Chapter 18: European States in the 18th Century

Mid 1700s characterized by:

• Five major powers

• Rivalry between Britain & France

• Rivalry between Prussia & Austria

• Russia – Modernized under Peter the Great

• Spain resurgence under Bourbon Philip V

• Netherlands – not the power of the 17th C, but economically relevant
Enlightened Absolutism:

Utilitarian arguments replace divine-right
- Adherence to law
- Defending state vs. enemies
- Encouraging economic development/industry
- Frederick II: “first servant of the state”

Enlightenment Ideals/Natural Laws Applied to Governing:
- Equality before the law
- Freedom of religious worship
- Freedom of speech/press
- Right to assemble
- Right to hold property
- Pursue happiness/self fulfillment

Tasks of enlightened monarchs
1) protect natural rights
2) foster arts, sciences, and education
3) must rule fairly, not arbitrarily

Useful Concept???
The Big Idea:

Enlightened monarchs were not nearly as enlightened as previously thought.
Enlightened rule in France?
No: Louis XIV left enormous debt
Louis XV lazy, weak, influenced by ministers and mistresses, lost empire in 7 Years War, court life at Versailles
Louis XVI: –lacked knowledge and the energy to solve the country’s affairs, spoiled wife in Marie Antoinette - out of touch with the countries problems
France: The Problems of the French Monarchs

RECALL: - Conflicts with Huguenots,
        - Consolidated monarchy, built Versailles,
        - Mercantilist state (Colbert), established colonies in New France, commercial output, ineffective tariffs, increased taxes (peasantry)
        - Enlargement of the army! --- Wars (Spanish Netherlands, vs. Habsburgs, League of Augsburg Spanish Succession)
        - Depression/famine

✿ End of the reign of Louis XIV
   ✿ Enlarged territories
   ✿ Huge debt
   ✿ Surrounded by enemies
   ✿ Unhappy subjects
   ✿ Regency of duke of Orleans and Cardinal Fleury – focus on industry (coal/textiles) and balanced the budget
Louis XV (1715-1774)

- Poor ruler
- Power to mistress – Madame de Pompadour – resented (bourgeoisie)
- War of Austrian Succession/Aix-la-Chapelle (land to Austria), Seven Years ‘War (lost land in Americas)
- Loss of prestige, debt, taxes, impoverished people
- Crisis of public finance: “Mississippi Bubble” 1720 (John Law – Mississippi Company issued stocks, underwrite gov’t debt, reform tax system & make profit – over-speculation led to a boom/bust – forced the state to repudiate its debt
- France (unlike Britain) did not have public debt funded by banks – debt was king’s personal debt – insufficient credit institutions/ability to borrow money
- Assassination attempt - Robert-François Damiens

Louis XVI (1774-1792) & Marie Antoinette

THROUGHOUT THIS PERIOD:

- Landed/Commercial classes increasing in power
- Absolutism est. by Louis XIV - eroding
Enlightened rule in Great Britain?
~ Debatable:
*Glorious Revolution: power parliament over king
*Parliament: make law, taxes, pass budget
*Evidence of aristocratic dominance
  • House of Lords – “Peers” inherited their positions for life
  • House of Commons – landed gentry (boroughs/counties)
    ◦ Voting, but NOT a “popular vote” – voting rights tied to property
*Corruption*
  ◦ Boroughs – voting eligibility varies
    ◦ Use of patronage, bribery, and threats
    ◦ Existence of ‘pocket boroughs’ (a.k.a. ‘rotten boroughs’)
      *Duke of Newcastle example (controlled 7 boroughs)
    ◦ Lack of representation for newer, middle class boroughs (Manchester – zero seats…)
  ◦ Counties – 2 delegates from 40 counties – property value of >40 Shillings
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Borough</th>
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<th>MPs</th>
<th>Houses in Borough</th>
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<td>Earl of Mount Edgcumbe</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Here they are – all good votes – ready to vote for my coach horse if I order them…Give me the money and I’ll secure you the seat.

