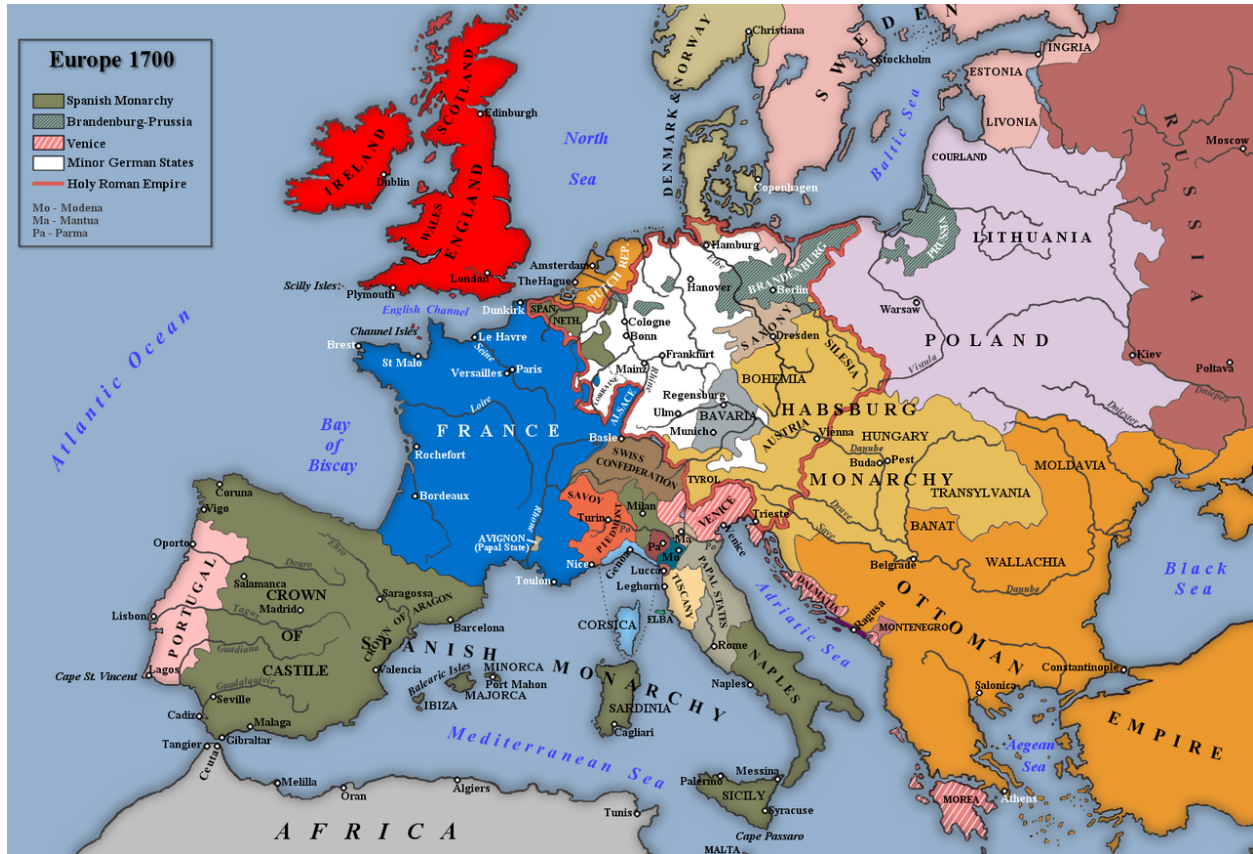


8. The Late Modern Period 1700 — 1900

8.1 Geography



- Not fundamentally different from the last couple of centuries
- Italy and Holy roman empire still divided
- Ottoman empire controls the east
- We'll be talking about France mostly (most influential of the period) → The Hexagon

8.2 Philosophy

- The Enlightenment (17-18th century)
 - More of an intellectual current
 - Also known as “Le siècle des Lumières” (1700s), the Enlightenment can be summarily defined as “The influential intellectual and cultural movement of the late 17th and 18th centuries that introduced a new worldview based on the use of reason, the scientific method, and the idea of progress.”
 - Enlightenment of Western philosophy, not Buddhist Enlightenment
 - Three basic principles of Enlightenment philosophy:

