

Chapter 24 - The Transformation of Europe

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The Fragmentation of Western Christendom

- Unity under Christianity had been established by 1000 in Europe despite cultural differences.
- By the 1500s-1600s, revolts against Catholic church caused controversies and splits that broke the unity.

The Protestant Reformation

Martin Luther

- A writer that condemned the corrupt Catholic church, originally against the sale of indulgences.
- Used the printing press (invented in 1400s) to spread his writings throughout Europe.
- Advocated for closure of monasteries, translations of the Bible into vernacular languages, and end to priestly and papal authority.
- When Catholics said his reform program was against the Church, he rejected it.
- In Germany, Lutheran Christianity took effect due to Holy Roman Empire princes wanting to use religious controversy to build power bases.

Reform Outside Germany

- By 1550s, half of Germany adopted Lutheran Christianity.
- Swiss cities had Protestant churches by the 1520s.
- Low Countries also adopted Protestantism.
- Even had followers in Italy and Spain but these dudes got attacked by the government.
- England had a reformation only after King Henry VIII had a conflict with the pope (for political reasons) so he made himself his own Church.

John Calvin

- Protestant who moved to Geneva after being oppressed in France.
- Published treatise that codified and easily presented Protestant teachings.
- Built a model Protestant community (Calvinists) that influenced communities in many Western European countries (as far as Hungary, most successful in Netherlands).

The Catholic Reformation

- Reformation of Catholic Church partly in response to Protestant success.
- Also wanted to clearly define difference in both Churches, persuade Protestants to go back to Roman church, and deepen spirituality in their own religion.

The Council of Trent

- *Council of Trent* - Assembly of bishops, cardinals, other high church officials to address matters of doctrine and reform (1545-1563).
- Inspired by St. Thomas Aquinas' philosophy to define elements of Catholic theology in detail, and realized they had alienated many people from their Church.
- Church authorities must observe strict moral standards and establish schools and seminaries for priests.

St. Ignatius Loyola and the Society of Jesus

- *St. Ignatius Loyola* - Basque nobleman and soldier that, in 1540, founded the Society of Jesus after being inspired by popular accounts of saints' lives.
- Society members, Jesuits, must be rigorously educated in theology, classical languages, history + literature, and science.

- Very effective missionaries, known for discipline and determination, also held influence as royal advisors.
- Most prominent external missionaries, getting converts in India, China, Japan, Philippines, and Americas - they made Christianity global.

Witch-Hunts and Religious Wars

- Religious divisions helped to fuel social and political conflict.
- Witches worshipped and sexually satisfied the devil in exchange for supernatural powers; they became a target in this era.

Witch-Hunting

- Witchcraft became a scapegoat for any unpleasant event (bad harvests, fires, random death, infertility).
- 60,000 witches were burned at the stake or hanged as a result.
- Most of the witches were poor, old, single, or widowed women because they had no protectors.
- Was mostly European but occurred a bit in European colonies too (largest was the Salem witchcraft trial hysteria).
- By 1700, this died out, last occurring in 1782, but this showed the stresses and strains occurring in Early Modern European society.

Religious Wars

- Religious tensions led to a war between Protestant and Roman Catholic communities.
- France was plagued by religious wars in the late 1500s.
- King Philip II tried forcing England to be Catholic by sending the Spanish Armada to dethrone Queen Elizabeth - this failed due to windstorms.
- Netherlands was Calvinist so the King of Spain tried to suppress it, which turned into a rebellion that split the region into a northern half, the United Provinces (a republic) and southern half controlled by Spain and later Austria.

The Thirty Years' War

- Holy Roman emperor attempted to force Bohemian subjects to be Catholic; this erupted into a European conflict (Spanish, French, Dutch, German, Swedish, Danish, Polish, Bohemian, and Russian forces partook in the conflict).
- Motives were unclear, sometimes religious and sometimes economic, but it was the most destructive European conflict before the 1900s (obviously).
- Aside from damage to civilians caused by soldiers, it damaged economies and societies, and killed 1/3 of the German population.
- This raised questions about the viability of Europe as a region of strong, independent, well-armed, competing states.

The Consolidation of Sovereign States

- Reformation had strong political implications.
- Centralized monarchies profited most from religious controversy; while HRE had unrest due to religious/political divide, other monarchs profited monetarily and built strong centralized states.
- After Thirty Year's War devastated stuff, rulers made a new diplomatic system to maintain order.

The Attempted Revival of Empire

- No effective imperial government in Western Europe after Carolingian Empire in 800s.
- Early modern Europe developed as region of independent states (unlike China, India, and Ottoman areas).

