

Cultural and Intellectual Developments

A. Cultural/Intellectual thought before 1450

1. Life before
 - a. Dominated by Christianity for 1000 years
 - b. Feudal system dominated political/social structure for 500 years →
Dominated by concern for local issues:
 1. salvation
 2. territorial disputes
 3. Black Death
 4. lack of education outside monasteries
 5. small-scale trade
 6. Greece/Rome essentially forgotten
2. What influenced shift
 - a. Crusades exposed Christians to advanced Islamic Civilization
 - b. Countries unified under centralized monarchies
 - c. Increased trade fueled contacts with other worlds
 - d. Universities became centers of learning
 - e. Scholasticism – exposed to rest of world and Europe's past
 - f. Byzantine and Islamic empires preserved the past → added to knowledge of math and science
3. Four major movements – Renaissance, Protestant Reformation, Scientific Revolution, Enlightenment
4. Shift in thought
 - a. No longer backward, isolated, self-involved region on edge of major civilizations
 - b. shift in exploration and expansion caused by shifts in thought
 - c. Not quick, broad or in equal proportions
 1. long time to penetrate into all circles
 2. people with power jealously guarded it
 3. peasant class didn't participate → not educated + not in position to learn about

B. Renaissance

1. Why the Renaissance?
 - a. Black Death subsides – populations increase
 - b. People move to cities
 - c. Demand for products
 - d. Middle Class emerges – bankers, merchants, traders
 - e. Huge influx of money
 - f. Interactions with Muslim world → preservation of Greco-Roman learning by Muslims occupying Spain
 - g. Weakening Byzantine Empire → Allowed for more interactions between Muslim/European traders
 - h. Northern Italian city-states getting rich
 1. wealthy from supplying goods to Crusaders
 2. transporting goods to Crusaders
 3. Byzantines no longer dominating trade
 4. Italy a patchwork of feudal domains
 - i. Scholars uncovering long-forgotten Roman and Greek written works
 - j. Location on site of former ruins - Italy
2. Humanism – focus on human endeavor
 - a. BEFORE → Life useless, goal salvation – suck it up and hopefully you'll die and go to heaven

- b. Revisited texts from past → Role of humanity – personal accomplishments, personal happiness
 - c. Shift from afterlife to here and now
 - d. Impact – focus on individuals means less of a focus on institutions – ie. Church
 - e. Renaissance Man – multifaceted, multitalented – da Vinci – artist, scientist, musician, architect, engineer
3. Characteristics of Renaissance Art
- a. themes before primarily religious, now more secular
 - b. subjects = monarchs, popes, merchants, Greek/Roman deities, contemporary events, ordinary
 - c. human figure shown more realistically – study of anatomy
 - d. use perspective – three dimensional
4. Rebirth in the arts
- a. Powerful families in city-states – Florence, Venice, Milan, Rome → Medici
 - b. Human figure is realistic
 - c. Roman Church embraces → Art adorns palaces/cathedrals
5. Writing
- a. Johannes Gutenberg's printing press
 - 1. Invented by Song Dynasty centuries earlier
 - 2. Printing books now easier
 - 3. Growing middle class starts buying books
 - 4. papermaking flourishes – from Arabs, from Chinese
 - 5. People more educated – demanded more books
 - 6. helped spread Protestant Reformation views
 - b. First books practical or political → Machiavelli, *The Prince* – maintain power → end justifies the means → Self-interest more important than morals
 - c. Books became printed for Middle Class → Focus on daily lives of people
 - d. Flourished in England and Low Countries – Netherlands, Luxembourg, Belgium
 - e. Humanism focus → Human Strengths/faults, comedy/tragedy
 - f. Works explored classical world – Julius Caesar, etc.

C. Protestant Reformation

- 1. Power of the Church under feudalism
 - a. Prince and emperors didn't like sharing power with pope
 - b. One unifying force → Undisputed control on otherworldly issues + huge influence over worldly issues
 - c. Could only get to heaven if you do it the Church's way
 - d. Power of Eastern Orthodox Church falls with fall of Constantinople in 1453
- 2. **Church gets into trouble**
 - a. Sells indulgences → Generates income – maintains power over masses
 - b. Controls huge blocks of land
 - c. Doesn't pay taxes
 - d. Loses legitimacy when there are two popes for awhile
 - e. Church too concerned with wealth and power
 - f. Clergy not well-trained/spiritual → appointed for political purposes, corrupt
- 3. Martin Luther → articulates Frustrations:
 - a. Selling of indulgences
 - b. Worldly nature of Rome
 - c. Church services not in vernacular
 - d. Salvation by God through grace, not indulgences or through Church
 - e. Don't need Church as intermediary – go right to Bible