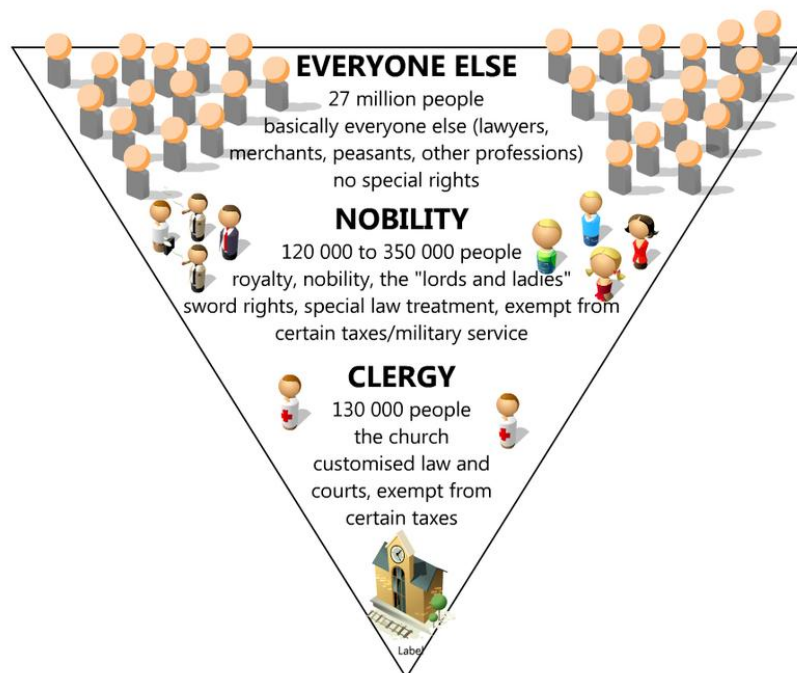
- Nothing should be accepted as true based on faith or holy scripture alone. Everything should be submitted to rationalism.
 - The scientific method is capable of discovering the laws of human societies as well as those of nature.
 - Through sc. enquiry, it is possible for humans to create better societies for themselves
 - → HUMAN PROGRESS! The arrival of a new era?
- The basic causes of the Enlightenment:
 - Exploration: lead to Europeans being confronted to new cultures, ideas, beliefs, etc.
 - The Scientific revolution: shakes the foundation of religious truth and objectivity
 - Religious wars: In the wake of the Reformation, Europe in the 16-17th cent. Is wracked by constant, bloody, useless wars that solved nothing
 - 30 years war in Central EU (Holy Roman Emp)
 - Religious wars in France
 - The intellectuals were fed up with destruction due to religion
- Pierre Bayle
 - French Huguenot, fled to Holland to avoid persecution (Holland was a religious haven, lots of religious tolerance)
 - The Historical and Critical Dictionary (1697)
 - “Religious beliefs, throughout history, have been extremely varied and very often mistaken, and nothing in the realm of religion can be proven beyond all doubt.” → he realises this although he is very religious himself
 - Defends religious neutrality
- John Locke
 - English philosopher and physician
 - Two Treatises of Government (1689)
 - One of the major works of poli sci and philo
 - Book eloquently refutes the divine and patriarchal nature of monarchy, arguing instead for “rule by consent of the people” and the existence of “natural rights”
 - An Essay Concerning Human Understanding (1690)
 - On the idea of learning and education at the time
 - Argues that the human mind is a blank slate and it is sensory experience that shapes its understanding of the world, and the society in which it lives
 - Many of the great works on society, the human mind, politics, etc.
- Baron de Montesquieu (1689-1755)
 - French noble, travels Europe, confronted to many political systems, becomes father of the French Enlightenment
 - Persian Letters
 - Work of political satire, humorous exploration of Eu society

