Chapter 23

The Transformation of Europe
The Protestant Reformation

- Martin Luther (1483-1546) attacks Roman Catholic church practices, 1517
  - Indulgences: preferential pardons for charitable donors
- Writes *Ninety-Five Theses*, rapidly reproduced with new printing technology
- Excommunicated by Pope Leo X in 1520
- 1520s-1530s dissent spread throughout Germany and Switzerland
Roots of Reform

- Church’s political involvement, wealth, power foster greed and corruption
- Church faces criticism
  - Demand for more personal involvement with the divine
Martin Luther

- Luther’s expanded critique
  - Closure of monasteries
  - Translations of Bible into vernacular
  - End of priestly authority, especially the pope
    - Return to biblical text for authority
- German princes interested
  - Opportunities for assertion of local control
- Support for reform spreads throughout Germany
Reform Outside Germany

- Switzerland, Low Countries follow Germany
- England: King Henry VIII (r. 1509-1547) has conflict with pope over requested divorce
  - England forms its own church by 1560
- France: John Calvin (1509-1564) codifies Protestant teachings while in exile in Geneva
- Scotland, Netherlands, Hungary also experience reform movements
The Catholic Reformation

- Roman Catholic church reacts
  - Refining doctrine, missionary activities to Protestants, attempt to renew spiritual activity
- Council of Trent (1545-1563), periodic meetings to discuss reform
- Society of Jesus (Jesuits) founded by St. Ignatius Loyola (1491-1556)
  - Rigorous religious and secular education
  - Effective missionaries
Witch Hunts

- Most prominent in regions of tension between Catholics and Protestants
- Late fifteenth century development in belief in devil and human assistants
- Sixteenth to seventeenth centuries approximately 110,000 people put on trial; 45,000 put to death
  - Vast majority females, usually single, widowed
  - Held accountable for crop failures, miscarriages, etc.
- New England: 234 witches tried, 36 hung
Religious Wars

- Protestants and Roman Catholics fight in France (1562-1598)
- 1588 Philip II of Spain attacks England to force return to Catholicism
  - English destroy Spanish ships by sending flaming unmanned ships into the fleet
- Netherlands rebel against Spain, gain independence by 1610
The Thirty Years’ War (1618-1648)

- Holy Roman emperor attempts to force Bohemians to return to Roman Catholic church
- All of Europe becomes involved in conflict
  - Principal battleground: Germany
- Political, economic issues involved
- Approximately one-third of German population destroyed
The Consolidation of Sovereign States

- Emperor Charles V (r. 1519-1556) attempts to revive Holy Roman Empire as strong center of Europe
  - Through marriage, political alliances
  - Ultimately fails
    - Protestant Reformation provides cover for local princes to assert greater independence
    - Foreign opposition from France, Ottoman empire
- Unlike China, India, Ottoman empire, Europe does not develop as single empire, rather individual states
- Charles V abdicates to monastery in Spain
Sixteenth-Century Europe
The New Monarchs

- Italy well-developed as economic power through trade, manufacturing, finance
- Yet England, France, and Spain surge ahead in sixteenth century with innovative new tax revenues
  - England: Henry VIII
    - Fines and fees for royal services; confiscated monastic holdings
  - France: Louis XI, Francis I
    - New taxes on sales, salt trade
The Spanish Inquisition

- Founded by Fernando and Isabel in 1478
- Original task: search for secret practitioners of Judaism or Islam, later search for Protestants
  - Spread to Spanish holdings outside Iberian peninsula in western hemisphere
- Imprisonment, executions
  - Intimidated nobles who might have considered Protestantism
  - Archbishop of Toledo imprisoned 1559-1576
Constitutional States

- England and the Netherlands develop institutions of popular representation
  - England: constitutional monarchy
  - Netherlands: republic

- English civil war, 1642-1649
  - Begins with opposition to royal taxes
  - Religious elements: Anglican church favors complex ritual, complex church hierarchy, opposed by Calvinist Puritans
  - King Charles I and parliamentary armies clash
  - King loses, is beheaded in 1649
The Glorious Revolution (1688-1689)

- Puritans take over; becomes a dictatorship
- Monarchy restored in 1660, fighting resumes
- Resolution with bloodless coup called Glorious Revolution
- King James II deposed, daughter Mary and husband William of Orange take throne
  - Shared governance between crown and parliament
The Dutch Republic

