **Music:** The new "classical" style emerged. Composers like **Bach, Handel, Haydn, and Mozart**.
- **The Novel:** Long works of prose fiction became popular with the growing middle class (e.g., *Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe).

3. Enlightened Despots

- **Enlightened Despot:** Absolute rulers who used their power to bring about political and social change inspired by Enlightenment ideas.
- **Frederick the Great** (Prussia):
 - Reduced torture allowed a free press and tolerated religious differences.
 - His main goal was to strengthen his own power and make the government more efficient.
- **Catherine the Great** (Russia):
 - Read the works of the philosophes and corresponded with them.
 - Made some limited reforms but did not give up power; expanded the Russian empire.
- **Joseph II** (Austria):
 - The most radical enlightened despot.
 - Supported religious equality for Protestants and Jews, ended censorship, and **abolished serfdom** (though this was reversed after his death).

Birth of the American Republic

1. Background to the Revolution

- **Britain's Global Power:** Due to its location, strong commerce, and victories in wars (gaining Canada and other territories).
- **The 13 Colonies:** Prosperous and largely self-governing, with a strong sense of independence.
- **"No Taxation Without Representation":**
 - After the costly **French and Indian War**, Britain imposed taxes on the colonies (**Sugar Act, Stamp Act**) to pay for it.
 - Colonists argued that without their own representatives in Parliament, these taxes

were unjust.

2. The American Revolution

- Key Events Leading to War: **Boston Massacre** (1770), **Boston Tea Party** (1773).
- **Declaration of Independence** (1776):
 - Drafted primarily by **Thomas Jefferson**.
 - Heavily influenced by **John Locke's** ideas of **natural rights** and the **right to overthrow** an unjust government.
 - Stated the principle of **popular sovereignty** (all government power comes from the people).
- **Key Figures**:
 - **George Washington**: Commander of the Continental Army; provided strong, determined leadership.
 - **Benjamin Franklin**: Secured a crucial alliance with France.
 - **James Madison**: "Father of the Constitution"; kept detailed notes at the Constitutional Convention.
- **Turning Point and Victory**:
 - The American victory at the **Battle of Saratoga** (1777) convinced **France** to join the war against Britain.
 - The war ended after the British surrender at **Yorktown** (1781).
 - The **Treaty of Paris** (1783) recognized American independence.

3. A New Constitution

- **The U.S. Constitution**:
 - Replaced the weak **Articles of Confederation**.
 - Created a **federal republic** (power divided between a national government and states).
- **Enlightenment Influences**:
 - **Montesquieu**: Separation of powers and checks and balances.
 - **Locke**: Government's purpose is to protect life, liberty, and property.
 - **Rousseau**: The idea of the **general will**.
- **The Result**: A lasting framework of government based on Enlightenment principles of reason, liberty, and popular sovereignty.

CHAPTER 18

On the Eve of Revolution

1. Key Concepts

- **The Old Regime (Ancient Régime)**
 - The old social and political system in France before the revolution.
 - Society was divided into three large social classes, or **estates**.
- **The Three Estates**
 - **First Estate:** The clergy (Church officials). Owned 10% of the land, collected tithes, and paid no direct taxes.
 - **Second Estate:** The nobility. Held top jobs in government, the army, and the courts. Paid few taxes.
 - **Third Estate:** The vast majority of the population (about 97%).
 - Included the **bourgeoisie** (middle class: bankers, merchants, lawyers, doctors), urban workers, and peasants.
 - Paid heavy taxes and resented the privileges of the First and Second Estates.

2. Causes of the French Revolution

- **Social Inequality:** The Third Estate bore the tax burden but had no political power.
- **Economic Crisis:**
 - **Deficit spending:** The government was bankrupt from the costs of wars (Seven Years' War, American Revolution) and lavish court spending.
 - Poor harvests led to soaring bread prices and hunger.
- **Weak Leadership:** King **Louis XVI** was indecisive and his queen, **Marie Antoinette**, was unpopular for her extravagant spending.
- **Enlightenment Ideas:** People began questioning traditional structures and demanded equality, liberty, and democracy.

3. The Estates-General and the Tennis Court Oath

- To solve the financial crisis, Louis XVI was forced to call the **Estates-General** in 1789 for the first time in 175 years.
- **The Voting Issue:** The Third Estate demanded that all three estates meet and vote "by head" instead of "by estate" to have a fair chance.
- When they were locked out of their meeting hall, the Third Estate delegates declared themselves the **National Assembly** and moved to a tennis court.
- They took the **Tennis Court Oath**, vowing not to disband until they had written a new constitution for France.

