

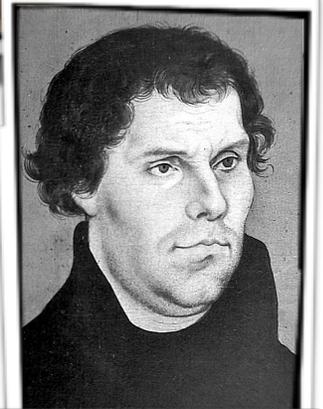
# AS THE WORLD TURNS: 1640-1815 AD

## Overview

To review: the Ancient Era laid the foundations for every aspect of society (language, government, war, economics, etc). The Medieval Era was a time of transformation, that saw the ending of the old methods and institutions with a metamorphosis into what will become the “modern” methods and institutions. The 1300-1500s set the stage for the first global era. 1500-1640 saw the Europeans explore and colonize around the world:

- The Renaissance & Humanism spread through Europe. This promoted the use of the human mind to explore nature around them, spurring on the Scientific Revolution
- The Printing Press allowed knowledge to spread rapidly and cheaply, allowing for comparably rapid social change.
- The Protestant Reformation caused a schism in the Roman Catholic Church, allowing countries to disregard the Pope’s authority. Some European countries embrace the movement (England, Dutch, and the Holy Roman Empire), some European Countries didn’t (Italian States, Spain, Portugal)
- Gunpowder and iron weapons allowed Kings to gain absolute power over their countries.
- The Age of Exploration saw the Europeans sail around the world, pirating and colonizing
- The Americas were devastated by European diseases in the Great Dying.
- West Africa began to take part in the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, selling slaves to the Europeans.
- The the Muslim Empires (Ottomans, Mughals, Safavids) reached the height of power.
- China and Japan steadily became isolated.

As the world moved into the 1640s, the speed of change increased, shaking the foundations of traditional society to its core.



## Europe: Part 1 - The Enlightenment & Government

Enlightenment... During the 1500-1600s, Europeans began to use their minds to explore all aspects of life. Humanism and the Scientific Revolution promoted intellectuals to use their minds to discover the nature of the human body and the universe.

During the Enlightenment the Philosophes turned their minds from nature to human society. The Philosophes were intellectuals who used reasoning, or logic, to wrestle with tough questions about what was the best way to live life and run societies:

- Is man naturally good or evil?
- What is the role of women in society?
- Why do people live in communities and what is the best way to organize them?
- Who has the right to rule?
- What is the best way to run an economy?
- What is the nature of God... or is there even a God?

Many influential and revolutionary ideas came from the Enlightenment. John Lockes’ Rights of Man stated ALL men were entitled to life, liberty and property. Adam Smith’s capitalism promoted a free economy, where the government stayed out and let the “free hand” of the market reign. Voltaire promoted religious tolerance. Hume promoted a world with no God. Mary Wollstonecraft said women were equal to men. The works these (and many more) Philosophes rapidly spread through Europe and their colonies, thanks to the printing press and the robust Trans-Atlantic Trade. The impact of their words are still shaping the course of human history.

The chief focus of the Philosophes reasoning power was government. Since the fall of Rome, the European kings ruled by the Divine Right of Kings. This meant that the Christian God had given the king the authority to rule and to question or oppose the king was to go against God. After the Protestant Reformation, the Philosophes began to question whether that was a justifiable reason to rule. Governments began to shift in two directions: Absolutism and Limited Monarchy.

### Absolutism & Limited Monarchy

Absolutism is when the king has 100% power because... just because. Because he is the richest. Because he has the most military power. Because he has the most powerful friends. The pinnacle example of Absolutism was King Louis XIV of France. He centralized all power to himself, ruling with utmost authority. On the positive, Louis XIV expanded France's territory and brought them into the colonization race with Spain and England. On the negative, Louis XIV overspent on the military and bankrupted the country. He also dealt ruthlessly with the Protestants, making it illegal to be a Protestant and killing/torturing anyone who did not reconvert to Roman Catholicism.



Limited Monarchy is when the King has the most authority but is limited by a constitution and a Parliament. A constitution is a group laws that state which powers a king and government have or don't have. A Parliament is a group of elected officials who help to make laws, working with the king to run the country.



The example of Limited Monarchy would be Charles I & Charles II of England. Thanks to the Magna Carta, England had a Parliament. Charles I was tired of being told no by the Parliament. Charles I, who was Catholic, wanted to get rid of Parliament, which was filled with mostly Protestants, and bring the country back under the Catholic Church. The Parliament wanted the country to remain Protestant and to further limit the King's power. The Protestants won and shocked the world by beheading Charles I. However, when the new leaders allowed the situation to go from bad to worse, the British made Charles II their king and settled on a Limited Monarchy.



The tension did not end until the Glorious Revolution, when William and Mary took the throne. They agreed to take the throne if they passed the English Bill of Rights. The English Bill of Rights strengthened parliament: protecting freedom of speech, the right to question the monarch, right to bear arms, and to host free and fair elections. William and Mary were among the first Enlightened Despots: Monarchs who embraced/accepted the ideals of the Enlightenment.



## ASSIGNMENT

- 1) Read & Update the Content Matrix
- 2) Fill out this chart with the the strengths/positives and weaknesses/negatives of each region.

Region	Strengths	Weaknesses
Europe		

- 3) Create an impact chart. As you read you are to evaluate each area on the level of impact the people in that region had on the world culturally, militarily, and economically.
  - Rate each area as to how impactful you believe them to be at the at 1640 AD (■) and at 1815 AD (▲).
  - Draw arrows to show whether they grew or shrunk in impact and influence.
  - If there is change, ask yourself “What caused them to grow or shrink or stagnate in their influence?” and make note of it on your chart.

### Examples