Well, here’s the cash… as for the votes, I’ll leave them to you…
Transfer of power from Stuarts to Hanoverians

- Recall: Test Act (1673) and cause of Glorious Revolution (1688-9)
- End of Stuart Dynasty
  - Death of Queen Anne (1714) w/o a direct heir
  - Desire to avoid Catholic James III
  - Invitation to protestant, George I of Hanover
Expanding role of chief or “prime” minister under Hanoverians

- Importance of patronage to monarchy
- Absence/inexperience of George I and George II
  - Reliance on PM as main dispenser of patronage
- George III (1760-1820) **

Early prime ministers

- Robert Walpole (1721-1742)
  - Peaceful foreign policy/no new land taxes
- William Pitt the Elder (1757-1761)
  - Acquired Canada/India – Seven Years’ War
- Lord Bute (1762-1763)
  - Brought in w/ new king, George III
  - Growing middle class discontent w/ electoral system, loss of American colonies – criticism leads to appointment of William Pitt, the Younger (1783)
Enlightened rule in the Dutch Republic?

No:

REMEMBER – wars in the late 1600s with France (Louis XIV’s Dutch War) & conflict between:

- Oligarchs (States General – Dutch Towns - republican)
  vs.
- House of Orange (Monarchy – Stadholders)

...Still on...

NOW

- “Regents” (Oligarchs – Dutch Towns)
  vs.
- Stadholders (Executive Branch – House of Orange)
- Rise of “Patriots” (artisans, merchants and shopkeepers) pushed for democratic reforms

Prussian king sent troops in to crush the Patriots who were a threat to his sister (wife of an Orange stadholder)

Old order reestablished
Enlightened rule by Hohenzollerns in Prussia?

Some reforms, but no:

RECALL: Emergence of Brandenburg-Prussia (1648), Frederick William, est. of the War Commissariat, Frederick III → “King Frederick I” (helped Austria in the War of Spanish Succession), Junker power/suppression of peasantry

Prussia: The Army and the Bureaucracy

King Frederick William I (1713-1740)

- General Directory – admin. Central gov’t (military, police, economic/financial affairs)
- Civil Service Workers – service/loyalty to the state – military virtues (duty, obedience, sacrifice)
- Prussian militarism – “not a country with an army, but an army with a country which served as headquarters and food magazine”
- Rigid social classes
  - Junkers: owned land (serfs), military officers
  - Peasants: serfs-dependent on Junkers
  - Middle Class: civil servants – could earn high posts (non-noble birth)
Frederick II (1740-1786)  
“Frederick the Great”

- Connections to Voltaire/philosophes
- Relationship with father? (p.546)
- Role: “first servant of the state”
- Prussian bureaucracy: professional, efficient, honest, obedient
- Single code of laws – limited use of torture
- Some free speech/press
- Religious toleration …. BUT
- Did not interfere with Junkers’ hold on serfs
- More aristocratic – reversed merit system and installed nobility
- Enlarged the Prussian Army
- Took Silesia from Austrians
  - War of the Austrian Succession
  - Seven Years’ War
- Partitioned Poland (Austria/Russia) 1772
Enlightened rule in Austria?
Temporarily, Yes – Joseph II,
but ultimately, no:
Maria Theresa (1740-1780) Catholic and conservative
Joseph II (1780-1790) “tried to push through reform with a steamroller”
*alienated the nobility by freeing the serfs, alienated the church by his attacks on the monastic establishment, serfs were unhappy and unable to comprehend the changes*
Reforms were rolled back by successors.
The Austrian Empire of the Habsburgs

Diverse Empire – Vienna – cultural capital

Maria Theresa (1740-1780)
- Catholic & Conservative
- Loss of Silesia to Prussia leads to a push toward centralization
  - Reduced power of diets in the provinces (less taxation/local admin.) -- Income/property taxes from clergy and nobles to royal officials
  - Reorganization of territories into royal districts
  - Modernization/build up of military

Limited response to calls for reform

Joseph II (1780-1790) - more reform-minded
- Continued Centralization trend
- Educated – enlightenment-influenced
- Abolition of serfdom – hereditary land rights
- Penal code – equality before the law/elimination of death penalty
- Complete religious toleration
- German as official language
- 6000 decrees/11,000 laws

