

# AP European History: Chapter 17 – The Eighteenth Century: An Age of Enlightenment Overview & Schedule

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During the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, Europeans applied the methods of the new science – such as empiricism, mathematics, and skepticism – to human affairs. During the Enlightenment, intellectuals such as Rousseau, Voltaire, and Diderot aimed to replace faith in divine revelation with faith in human reason and classical values. In economics and politics, liberal theorists such as John Locke and Adam Smith questioned absolutism and mercantilism by arguing for the authority of natural law and the market. Belief in progress, along with improved social and economic conditions, spurred significant gains in literacy and education as well as the creation of a new culture of the printed word, including novels, newspapers, periodicals, and such reference works as Diderot's *Encyclopédie*, for a growing educated audience.

Several movements of religious revival occurred during the 18<sup>th</sup> century, but elite culture embraced skepticism, secularism, and atheism for the first time in European history, and popular attitudes began to move in the same directions. Overall, intellectual and cultural developments during this period marked a transition in European history to a modern worldview in which rationalism, skepticism, scientific investigation, and a belief in progress generally dominated, although such views did not completely overwhelm other worldviews stemming from religion, nationalism, and romanticism.

## **CONTENT TOPICS and Focus Questions**

### The Enlightenment

- What intellectual developments led to the emergence of the Enlightenment?
- Who were the leading figures of the Enlightenment, and what were their main contributions?
- In what type of social environment did the philosophes thrive, and what role did women play in that environment?

### Culture and Society in the Enlightenment

- What innovations in art, music, and literature occurred in the eighteenth century?
- How did popular culture differ from high culture in the eighteenth century?

### Religion and the Churches

- How did popular religion differ from institutional religion in the eighteenth century?

APPROPRIATE USE OF HISTORICAL EVIDENCE: study the various ways of analyzing historical documents and apply the skills with documents from Women in the Scientific Revolution DBQ.

## **ASSIGNMENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

### **Tuesday, November 8**

- Chapter 16 review activity – Flow Chart
- Impact of Scientific Revolution & ideals of the Enlightenment
- Challenge to traditions: analyze Montesquieu
- **HOMEWORK: Text 508-513**

### **Wednesday, November 9**

- Natural rights: politics, economics, & religion
- Close Reading: Voltaire's *On Toleration* from *Documents of Western Civilization* by Candace Gregory 19.5
- **HOMEWORK: Study for Ch 16 Exam**

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## Thursday, November 10

- Chapter 16 Exam
- **HOMEWORK: Text 513-516**

## Friday, November 11

- Lecture Notes: Women & the Enlightenment
- **HOMEWORK: Text 516-522**

## Monday, November 14

- APPROPRIATE USE OF HISTORICAL EVIDENCE:
  - Women & the Scientific Enlightenment document analysis
- **HOMEWORK: Text 522-529**

## Tuesday, November 15

- APPROPRIATE USE OF HISTORICAL EVIDENCE:
  - Document analysis chart for *Of the Club* by Richard Steele from *Documents of Western Civilization* by Candace Gregory 21.2
- Art, music, & literature: Analyze art & music
- Culture: High vs. Popular Culture & Religion in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century
- **HOMEWORK: Prepare for Socratic Seminar #2**

## Wednesday, November 16

- Socratic Seminar #2
- **HOMEWORK: Text 531-536**

\*\*\* Chapter 17 Exam Friday November 18; study guide and terms due