

# 18 – Life in the 18th Century

**Key Concept 2.1: Different models of political sovereignty affected the relationship among states and between states and individuals.**

- III. After 1648, dynastic and state interests, along with Europe's expanding colonial empires, influenced the diplomacy of European states and frequently led to war.
- D. Rivalry between Britain and France resulted in world wars fought both in Europe and in the colonies, with Britain supplanting France as the greatest European power.

**Key Concept 2.2: The expansion of European commerce accelerated the growth of a worldwide economic network.**

- III. Commercial rivalries influenced diplomacy and warfare among European states in the early modern era.
- A. European sea powers vied for Atlantic influence throughout the 18th century.
- B. Portuguese, Dutch, French, and British rivalries in Asia culminated in British domination in India and Dutch

**Key Concept 2.4: The experiences of everyday life were shaped by demographic, environmental, medical, and technological changes.**

- II. In the 17th century, small landholdings, low-productivity agricultural practices, poor transportation, and adverse weather limited and disrupted the food supply, causing periodic famines. By the 18th century, Europeans began to escape from the Malthusian imbalance between population and the food supply, resulting in steady population growth.
- A. By the middle of the 18th century, higher agricultural productivity and improved transportation increased the food supply, allowing populations to grow and reducing the number of demographic crises (a process known as the Agricultural Revolution).

- B. In the 18th century, plague disappeared as a major epidemic disease, and inoculation reduced smallpox mortality.
- III. The consumer revolution of the 18th century was shaped by a new concern for privacy, encouraged the purchase of new goods for homes, and created new venues for leisure activities.
- Homes were built to include private retreats, such as the boudoir, Novels encouraged a reflection on private emotions
  - Porcelain dishes, Cotton and linens for home décor, Mirrors, Prints
  - Coffeehouses, Taverns, Theaters and opera houses
- IV. By the 18th century, family and private life reflected new demographic patterns and the effects of the commercial revolution.
- A. Although the rate of illegitimate births increased in the 18th century, population growth was limited by the European marriage pattern and, in some areas, by the early practice of birth control.
- B. As infant and child mortality decreased and commercial wealth increased, families dedicated more space and resources to children and child-rearing, as well as private life and comfort.
- I. Cities offered economic opportunities, which attracted increasing migration from rural areas, transforming urban life and creating challenges for the new urbanites and their families.
- A. The Agricultural Revolution produced more food using fewer workers; as a result, people migrated from rural areas to the cities in search of work.
- B. The growth of cities eroded traditional communal values, and city governments strained to provide protection and a healthy environment.
- C. The concentration of the poor in cities led to a greater awareness of poverty, crime, and prostitution as social problems, and prompted increased efforts to police marginal groups.

## Major Themes and BIG Questions

### Essay Topics:

- Discuss the features of the Agricultural Revolution. How did the Agricultural Revolution affect European society in the 18th century?
- Analyze the causes of the population explosion in the 18th century? What were some of the new social challenges posed by population growth?
- Analyze the importance of proto-industrialization on the development of England's economy in the 18th century.
- Analyze the role that mercantilism played on the Atlantic economy during the 17th and 18th centuries.
- What factors paved the way for the rise of the Dutch Republic as an economic power?
- To what extent did the colonial wars of the 18th century impact the European balance of power?
- To what extent did demographic and social trends of the 18th century impact the European family?

## Essential Questions:

- What were some of the hardships people face in the 16th and 17th centuries?
- What was the open field system and what major problems did it present?
- What was the theory behind crop rotation and what were its long term effects?
- Discuss “enclosure” and the effects it had on “common lands” and peasants.
- What enabled the Dutch to lead the way in the agricultural revolution?
- Who was Jethro Tull and what was his contribution to the Agricultural Revolution?
- How did England emulate the success of the Dutch?
- What were the impacts of the enclosure movement on England?
- What problems did Europe face as population grew in the 16th century?
- Describe the cottage industry and how it worked:
- What was the “putting-out system,” what did it produce and what were its, advantages over past systems?
- How did the family contribute to the cottage industry?
- What were the drawbacks to the cottage industry system?
- Why did Jean Baptiste Colbert revive urban guilds in France?
- Discuss criticism of guilds by enlightenment thinkers.
- What were Adam Smith’s views on economics?
- What is economic liberalism?
- What was Smith’s view on division of labor and colonial empires?
- Which nations dominated the Atlantic trade economy and why?
- Explain the Navigation Acts , their principle purpose and their effects on the Dutch and French.
- Discuss the changes in French and Spanish colonial trade that would ultimately lead to the Industrial Revolution.
- Explain the ins and outs of the Atlantic Slave Trade.
- How did Britain lead the way in trying to abolish the slave trade?
- Explain the social structure of colonial Latin America.
- What role did religion play in the colonies?
- Describe the Asian and pacific trade networks from the viewpoint of the Portuguese, Dutch, British and Spanish.

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## VOCABULARY

[How many of these can you remember?]

- Agricultural Revolution
- subsistence agriculture
- open field system
- Cornelius Vermuyden
- Charles “Turnip” Townshend
- crop rotation
- Jethro Tull
- seed drill
- Robert Bakewell
- Columbian exchange
- Enclosure movement
- commercialization of agriculture
- Corn Laws
- population explosion
- “Little Ice Age”
- Proto-Industrialization
- cottage industry (“putting out” system)
- flying shuttle
- spinning jenny
- mercantilism
- Atlantic economy
- sugar
- bullionism
- Bank of England
- Act of Union, 1707
- Navigation Acts
- Triangular Trade
- Dutch Republic
- Anglo-Dutch Wars
- Slave trade
- “Middle Passage”
- War of Spanish Succession
- Treaty of Utrecht
- asiento*
- Seven Years’ War
- Treaty of Paris
- American Revolution
- creoles*
- mestizos*
- “Spare the rod and spoil the child”
- Edward Jenner
- Neoclassicism
- Jacques-Louis David
- Arc de Triomphe
- Classical style (music)
- Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
- Franz Joseph Haydn
- Ludwig van Beethoven
- symphony