4. The Storming of the Bastille

- On **July 14, 1789**, a Parisian mob stormed the **Bastille**, a fortress and prison, to seize gunpowder and weapons.
 - This event was a symbolic act of revolution against the old regime and is celebrated as France's Independence Day.
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The French Revolution Unfolds

1. The Great Fear and Peasant Revolts

- A wave of senseless panic, the **Great Fear**, swept the countryside.
- Peasants, inflamed by rumors and hunger, broke into manor houses and burned records of feudal dues.

2. The National Assembly Reforms France

- **End of Special Privileges:** Nobles in the National Assembly voted to end their own manorial dues and tax exemptions.
- **Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen:**
 - Stated that all men are "born and remain free and equal in rights."
 - Guaranteed liberty, property, security, and resistance to oppression.
 - Inspired by the American Declaration of Independence and Enlightenment philosophers.
- **The March on Versailles:** Thousands of Parisian women marched to Versailles demanding bread. They forced the royal family to return to Paris, making them virtual prisoners of the revolution.

3. The Church and the Constitution of 1791

- The **Civil Constitution of the Clergy** put the French Catholic Church under state control, causing a deep rift with devout Catholics.
 - The **Constitution of 1791** established a **limited monarchy** and a new Legislative Assembly.
 - **Louis XVI's Failed Escape:** The king's attempt to flee France in 1791 destroyed any remaining trust the people had in him.
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Radical Days of the Revolution

1. The Move Toward Radicalism

- Other European monarchs feared the revolution would spread and threatened to intervene.
- **Émigrés:** Nobles who had fled France, spread horror stories and lobbied for foreign support.
- Inside France, **factions** (different groups with different goals) fought for power.

2. The Monarchy Is Abolished

- As foreign armies advanced on Paris, radicals took control.
- The newly elected **National Convention** abolished the monarchy and declared France a **republic**.
- **Louis XVI was executed** in January 1793 for treason, shocking the rest of Europe.

3. The Reign of Terror

- To deal with threats from inside and outside France, the National Convention created the **Committee of Public Safety**.
- **Maximilien Robespierre**, a Jacobin leader, rose to power and governed as a dictator.
- **The Reign of Terror (1793-1794)**: A period where Robespierre and the Committee used revolutionary tribunals to suppress dissent.
 - About 40,000 people were executed, many by the **guillotine**.
 - Victims included anyone accused of being a counter-revolutionary, from peasants to former revolutionary allies like **Georges Danton**.
- The Terror ended when the Convention, fearing for their own lives, had **Robespierre executed** in July 1794.

4. Reaction and the Directory

- After Robespierre's fall, the revolution entered a moderate phase.
- The **Constitution of 1795** set up a five-man governing board called the **Directory**.
- The Directory was weak and corrupt but gave rise to a popular and successful young general: **Napoleon Bonaparte**.

The Age of Napoleon

1. Napoleon's Rise to Power

- A brilliant military leader, he won famous victories in Italy and Egypt.
- In 1799, he participated in a **coup d'état** (a sudden seizure of power) and overthrew the Directory.
- He established a new government, the **Consulate**, and named himself **First Consul**. By 1804, he crowned himself **Emperor of the French**.

2. Napoleon Reforms France

- **The Napoleonic Code**: A comprehensive system of laws that embodied Enlightenment principles like equality before the law and religious tolerance, but also restricted some freedoms like speech and press.
- **Economic Reforms**: Established a fairer tax system and a national bank.

- **Government and Education:** Strengthened the central government and created a system of public schools (lycées).

3. Building an Empire

- Napoleon used his military genius to conquer most of Europe, creating a vast French empire.
- He placed his relatives on the thrones of conquered nations.
- He spread the principles of the French Revolution (like the Napoleonic Code) across Europe, which helped to weaken feudal systems.

4. Napoleon's Fall

- **The Continental System:** A failed blockade intended to hurt Britain's economy, which ended up hurting Europe more.
- **The Peninsular War:** A long, costly war in Spain and Portugal that drained French resources.
- **The Invasion of Russia (1812):** A disastrous campaign where the Russian winter and "scorched earth" policy destroyed Napoleon's Grand Army.
- Defeated by a coalition of European powers, Napoleon was forced to **abdicate** (give up the throne) in 1814 and was exiled to the island of Elba.
- He returned for a brief period of rule in 1815 (**The Hundred Days**) but was finally defeated at the **Battle of Waterloo** and exiled to St. Helena, where he died.

5. The Congress of Vienna

- A series of meetings after Napoleon's defeat to restore stability and order in Europe.
- **Goals:**
 - Prevent future French aggression by surrounding it with stronger countries.
 - Restore a **balance of power** so no one country would be a threat.
 - Restore Europe's royal families to the thrones they had before Napoleon (**Principle of Legitimacy**).
- **Legacy:** Created a lasting peace in Europe for nearly 40 years and established a framework for international diplomacy.