BUT
- Alienated nobility and the church, non-German speakers, even serfs
- Reforms did not largely take hold
Russia Under Catherine the Great, 1762-1796

- Peter III (murdered) – German Wife – Catherine
- Learns Russian
- Educated (Enlightenment-minded) – (Voltaire/Diderot)
- Reforms
  - Election of an assembly in 1767 – new law code
  - Questioned practices of serfdom, torture, capital punishment, advocated equality before the law
  - **Result** – little change b/c
- Strength of land owning class (Boyars)
  - Reorganization into 50 provinces, subdivided into districts – officials chosen by Boyars
  - Nobility formed corporate groups w/ privileges (trial by peers, exemption from personal taxation, corporal punishment)
  - Privileges formalized in the **Charter of Nobility** (1785) ---- peasants suffered
Pugachev’s Rebellion (1773)

- Emelyan Pugachev – support by Cossacks
- Spread throughout Russia
- Manifesto 1774 – freedom from oppressive taxes/military service
- 1,500 estate owners killed
- Rebellion crushed, Pugachev executed

**RESULTS:** Greater repression of peasantry
(rural reforms halted, serfdom expanded into newer parts of Russian Empire)
Pugachev’s Rebellion

Map showing the area of rebellion and Pugachev's route.
Catherine the Great - Legacy

- Reform minded – blocked by reality – nobles kept privileges
- Expansion of Russian territory westward into Poland (eventually 50%) and southward to Black Sea (Ottoman Turks)
  *Treaty of Kuchuk-Kainarji*
Enlightened reforms in Poland?
No:
Polish king was elected by the nobles and was forced to accept drastic restrictions on their power including limited revenues, a small bureaucracy, and a standing army of only 20,000 soldiers.
1772, 1793, and 1794 Austria, Prussia, and Russia divided up the weak country.
The Destruction of Poland

- **REMEMBER:** The Electoral Nature of the Monarchy (Sejm) did not have an absolutist state
- Limited bureaucracy and ARMY
- Weak decentralized state
- Division of Polish Territory – Balance of Power (Austria, Prussia, Russia)
  - 1772 – 30% of land 50% of population – given up
  - 1792 – Russia and Prussia (w/ Austrian support) - 2nd partition
  - Polish rebellion under General Thaddeus Kosciuszkol – crushed and the rest of the state was overtaken (1795)
- Brought Russia into European State system
- Cynical nature of the balance of power
Enlightened rule in Spain?
no: The monarchy was “Bourbonized” (centralized) … Jesuits were banished and the Catholic Church was brought under control but the landed aristocracy continued to exercise substantial power

**REMEMBER** – when did we last see Spain? – Treaty of Utrecht (1713 – end of the War of Spanish Succession)
Habsburg to Bourbon – more centralized state – Philip V (1700-1746)
Laws/institutions/language Castilian
Royal bureaucracy established – ministries/intendants
Easier to maintain – Utrecht (loss of Italian lands and Netherlands)

Charles III (1759-1788) – Catholic Church under state control
Banished Jesuits
Constrained the Inquisition
…..Still – powerful aristocracy
Portugal

Enlightened rule in Portugal?

no:

- In Decline
- Pombal (1699-1782) – Chief minister to Portuguese kings, nobility, Church
  - Portuguese Empire temporarily revived
- Once removed from office – nobility/church gained power
The Italian States

Enlightened rule in the Italian states?
No: Italy remained fragmented into several states which allowed Austria and Spain to have control over much of the area

- Utrecht – Austria took Spain’s territory in Italy (Milan, Sardinia, Naples)
- Savoy (N. Italy) – Sicily – expansionary
- 1734 – Bourbons of Spain – reestablished control over Naples and Sicily
- Other states: Venice, Genoa, Papal States – Independent
- Decentralized
The Scandinavian States

Sweden

Was there Enlightened rule in Sweden?

