

The Enlightenment

- New political philosophy
 - Reason => natural law => progress
 - Goal = utopia
 - The *philosophes*
- Political roots
 - Events of 1680s
 - Louis XIV vs. James II
 - France & Louis = tyranny
 - England removes James = liberty
 - Response to tyranny = revolution
 - John Locke
 - Second Treatise of Government (1690)
 - Social Contract
 - Essay Concerning Human Understanding (1690)
 - “*Tabula rase*”
 - Knowledge = environment & reason; all = freewill
 - Letter Concerning Toleration (1690)
 - God ≠ man to force religion
 - State ≠ over religion
 - State = civic interests & property

- *Philosophes* = “chalk” on Locke’s “blank slate”

- 1) Religion

- Ex. Voltaire

- *Philosophical Letters Concerning the English Nation* (1733)
 - Many other works
 - Central question
 - Mocks organized religion
 - Religion = control masses
 - The Bible
 - Calls for toleration

- Alternative = Deism

- God = watchmaker
 - Divine rights?

- 2) Politics

- Ex. Montesquieu

- *The Spirit of the Laws* (1748)
 - Separation of power
 - “Rule of law”
 - Alternative = Republic
 - Other forms = slavery

— Ex. Rousseau

- Social Contract (1762)
- Alternative = Democracy
- Expanded Locke's "contract theory"
- Laws based on "general will"
- Freedom = obeying laws

• 3) Economics

— Property = foundation of rights

— Adam Smith

- Wealth of Nations (1776)
- Laissez faire capitalism
- Free markets
- "Division of labor"
- Value of wealth
- "Invisible Hand"
- "Great forces of destruction"

• Overall attitude of philosophes = optimism

— Condorcet

- Progress of the Human Mind (1793)
- Utopia can be achieved

— Philosophes = prophetic?

- Utopia = The United States of America?

• Enlightened Despotism/Absolutism

— Progress thru benevolent reformers

— Denis Diderot

- *Encyclopedia* (1751-80)
- Strong monarch + rational reforms = freedom

— Enlightened Absolutists

- Frederick II of Prussia (r. 1740-86)
- Catherine II of Russia (r. 1762-96)
- Charles III of Spain (r. 1759-88)
- Maria Theresa of Aus/HRE (r.1740-80)
- Joseph II of Austria/HRE (r. 1765-90)
- Louis XV of France (r. 1715-74)

— Reforms served purpose

- Allowed greater centralization & power for crown
- Monarchs = knowledge is power

— Reality: En Abs allows centralization

- Promise of Enlightenment vs. reality

— Result = war

- Foreign policy = wars of 18th Cen
- Wars = 2 focal points
- Most significant = Seven Years War

- End w/ treaties
 - Ex. Treaty of Paris (1763)

- Each treaty triggers next war

- American War for Independence
 - French & Indian War = debt

 - Colonists should help pay

 - New taxes & import duties
 - Ex. Stamp Act (1765)

 - Ex. [1st] Quartering Act (1765)

 - Colonists Protested
 - Sons of Liberty

 - Parliament attempts compromise
 - Townsend Acts (1767)

 - Tensions increased
 - Boston Massacre (1770)

 - Boston Tea Party (1773)

 - “Intolerable Acts” (1773)

— Rebellion

- September 6th, 1774 Worcester
- April 19, 1775 Lexington/Concord
- June 17th Bunker/Breeds Hill

— Move to independence

- Thomas Paine & Common Sense (1776)
- Thomas Jefferson & Declaration of Independence (1776)

— Why revolt?

- English Liberties
- Self government
- Enlightenment
- Puritan Traditions

— Why win?

- Washington
- France
- England

— Outcome of Revolution

- States create constitutions
- Second national gov't

— Constitution of the United States (1787)

— Bill of Rights (1789)