Charles V

- After 1438, the Hapsburg family dominated the Holy Roman Empire (which was in Germany and northern Italy).

- Charles V, a Hapsburg, had authority over Spain, Germany, Bohemia, Switzerland, Austria, and parts of Northern Italy.

Imperial Fragmentation

- Charles couldn't establish authority throughout Europe despite vast land ownership.
- Lutheran movement and princes that supported it took much of his attention.
- Charles didn't build an administrative structure, he ruled each land according to local laws and customs.
- Got financial resources from wealthy areas to maintain army, but used it only to put down rebellions (not to expand).

Foreign Challenges

- Kings of France and Sultans of Ottoman Empire didn't like idea of strong HRE, so they allied against it, and inspired rebellion.
- Ottomans didn't want powerful Christian state to threaten their holdings, posed a serious threat to Italian and Spanish shipping activity in Mediterranean.
- These plentiful problems prevented Charles from establishing supreme European political authority, and in 1556, he abdicated, gave son King Philip II and brother Ferdinand the lands, and became a monk (you know, as people normally do when they don't get what they want).

The New Monarchs

- Without imperial power, public affairs were controlled by regional states.
- Italian city-states were prominent due to being Europe's economic capital, but more prominent were kingdoms of England, France, and Spain.
- Rulers of these kingdoms, the "new monarchs," organized their resources, limited the power of the nobility, and built strong centralized regimes.
- Here they are: Henry VIII of England, Louis XI and Francis I of France, and Fernando and Isabel of Spain.

Finance

- French: levied taxes on sales, households, and salt trade.
- Spanish: new sales tax.
- English: did not introduce new taxes, instead increased revenues with fines and fees for royal services; also after Anglican Church, dissolved monasteries and took church wealth, state filled in financial void with expanded responsibilities.

State Power

- French and Spanish: Maintained standing armies with more power relative to the nobility's forces - larger and better equipped than noble forces.
- English: no need for standing army but still subjected nobles to royal justice and royal policy.
- Protestants increased power with Protestant Reformation, thanks to confiscation of Catholic church resources for use against political and religious adversaries.

Spanish Inquisition

- Most distinctive institution to rely on religious justification to advance state interests (Catholic, Spanish institution).
- Formed in 1478 to sniff out illegal Jews and Muslims, later used to prevent Protestant heresy (under Charles V).
- Inquisitors had enormous power to arrest, interrogate, and sometimes torture suspected heretics; this deterred nobles from adopting Protestant views for political gains.

Constitutional States

- Rulers in England and Netherlands shared authority with representative bodies and had constitutional states.
- Rulers in France, Spain, Austria, Prussia, and Russia, concentrated power to create absolute

monarchies.

Constitutional States

- Did not have written constitutions, but did have governments with limited powers and rights for individuals and representative bodies.
- In England, constitutional monarchy was formed after civil war.
- In Netherlands, republic based on representative government formed after long independence struggle.
- In both, constitutional government strengthened states and provided political framework for merchants to thrive.

English Civil War

- English kings were trying to institute taxes without parliamentary approval (existed for 3 centuries prior).
- Religious disagreements also added salt to the abrasion (is this an expression..?) between Anglicans and Calvinists (Puritans) - Puritans wanted to cleanse English church from any Catholic influence including ornate ceremonies and bishop hierarchies.
- 1641 - Parliament and Monarch King Charles 1 raised forces and fought until Parliamentary forces under Oliver Cromwell (Puritan) captured and beheaded him (jeez cromwell what the actual heck).

Glorious Revolution

- Cromwell's regime took power but became a dictatorship, so parliament resumed the monarchy in 1660... this just restored the conflict between King and parliament.
- Bloodless change of power in 1688 that deposed King James II and replaced him with daughter Mary and William of Orange as monarchs.
- Kings now must rule in cooperation with parliament which guaranteed nobles and merchants would have government representation.

Dutch Republic

- Spain was in control of the Netherlands, but when King Philip II of Spain wanted to suppress Dutch Calvinist movement, a rebellion formed.
- In 1581, Dutch provinces allied to become the independent United Provinces with representative assemblies to organize local affairs; this laid foundation for Dutch republic.
- Spanish didn't recognize it until 1648 after Thirty Year's War but it was effectively organizing affairs in the northern Low Countries by the 1600s.

Comparing the Two

- Both represented historical experiments since Europeans had little experience with representative governments; they both used popular support to expand state power.
- Both made favorable policies and representation for merchants; in return, merchants supported the state with wealth from (overseas) trade.

