

V. Enlightenment & Enlightened Absolutism

A. Enlightenment Era

1. Prep Work

a. Anticipation guide:

- What is the natural state of humanity?
- Should we be more like humans in their natural state, or not?
- How much freedom should people have? What are the limits on freedom?
- What role should religion play in public life?
- What can you do for your religion? What are the limits of religious freedom?
- What is the government's job?
- What should be the relationship between the government and businesses?
- Why should we punish criminals?
- How should we punish criminals? Why?

b. Questions - pretend you are setting up a government. Write a law that

- guarantees freedom to believe what you want
- stops any one person from having too much power
- regulates the economy
- punishes the guilty - deters people from committing crime

2. Salons – where they met

- look fancier than your neighbor – by having more famous philosophes
- rich/poor – doesn't matter

3. Philosophes

- Montesquieu – separation of powers
- Voltaire – freedom of religion (*Candide*)
- Rousseau – “general will”
- Baron d’Holbach – first to publicly argue for atheism
- Wollstonecraft – women’s rights
- Adam Smith – laissez-faire economics/invisible hand

B. Enlightenment ideals at work

1. Austria

a. Pragmatic Sanction – treaty *before* the war begins

- on behalf of Maria Theresa
- invasion by Prussia
- Prussia gains Silesia

b. Seven Years’ War

- Maria Theresa tries to get Silesia back
- turns into global struggle
 - France loves a chance to fight Austria

ii. England loves a chance to fight France

- Ends with England gaining Canada/India, and no change in status of Silesia

2. Enlightened Absolutism (same as “Enlightened Despotism” in your textbook)

a. definition/ideals

b. Key people

- Joseph II – Austria – failed because the people hated his reforms
- Frederick William II – Prussia – failed because he loved war too much
- Catherine the Great – Russia – failed because she feared the nobles

C. Hanoverian Dynasty

1. surprise – you Germans are the new kings of England

2. but you don't care, because you don't speak English