Close: King Gustavus III (1771-1792) implemented freedom of religion, speech, and press, new code of justice that eliminated the use of torture, laissez faire reforms: reduced tariffs, ended tolls, and encouraged trade/agriculture, the King was killed by nobles who tried to reinstall their power with limited results

- Had been dominant in Scandinavia
- Declined after Battle of Poltava 1709
- Death of Charles XII (1718)
- Nobility reasserts control → pro-French vs. pro-Russian factions

King Gustavus III (1771-1792)

- Able to take control of Swedish diets
- Enlightened monarch?
  - Freedom of religion, speech, press
  - Code of justice – elimination of torture
  - Laissez Faire economics: reduced tariffs, abolished tolls, encouraged trade/agriculture
  - Assassinated after a masquerade ball!
Denmark

Enlightened rule in Denmark?

No: King Christian VII (1766-1808) tried reforms but stopped after his chief minister John Frederick Struensee was killed because of aristocratic opposition
Enlightened Absolutism Revisited

Compared to Joseph II, Frederick II, Catherine the Great (Joseph II):
- Needs of state, dependence upon nobility
- Need for centralized state power/bureaucracy/taxation – national armies
- Some legal reform, installation of rights, religious toleration, education
- Changes limited to bureaucracy, administrative and judicial systems

STILL – hereditary aristocracy maintained a lot of power/rights/privileges

Enlightenment reforms ultimately held back by landed aristocracy
Wars and Diplomacy

- Concept of **Balance of Power** – prevent one state from becoming too powerful – not a desire for peace – expansionism the norm

**TRANSITION**

- **Dynastic interests** dominated diplomacy – expansion of dynastic holdings to

  - **raison d’état** – **Reason of the State**

- Development and centralization of the modern nation state closely linked with winning wars and maintaining standing armies
The War of the Austrian Succession (1740-1748)

- Habsburg Charles VI (1711-1740) dies
  - Pragmatic Sanction – for Maria Theresa
- Maria Theresa (daughter) vulnerable
- Frederick II invades Silesia
- France sides with Prussia
- Britain sides with Maria Theresa/Austria
- France invades the Austrian Netherlands, took Madras (India) from Britain
- Great Britain takes Louisbourg (St. Lawrence R.), Canada from France

1748 – **Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle** – virtually all territories returned

  Except…

- Silesia kept by Prussia – tension remains
- Prussia’s power status recognized
Seven Years’ War, 1756-1763

1st truly global conflict

Maria Theresa builds army with the intent of retaking Silesia – worked through Count Wenzel von Kaunitz to separate Prussia from France

1756 – Diplomatic Revolution:
- 2 ½ C. old Bourbon-Habsburg rivalry eclipsed by Britain-French/Austrian-Prussian rivalry

Austria allies with France (also Russia)
  - Cemented by the Maria Theresa sending her daughter Marie Antoinette to wed future king, Louis XIV (France)

Britain shifts to support Prussia (to oppose chief rival, France)
The Battlefields of the Seven Years’ War

[Map showing the battlefields of the Seven Years' War across the world, with labels for countries and territories involved.]
Seven Years’ War: Conflict in Europe

- Britain although it subsidizes Prussia – focuses its military efforts in Americas/India
- Prussia surrounded and position desperate in spite of victory at Rossbach in 1757 – eventually worn down
- “Miracle of the House of Brandenburg” 1762 – Russia withdraws
  - Tsarina Elizabeth of Russia died – Peter III (nephew) left the war b/c of admiration for Frederick the Great and Prussia
- w/ Russia gone – stalemate
- War ends in 1763 w/ Treaty of Hubertusburg (coincides with Treaty of Paris)
Seven Years’ War: Conflict in India

- Madras had been returned to Britain at the end of the War of Austrian Succession
- Britain & France each supported different Indian princes
- British forces under Robert Clive took control of French bases and defeated Indian princes
- Treaty of Paris in 1763 – India left to British
Seven Years’ War: The French and Indian War

In 1754 – clashes between Britain and France for control of St. Lawrence / Great Lakes (Louisbourg and other forts) and Ohio River Valley

French forces pushed out of the north into the garrisons along Mississippi – forts from Appalachians to Mississippi – threatened British colonial expansion