4. Christianity Splits → Philosophical Consequences:
 - a. If firmest institution – the Church – could be questioned, anything is fair game
 - b. Nature of universe
 - c. Role of government
 - d. Foundation for future revolutions
5. Counter-Reformation – Catholic Reformation
 - a. Gained credibility
 1. Stopped selling indulgences
 2. Trained Priests/Bishops
 3. Encourage clerics to live Christian life
 - b. Reconfirmed absolute authority – didn't budge
 1. How to get salvation
 2. Latin
 3. punished heretics
 - c. Succeeds in winning back converts
6. **Results → European conflict:**
 - a. Southern Europe + France and S. Germany are Catholic
 - b. England, N. Germany, Scandinavia, Calvin – Protestant, Anglican, or Calvinist
7. **Effects of Reformation**
 - a. Luther's insistence on Bible being translated to vernacular spread literacy
 - b. support of German princes led to increased nationalism
 - c. But...Thirty Years War – German princes – Lutheranism vs. Catholicism → Germany can't become unified nation
 - d. Religious wars freed Netherlands (Calvinism) from Spain
 - e. Henry VIII – separated from Church
 - f. End of medieval way of life where Catholic Church sole source of stability
 - g. Anti-clericalism → dismay over corruption of clergy
 - h. Growth of middle class – good works/material success a confirmation of salvation → Created middle class that eventually established European democracies
 - i. Increased questioning of political authority
 - j. strengthening the power of monarchs as papal power decreased
 - k. Encouraged education – Protestants wanted children to be able to read / interpret the Bible
 - l. improved the status of women within marriage – writers encouraged love between man/wife
 - m. created new Protestant churches

D. Scientific Revolution

1. Previous beliefs
 - a. Aristotle – Earth center of universe
 - b. Church/political structure inhibited scientific thought
 1. Church → focus on salvation
 2. Feudal system → focus on daily, mundane tasks and military conquest
 - c. Changed by Growth of universities + Exposure to scientific successes of Islam
2. Scientific Advances
 - a. Copernicus – heliocentric theory
 - b. Galileo – logically explained heliocentric theory – banned book, heretic
 - c. Scientific method
 1. Reason alone not good enough
 2. Prove what mind concluded
 3. Demonstrate it to others
 4. Open it to experimentation

- 5. Prove with mathematical equations
- 6. Use scientific instruments to prove
- 3. Science for practical uses
 - a. Labor saving devices
 - b. Power sources from water/wind
- 4. **Long term effects:**
 - a. People questioning Church even more
 - b. Deists – great clockmaker in the sky – set the world going, then hands off
 - c. people stop relying on supernatural explanations
 - d. People think they can explain other elements of the world through scientific method/questions
 - f. Gave rise to Enlightenment/Age of Reason
- 5. Different than East Asia
 - a. Chinese dealt with specific facts that were practical in nature
 - b. Europeans formulated general laws

E. Enlightenment

- 1. Life before Enlightenment
 - a. Monarchs gain power
 - 1. Centralize authority
 - 2. Promote exploration/colonization
 - 3. Rule with absolute authority
 - 4. Claim Divine Right – God supported what monarch chose
 - b. Divine Right vs. Mandate of Heaven
 - 1. Mandate – emperors divinely chosen, rule as long as pleased heaven
 - 2. Divine Right – rule however you want – God chose you
- 2. Enlightened *philosophes* discussed
 - a. Nature of political structures → Conflicting Ideas:
 - 1. Thomas Hobbes – Leviathan – people evil – enlightened despot – China
 - 2. John Locke – born free w/ inalienable rights – need consent of people
 - 3. Jean-Jacques Rousseau – humans free to obey laws – if just
 - 4. Montesquieu – separation of powers – legislative, executive, judicial
 - 5. Adam Smith – Wealth of Nations – laissez faire economics
 - b. Nature of social structures → Voltaire – religious toleration
 - c. Created encyclopedia – Denis Diderot’s Encyclopedie
- 3. Effects
 - a. Seeds of revolution → Questioning of traditional authority
 - b. Some leaders became Enlightened Monarchs/Despots: Joseph II – Austria / Frederick II – Prussia
 - c. Basis of modern technology and political liberalism
- 4. **Characteristics of Enlightened thinkers**
 - a. science/natural law governs human nature
 - b. power of human reason/rationalism to discern principles of natural law
 - c. once determined, people should live by these laws
 - d. living by these laws would lead to an understanding society’s economic, political and social problems
 - e. this would lead to human progress
- 5. Challenges of Enlightenment
 - a. find an end to injustice, inequality, and superstition
 - b. toleration for all religions
 - c. breaking down of institutions (Church) that were corrupt and not based on natural law/reason