

Unit #3 – An Age of Enlightenment and Revolution

Chapter 4 – The Enlightenment

Chapter 5 – French Revolution and Napoleon

Chapter 6 – The World in the 18th Century

*What does it mean to be
Enlightened?*



Defining the Enlightenment

- 18th Century saw the birth of intellect and reason.
- Human affairs were guided by rationality, not by faith or superstition
- Reasonable to want to liberate oneself from the restraints of authority
- Common sense, reason, liberty.

Causes of the Enlightenment

- Scientific Revolution had convinced people of the potential of humanity.
- Human ability to know and understand all.
- Humanism – embraced human achievement.

How to Become Enlightened?

1. Find out more about the Enlightenment. (Complete Lecture Road Map Hand Out)

2. Consider the Salon to share your thoughts.

(First must find out what a Salon is by reading hand out and making notes)

3. Decide who/why type of Enlightened individual you will be at the salon.

(prepare a bio. of yourself. Include your name, your background, what you enjoy discussing and philosophizing about. Be prepared to share with us on Friday)

4. Attend a Salon.

(Enter Friday's class as an enlightened person, dressed as one and bring things to discuss, as well as your bio.)

Role of Literacy and Book Production

- Advent of movable type allowed information to flow.
- Literate populace was an advantage. Moved from 29%/14% in the 17th C. for men and women to 49%/27% in 18th C. France. Religious schools educated most people.
- Increase in readers and writers
- Newspaper Production (1751 *Halifax Gazette* first Canadian newspaper). Increase in the amount of books printed and language printed in.
- Encyclopedia

Deism as Rational Religion

- The existence of God on purely rational grounds.
- Helped to promote religious tolerance.
- Epistemology – What is knowledge? How do we know what we know?

The Role of the Salon



Summary From Salon

Plato – society should be more just and rational, with the right leader, in terms of leadership and not wealth, society will flourish (Craig)

Moliere – mocked the aristocracy, faith should be natural and independent, Divine right of Kings, women should not be dependent, reliant on men (Esme)

Beccaria – Torture and punishment, too much punishment (Josee)

Voltaire – fought for civil rights (right to a fair trial, freedom of speech, and freedom of religion), man able to find moral virtue through reason. (Katherine), “I know a man who is firmly persuaded that, at the death of a bee, its buzzing stops.” (Stephanie)

Rousseau – Advancement of science and art making the world worse, government should protect people (Ben). Humans develop when they use reason, history developed social classes, children learn through experience, someone who is educated is engaged in society (Jan)

J. Lennon – Secular approach, humanity can reach a higher plane (Christine)

Literature of the Enlightenment

- The modern novel was born
- Romanticism – emotion in experience
- Applied rationalism and scientific study to life.
- Encyclopedia

Enlightened Despot



Women During the Enlightenment

- Increase in literacy, may have been a decrease in “kind” of education. Focused more on moral state rather than intellect.
- Host salons and influence conversation
- What was radical at this time was that women should be educated at all
- Improve education for all as a way of improving a variety of social ills.
- Blue-Stockings