French allied with Indians – a way to repel British colonial advance – France less threatening

British troops took Fort Duquesne in 1758 and build on the spot Fort Pitt (Pittsburgh)

In 1759 – British forces capture Quebec, Montreal, Great Lakes, Ohio Valley / French Caribbean Islands

Treaty of Paris 1763 – Britain gets Canada and lands east of Mississippi from France, Spanish Florida from Spain, French give Louisiana territory to Spanish

- End of New France
- Eviction of Acadians (Cajuns) to SW Louisiana “Great Expulsion of 1755-1763” 1/3 of 14,000 perished – ethnic cleansing by British?
- England – greatest colonial power
Remnants of Fort Duquesne (downtown Pittsburgh)
...in North America

- aka “French and Indian War”
- Pitt the Elder’s desire to expand British colonial empire
- **Successes of British navy; effect on French armies**
Treaty of Paris

Canada/E. of Miss. – Fr → Br
Florida – Sp → Br
Louisiana – Fr → Sp
European Armies and Warfare

- Professional standing army
- Increase in size – 1740 - 1780
  - French army: 190,000 – 300,000
  - Prussian army: 83,000 – 200,000
  - Austrian army: 108,000 – 282,000
  - Russian army: 130,000 – 290,000
European Armies and Warfare

Composition of Armies
- Officers – Nobles
- Rank & File – Lower classes
- Peasants – generally – farmed
- Use of foreign troops (Switzerland, German states)
- **Britain alone – no standing army** – relied on mercenaries (Hessian troops)
- French & Austrian Armies – Natives – 6 year terms
- Unemployed – means of escape
- Growth of Navies – British/Dutch – scurvy/saurkraut!

American colonial mage showing Hessian soldiers as heartless warriors.
The Nature of Warfare

- **War** – less ideological (vs. religious wars of the 16\textsuperscript{th}/17\textsuperscript{th} Centuries) – less violent
- Destruction of taxpayers – foolish
- Warfare based on **limited objectives** – too costly
- Less direct confrontation in favor of generals outwitting enemy – use of artillery
- System of formalities – allowed defeated opponents to withdraw without capture/destruction
- Use of fortresses – sieges – predictable patterns
Surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown
Economic Expansion & Social Change

Steady Population Growth after 1750 / Falling Death Rate

1700 – 120 million
1750 – 140 million
1790 – 190 million

- more plentiful food
- better transportation,
- improved diets
- new crops from the Americas (potatoes, corn)
- End of the bubonic plague
- 1750 – farmers producing 50% more food than needed (up from 20-30% around 1700)
- Ideal growing conditions
Family, Marriage, and Birthrate Patterns

- Patriarchal institution – women/children - property
- Arranged marriages – interests of family

Read 555!
Child Care

- Views on breastfeeding – lower class women did it – upper class women saw it as undignified
- Use of wet nurses
- Childhood as a phase of human development – games/toys
- Primogeniture – under attack
- Appeals for all women to breast feed
- Children – a source of anxiety (mouths to feed, risk in pregnancy)
- Infanticide – dropping children at foundling homes (1/3 of babies in Paris in 1770s!!) – law in Austria banning children under 5 to sleep w/ parents
- Foundlings – high rate of death (50-90% mortality) as infants – poor children suffered
Marriage and Birthrates

- Newly weds – independent of parents households
- Marriage – relatively late mid-late 20s
- Illegitimacy increases by end of 18th C.
- Avg. – 5 births/family BUT 40-60% of fertile aged women not married at any given time – the average fell from 1650-1800
- Coitus Interruptus
- Women & children contributed to family economy
An Agricultural Revolution?