- Considerations on the Causes of the Greatness of the Romans and their Decline (1734)
 - People of the time were fascinated by Roman history
 - Elaborate work of history, studies Roman history and decline with special focus on political institutions and dynamics
- Spirit of the Laws (1748)
 - One of the most influential works of political philosophy in human history, explored the principle of division of powers
 - Division between executive, legislative, and judicial powers
 - Greatly inspired USA Constitution and liberal democracy
- Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778)
 - “Discours sur l’origine et les fondements de l’inégalité parmi les hommes” (1755)
 - The “natural state”, inequality since invention of property
 - Still a very present concern today! Tackle the gap between rich and poor
 - “The Social Contract” (1762)
 - Further explored notions developed by others, namely John Locke, about the necessary contract between rulers and their subjects
 - We trust that figures of authority look after us, so we abide by their rules
 - Subjects give up part of their individual liberties for peace, prosperity and security
 - If gov does not respect their end of the bargain, then Revolution is justified!
 - “L’encyclopédie” (edited 1751-1772)
 - Created by the encyclopedistes, Denis Diderot, Jean d’Alembert, and their collaborators
 - Collection of all human knowledge
 - Massive collection of 28 volumes, 150 collaborators, tons of illustrations, thousands of entries...
 - Beyond democratizing knowledge, this document also compiled the philosophical knowledge of its time, including many controversial “revolutionary” ideas
 - Could we consider Wikipedia to be a spiritual successor?
- The Enlightenment (17-18th cent)
 - All this is of course but a sneak peak in the enormous bubbling intellectual production of this era. We could explore so many more authors, currents of ideas, artistic influences, etc.!
 - France: Voltaire, Lavoisier
 - England: Anthony Collins, Edward Gibbon
 - Scotland: Adam Smith, James Watt
 - Germany: Kant, Leibniz
 - US: Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin

8.3 Political and military history

- The French Rev (1789-1815)
 - France was the dominant country
 - The French philosophers were the most well known
 - As you can imagine, Late Modern European history is extremely dense, important, and interesting, but we will focus on perhaps the most significant political event in all of Modern history
 - Absolute monarchy (until 1789)
 - The French Constitutional Monarchy (1789-1793)
 - The French Republic (1793-1799)
 - The French Empire (1799-1815)
- 1. Absolute monarchy
 - Since Charlemagne, French monarchs have ruled by divine right
 - In the 17th and 18th century, France is the purest example of Absolutism
 - Louis XIV the Sun King (longest ruling monarch i.e. for 72 years)
 - Heliocentrism: i am the center of the universe
 - Palais de Versailles about 20km away from the city in order to distance oneself from angry mobs and peasants
 - Birth of the modern national army
 - Training
 - Uniforms
 - Highly professional
 - All other EU countries followed suit
 - → endless wars, very expensive, increasing taxes... set the foundation of the economic crisis (heavy national debt)
 - Not good for France's territorial gain (boundaries constantly shifting)
 - Significant colonial losses
 - Very minimal gains in EU
 - The years between L14's death and the Revolution (1715-1789) are of the most intense, turbulent years of French history!
 - The years of Enlightenment philosophy, Sc. Rev, absolutism increasingly challenged (ppl in intellectual circles would not endorse this poli system)...
 - The elite, the bourgeoisie would meet up in coffee houses and talk
 - During this time, 2 kings
 - Louis XV (1715-1774)
 - Louis XVI (1775-1783)
 - Both kings spent a lot of \$\$\$ and invested heavily in military
 - The American Rev (1775-1783)
 - Inspired by Enlightenment ideas
 - Ppl in France were very impressed, very inspired
 - Rev supported by King Louis XVI (everything that hurts Great Britain)

- Tremendous impact in France (people inspired to revolt)
- Until 1789, terrible financial situation!
 - Interest payments: 50% of budget
 - Maintenance of military: 25%
 - Expenses of Versailles: 6%
 - Everything else: under 20%
- Common folk crushed under tax burden, have nothing to show for it (e.g. 25% for military yet no significant result! Loss of colonial powers is one good example)
- Facing imminent bankruptcy, Louis XVI forced to call Estates General (temporary emergency parliament representing the three estates)



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- Third estate, based on Enlightenment ideas, makes a power grab
 - Demanded legislative powers
 - Named themselves the National Assembly
- The National Assembly
 - Left/Right comes from here
 - Enormous pressure to recognize their supremacy
 - Write a Constitution
 - Intense pressure on L16 to recognize this Constitution, but he tries everything to avoid it
- While these events happened, the common ppl faced starvation and poverty
 - Horrible harvests

