



IDX G10 [History][S]

Study Guide Issue [S1][Midterm]

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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**.

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## 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.