18\textsuperscript{th} C. Agriculture

- More farmland
- Increased yields/acre
  - Open Field $\rightarrow$ crop rotation
  - Jethro Tull – experimentation w/ hoe and drill to plant seeds
- Healthier/more abundant livestock
  - Selective breeding
  - Roots available from new crops during winter as fodder for animals
  - Animal manure – more fertilizer
- Improved climate – “little ice age” declined in 18\textsuperscript{th} C.
- New Crops – potato & maize after 1700
Enclosure Movement – Development of Capitalism

- End of Open Field System – Enclosure Movement
  - Denial of peasant farmers access to “Commons” – mowing for hay, grazing lands, collecting firewood – stripped of “gleaning rights”
  - Inability to produce legal documents proving ownership
  - Large estates developed
  - Small farmers – wage laborers/tenant farmers
  - Destroyed traditional patterns of English life
  - Increase in productivity
  - Relationship between property/power

“England is not a free people, till the poor that have no land, have a free allowance to dig and labour the commons...”
Gerard Winstanley, 1649
New Methods of Finance

- Shortage of Gold/Silver
- New Public/Private Banks
- Use of Paper Notes – Expansion of Credit
- Bank of England – lent to government
  - Issuing of bonds – interest
  - Public/National Debt vs. Personal Monarch Debt
- Creation of credit markets – leads to speculation
  “Mississippi Bubble”
France and the “Mississippi bubble” (1719-1721)

• Bubble: an unusually rapid increase in the value of an asset, followed by an equally rapid collapse
  • Modern day examples: technology stocks, housing

• Recall: financial problems left by Louis XIV, France’s possession of Louisiana territory

• Lack of knowledge among most French about Louisiana
John Law
- Duke of Orleans (regent)

1716: opening of Bank Royale to help French economy
  - Issuance of paper currency

1717: creation of the Mississippi Company
  - Granting of monopoly over North American trade
  - Later winning of control over all French inter-continental trade

1719: tying together of Bank Royale and Mississippi Company
The bubble forms
Jan 1719: 500 livres per share
Feb 1720: 10,000 livres per share

The bubble bursts
Sept 1721: 500 livres per share

Impact
Failure to develop a national bank in France or to establish public borrowing/debt
Dutch power waned – Dutch Capitalists – became financiers of other countries’ capitalists
European Industry

Textiles (wool – majority)

Cottage Industry

- Production of **textiles in countryside**
- Capitalist-merchant entrepreneurs in cities – used labor of countryside
  - spinning/weaving in their own cottages – supplemental income
- Textiles sold at a profit
- **New Methods and New Machines**
- Cotton as a new substitute to wool
- From India – cheap – slave labor
- Unable to keep up with cotton demand until – flying shuttle, water frame (Horse/water power to make yarn -- Richard Arkwright), later mechanized looms invented in 1780s – used in early 19th C., cotton gin
- Rural workers – saw new machines as a threat (READ p. 561)
Mercantile Empires and Worldwide Trade

- Commercial Capitalism
  - Integrated markets
  - Joint stock companies
  - Banking/stock exchanges
  - Mercantilist theory – required colonial expansion – globalization
    - Majority of trade – intraEuropean, but international trade growing
    - Growth of slave trade – plantation economy
    - Cheap labor fueled growth of Atlantic States
- Britain – increased trade with colonies // increase in size of fleets of merchant ships/trade
- Greater prosperity for Atlantic cities – trade industries (dock workers, tradesmen, servants)
The Social Order of the Eighteenth Century

Patterns of society

Forces of change

The Peasants

- General situation
- Compulsory services
- Importance of the village
- Domination by wealthy landowners

The Nobility

- Privileges of the nobility
- Military service
- Moving into the ranks of the nobility
Inhabitants of Towns and Cities

- Townspeople still a minority of the population
- Importance of towns
  - Centers of culture
  - Urban oligarchy
  - Middle class
  - Petty bourgeoisie
  - Laborers
  - Sanitation and poverty
Discussion Questions

How did enlightenment ideas help form Enlightened Absolutes in Europe in the 18th century?

What do you think are the reasons for the rise of enlightened monarchs in Central Europe?

Who was Frederick II and what was his impact on the history, culture and laws of Europe?

What started the Seven Years War? How did the war progress and ultimately who won?

What were some of the changes in social order in the 18th century?
Web Links

- Louis XIV
- Frederick the Great
- Catherine the Great
- Maria Theresa
- Seven Years War
- Pre-enlightenment Europe