Absolute Monarchies

- *Absolutism* - kings derived authority from God, no role of commoners and nobles in public affairs.
- French monarchy was the most conspicuous absolutist state, with Cardinal Richelieu working to undermine nobility's powers and enhance authority of King Louis XIII, as well as to install a large bureaucracy staffed by loyal commoners to ensure royal policy was being followed -> this resulted in tightly centralized absolute monarchy.

The Sun King

- King Louis XIV epitomized royal absolutism.
- Built a centralized capital at Versailles.
- Drastically reduced power of nobles; they were masters of trying to impress him but had no real power - they lived at Versailles and were shut up by entertainment and luxury.
- Louis and his ministers ruled the state by making laws and maintaining standing army to keep

order in the state.

- Promoted economic development with new industries, roads + canals, ending internal tariffs, and encouraging exports.
- Waged wars to enlarge French boundaries and establish France as a power in Europe.

Absolutism in Russia with Peter I

- Tsars in the Romanov dynasty ruled Russia from 1613 to 1917.
- After seeing what Europe was doing, he reformed the army with better pay and peasant hiring, ordered aristocrats to be educated, overhauled bureaucracy to facilitate tax collection.
- Enforced European fashions (no beards!) to the dismay of conservative subjects who he forcefully overpowered.
- Built St. Petersburg in 1703 as a seaport, capital city, and home for the new navy.

Catherine II and the Limits of Reform

- Was originally interested in social reform (encouraged economic development and even lessened oppression of peasants) but lost interest after it seemed to cause people to challenge her rule (Soldier Pugachev and his rebels killed thousands of officials before imperial forces ended him).
- Catherine then only became interested in maintaining absolutist state, rather than transforming it.
- Austria, Prussia, and Catherine's Russia picked weak kingdom of Poland apart, showing the importance of an effective government in this era.

European States System

- European governments in this time built states more powerful than medieval predecessors.
- Led to difficulties within European system, because without imperial authority to maintain order, each independent state had to resolve conflicts themselves.

Peace of Westphalia

- Ended the Thirty Years' War with this agreement which laid foundations for system of independent, competing states.
- Gave each state right to sovereignty and organizing its own affairs, marking an end to imperial or papal authority.
- Did not end wars: Louis XIV wanted to absorb Spain, Spanish Netherlands, and Germany and got a coalition of England, United Provinces, and Austria against him.
- Seven Years' War pitted France, Austria, and Russia against Britain and Prussia, merged with British-French conflict in India and North America to become a global war for imperial supremacy.

Balance of Power

- No ruler wanted to see a state dominate all others, so when one started to become strong, the others made a coalition against it.
- Statesmen prevented building empires and ensured England would be filled with independent, sovereign, competing states.

Military Development

- State competition inspired military development.
- Countries sought high-quality, educated military leadership and lethal armaments (guns, cannons).
- China, India, and Ottoman lands did not have the same incentive and did not develop their militaries in the same way, causing Europe to outperform them.

Early Capitalist Society

- Rapidly expanding population and economy, as well as communication and transportation technology, encouraged capitalism.
- Generated lots of wealth but it was not evenly distributed across Europe, and required painful adjustments to new conditions.

Population Growth and Urbanization

American Food Crops

- European population grew rapidly due to improved nutrition and decreased mortality thanks to Colombian exchange.
- Potatoes provided carbohydrates for people who couldn't afford bread.
- Maize fed the livestock and was sometimes used to make corn bread.
- Better nourished population meant less common epidemics (smallpox, Bubonic plague).

Population Growth

- Decreasing mortality resulted in population growth.
- Grew from 81 million to 180 million.

Urbanization

- Rapid population growth caused rapid urbanization.
- Cities grew when they became government, commercial, or industrial centers.

Early Capitalism and Protoindustrialization

The Nature of Capitalism

- *Capitalism* - economic system in which private parties make their goods and services available on the free market and seek to take advantage of market conditions to profit from their activities.
- Private parties owned the stuff needed for production, not the government, so they could better pursue their interests.

Supply and Demand

- Unlike previous times, capitalists had to take advantage of market conditions by building efficient transportation and communication networks: buy low, sell high!
- Private parties organized capitalist institutions: banks, newsletters, insurance companies, and stock exchanges.

Joint-Stock Companies

- Large trading companies (such as English East India Co. and VOC, the Dutch equivalent) spread the risk of losses across many investors.
- Also pooled resources: communication and transportation networks.
- Organized commercial ventures on an unforeseen scale, and are the predecessors of modern multinational corporations.