- King Philip II of Spain attempts to suppress Calvinists in Netherlands, 1567
- Large-scale rebellion follows; by 1581, Netherlands declares independence
- Based on a representative parliamentary system
Absolute Monarchies

- Theory of divine right of kings
- French absolutism designed by Cardinal Richelieu (under King Louis XIII, 1624-1642)
  - Destroyed castles of nobles, crushed aristocratic conspiracies
  - Built bureaucracy to bolster royal power base
  - Ruthlessly attacked Calvinists
Louis XIV (the “Sun King,” 1643-1715)

- *L’état, c’est moi:* “The State – that’s me.”
- Magnificent palace at Versailles, 1670s, becomes his court
  - Largest building in Europe
  - 1,400 fountains
  - 25,000 fully grown trees transplanted
- Power centered in court, important nobles pressured to maintain presence
Absolutism in Russia: The Romanov Dynasty (1613-1917)

- Peter I (“the Great,” r. 1682-1725)
  - Worked to modernize Russia on western European model
  - Developed modern Russian army, reformed Russian government bureaucracy, demanded changes in fashion: beards forbidden
  - Built new capital at St. Petersburg

- Catherine II (“the Great,” r. 1762-1796)
  - Huge military expansion
    - Partitions of Poland, 1772-1797
  - Social reforms at first, but end with Pugachev peasant rebellion (1773-1774)
The European States System

- No imperial authority to mediate regional disputes
- Peace of Westphalia (1648) after Thirty Years’ War
- European states to be recognized as sovereign and equal
  - Religious, other domestic affairs protected
- Warfare continues: opposition to French expansion, Seven Years’ War (1756-1763)
- Balance of power tenuous
- Innovations in military technology proceed rapidly
Europe After the Peace of Westphalia, 1648
Population Growth and Urbanization

Rapidly growing population due to Columbian exchange

- Improved nutrition
  - Role of the potato (considered an aphrodisiac in sixteenth and seventeenth centuries)
- Replaces bread as staple of diet
- Better nutrition reduces susceptibility to plague
  - Epidemic disease becomes insignificant for overall
Population Growth in Europe
Urbanization

Early Capitalism

- Private parties offer goods and services on a free market
- Own means of production
- Private initiative, not government control
- Joint-stock companies (English East India Company, VOC)
- Supply and demand determines prices
- Medieval guilds discarded in favor of "putting-out"
Impact of Capitalism on the Social Order

- Rural life
  - Improved access to manufactured goods
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  - Depletion of the rural population as context begins
- The efficient institution of serfdom abandoned in western Europe, retained in Russia until nineteenth century
- Nuclear families replace extended families
- Gender changes as women enter income-earning
Capitalism and Morality

- Adam Smith (1723-1790) argued that capitalism would ultimately improve society as a whole.
- But major social change increases poverty in some sectors.
  - Rise in crime
  - Witch-hunting a possible consequence of capitalist tensions and gender roles.
The Copernican Universe

- Reconception of the Universe
  - Reliance on second-century Greek scholar Claudius Ptolemy of Alexandria
  - Motionless earth inside nine concentric spheres
  - Christians understand heaven as last sphere

- Difficulty reconciling model with observed planetary movement

- 1543, Nicolaus Copernicus of Poland breaks theory
  - Notion of moving Earth challenges Christian doctrine
The Scientific Revolution

- Galileo Galilei (Italy, 1564-1642) reinforce the Copernican model
- Isaac Newton (1642-1727) revolutionizes study
- Rigorous challenge to church doctrines
Women and Science

William Harvey (1578-1657) “scientifically” proves innate female inferiority

- Émilie du Châtelet (1701-1749)
  - French mathematician and physicist
  - Translated Newton’s *Principia Mathematica*
The Enlightenment

Trend away from Aristotelian philosophy and church doctrine in favor of rational thought and scientific analysis in favor of rational thought and scientific

John Locke (England, 1632-1704), Baron de Montesquieu (France, 1689-1755) attempt to discover natural laws of politics.

Center of Enlightenment: France, *philosophes*

Church: *écrasez l’infame*, “crush the damned thing”

Voltaire (1694-1778), caustic attacks on Roman Catholic
The Theory of Progress

Assumption that Enlightenment thought would ultimately lead to human harmony, without religion.