- General inflation
 - Terrible unemployment
- The storming of the Bastille (July 14, 1789)
 - Rich Third estate (lawyers and other wealthy professionals who claimed to represent the entire 3rd estate) organised this
 - People of Paris took control of the city (they stormed the prison and took the guards' weapons)
 - Led to L16 having to recognize the Constitution and forced to sign it → FR becomes a constitutional monarchy
- Constitutional Monarchy (1789-1793)
 - Political power shared between the king and the National Ass. which represents the 3rd estate
 - Privileges of the nobility abolished (the title of nobility became void of meaning)
 - Privileges of the clergy abolished (meaning that lands owned by the church would belong to the people)
 - Sovereignty transferred from the king to the nation
 - Declaration of the rights of man and of the citizen (birth of human rights)
 - Terrified, thousands of nobles flee France with all of their belongings (the emigres)
 - In June 1791, L16 attempts to flee as well
 - Spotted by a border guard who recognized the kind bc of his profile on paper money!
 - L16 arrested on charges of treason, kingship suspended!
 - Shocked, a coalition of European powers led by Austria and Prussia threatens to reinstate L16 -- wrote letters that threatened involvement in French affairs
 - Revolutionary gov declares war on Austria and Prussia
 - Suspected of treason and due to pressure of radical Jacobins led by Maximilien Robespierre, Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette guillotined on Jan 21 1793
 - The King must die so that France may live! -- Robespierre
 - Moment when support for the FR Rev. dropped
 - This marks the end of the French monarchy, birth of the French Republic
 - Often referred to as the 2nd revolution when the rev became violent and radical
- The French Republic (1793-1799)
 - Gov with no king, with elected representatives, but no universal vote

- At war with basically all of EU, facing internal dissent from counter-revolutionaries, revolutionary gov led by Robespierre seems destined to be crushed....
- Against all odds, Fr Republic would meet success on all fronts, mainly for 3 reasons (all of which have major historical consequences):
 - Introduction of emergency wartime economy
 - The reign of terror
 - Invention of modern nationalism
- Intro of emergency wartime econ:
 - Early form of extreme socialism, economic planning
 - Tactic would become common in the future (Hitler, Stalin, etc.)
- The reign of terror
 - Mass executions of all suspected enemies of the state with guillotine
 - Extreme violence throughout France, a real bloodbath
 - Wartime propaganda, revolutionary songs and art (La Marseillaise)
- Modern nationalism
 - Most decisive factor, and completely new from historical perspective, and a hallmark of all totalitarian regimes
 - A common goal, a society united by language, ethnicity, history, culture, tradition, philosophical beliefs, etc.
 - People used to glorify their king, their church, now they glorify the nation!
- Total victory thanks to these elements
- After victory, Robespierre loosens economic control, but maintains reign of terror (executions continued)
- Frustration grows until Robespierre himself is sent to the guillotine on July 28 1794
- 1794-1799: the Directory (a system in which 5 leaders were chosen instead of 1) → very corrupt, not at all efficient, nothing was done
- 1799: Napoleon's coup d'Etat
- The French Empire (1799-1815)
 - Napoleon Bonaparte: military prodigy from Corsica, member of the small Corsican nobility. He rapidly becomes a national hero, picks up on France's desire for strong leadership
 - He used the army for a coup d'Etat (take ctrl by force using army)
 - Upon his coup, he is named the First Consul of the Republic
 - Eventually named Emperor of France! Roman influence and appeal

- Eagle, symbol of power of Rome... Napoleonic armies carried the same eagle... Hitler also used this symbol... USA uses eagle now
- Like Augustus two millennia prior, Napoleon preserved the appearance of a Republic but took all the relevant powers for himself
- Wars of conquest
 - Initially, Napoleon presents himself as a defender of the Rev, someone who will bring back order
 - Becomes one of the greatest conquerors in history!
 - The “Napoleonic Wars” (1803-1815)
 - In about 15 years, basically all of EU comes under his ctrl (Le Grand Empire)
 - MAP
 - No longer sees himself as Emperor

EUROPE IN 1812

- British Control
- Napoleonic Empire
- Dependent States
- Allies of Napoleon