Politics and Empire

- Capitalism was promoted by government authorities who found it suitable to their individual and collective interests.
- Governments gave individuals the right to private property, contracts, protection of financial interests; also settled contract disputes, chartered joint-stock companies to explore, conquer, and colonize distant lands.
- *Putting out system* - as opposed to guilds, capitalist entrepreneurs gave raw materials to households to convert into products, paid the households, and sold them on the market.
 - Households were rural and so the wages were lower than if they continued with urban guilds.

Social Change in Early Modern Europe

- Capitalist economic development brought disrupting change to Europe.
- Peasant standards of living shot up, and individuals could gain capital to pursue own economic interests.
- Eastern Europe: no putting-out system but people had no alternative to working in the

countryside so landlords forced them to work in extremely harsh conditions.

Serfdom in Russia

- Russia was huge but sparsely populated with little trade/manufacturing.
- Romanov tsars appeased nobles by passing a law code (1649) that gave them tight control over serfs, sometimes treating them as if they were private property.
- Capitalism worked in Eastern Europe due to this institution because of the cheap labor and raw materials. (and then we wonder why the Bolsheviks hated capitalism).

Profits and Ethics

- Previously, theologians saw profit-making to be immoral.
- Profit was important to capitalism, so Adam Smith argued that society would prosper if individuals pursued their own economic interests.
- Due to wealth inequality, robbery and selfishness became rampant and this resulted in social tensions (as seen by witch-hunting, which was hostile towards the now-more-independent women).

The Nuclear Family

- Marrying for love became a thing, as well as parent-child bond, as an indirect byproduct of capitalism.
- Capitalism directly impacted the practicality of nuclear families because economic independence encouraged them, and in return, they encouraged economic development.

Science and Enlightenment

- Western Europe underwent intellectual and cultural transformation.
- Elaborated a new vision of the earth and larger universe, which weakened influence of churches and encouraged secular values to develop.

The Reconception of the Universe

The Ptolemaic Universe

- Ptolemy said that the Earth was at the center of the universe.
- Astronomers assumed the stuff beyond Earth was made of different stuff than Earth itself, seen as perfect jewels that could not be corrupted or changed, with perfect circular paths.

Planetary Movement

- This Ptolemaic Universe theory broke down as more observations were made.
- Astronomers tried to make it work with new theories but it was an awkward system (epicycles - planets revolved around orbits that revolved around Earth).

The Copernican Universe

- *On the Revolutions of Heavenly Spheres* argued that the sun was at the center, and this changed the direction of European science.
- Challenged prevailing theory that humans were the central beings of the universe, and it was hard to reconcile with Christianity because humans are supposed to be unique creations of God.

The Scientific Revolution

- Reliance on observation and mathematics changed the study of the natural world.
- People began applying mathematical reasoning to astronomy and mechanics.
- This brought about the scientific revolution.

Galileo Galilei

- Showed that heavens were not perfect and unblemished; rather, they were always in flux.
- Made many astronomical discoveries (moons of Jupiter, craters, sun spots) and contributions to mechanics.

Isaac Newton

- Used observation and mathematical reasoning to construct a powerful synthesis of astronomy and mechanics.
- *Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy* - united earth and heavens in vast system with law of universal gravitation explaining movements of all bodies.
- These pioneers inspired other scientists to turn away from classical thought and took fresh approaches to understanding the natural world - this impacted anatomy, physiology, microbiology, chemistry, and botany.

The Enlightenment

- Scientific revolution inspired thinkers to apply rational thought to transform society.
- Abandoned Aristotelian philosophy and Christian religion to do a purely rational analysis, the result of which is the Enlightenment.

Science and Society

- *John Locke* - discovered natural laws of politics, including justifying establishment of English constitutional monarchy.
- *Adam Smith* - laws of supply and demand determine marketplace activity.
- *Baron de Montesquieu* - established a science of politics, discovered principles to foster political liberty in prosperous, stable states.
- France was the center of Enlightenment, where *philosophes* made advancements and shared it with the educated public (not just scholars).

Voltaire

- Wrote profusely, championing individual freedoms and attacking institutions with oppressive/intolerant policies.
- Campaigned against French Monarchy and Roman Catholic church.
- Best epitomized the spirit of the Enlightenment.

Deism

- Believed in existence of a god but denied Christianity's supernatural teachings.
- The universe was an orderly realm, and a powerful god set the universe in motion ("watchmaker").

Theory of Progress

- Progress in natural sciences would lead to greater control over the world, and progress in rational sciences would create a just, equitable society with individual freedom.
- This did not entirely come to pass, but the Enlightenment did transform European society by weakening influence of organized religion, and encouraged political and cultural leaders to rule on rational analysis to promote progress/prosperity.