The eighteenth century (1715-1789) is often seen as a century of profound change on many levels politically, socially, and economically. The rise of enlightened despots who maintained the characteristics of an absolute monarch embraced many of the ideals of the Enlightenment and instituted reforms within their states. Europe will plunge into war as international relations soured and Europe plunged into war with the War of Austrian Succession and the Seven Years’ War. The Agricultural Revolution will increase the food supply resulting in an increase in population and a change in the economy setting the foundation for a future Industrial Revolution.

The eighteenth century set the foundation for the European states of Britain, France, Austria, Prussia, and Russia to be five major powers until World War I as their rivalries will extend outside of the borders of Europe as well as within.

CONTENT TOPICS & Focus Questions

The European States
- What were the main developments in France, Great Britain, the Dutch Republic, the Mediterranean states, & the Scandinavian monarchies in the eighteenth century?
- What do historians mean by the term enlightened absolutism, and to what degree did eighteenth-century Prussia, Austria, and Russia exhibit its characteristics?

Wars & Diplomacy
- How did the concepts of “balance of power” and “reason of state” influence international relations in the eighteenth century?
- What were the causes & results of the Seven Years’ War?

Economic Expansion & Social Change
- What changes occurred in agriculture, finance, industry, and trade during the eighteenth century?

The Social Order of the Eighteenth Century
- Who were the main groups making up the European social order in the eighteenth century, and how did the conditions in which they lived differ both between groups and between different parts of Europe?

HISTORICAL ARGUMENTATION: How do you construct and defend an argument? We will work on how to deconstruct sources, forming an argument, and defending your argument with evidence.

ASSIGNMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Thursday, November 17
- What is enlightened absolutism? Who became enlightened & why?
- Prussia, Austria, Russia
- HOMEWORK: Study for Chapter 17 Exam

Friday, November 17
- Chapter 17 Exam
- HOMEWORK: Text 536-543

Monday, November 21 – Friday, November 25
- No School – Professional Development/Turkey Day Break

Monday, November 28
- Wars of the 18th century: Austrian Succession & 7 Years’ War
- HOMEWORK: Text 543-547
Tuesday, November 29

- Agricultural Revolution & Social Order of the 18th Century
- HOMEWORK: Text 547-554

Wednesday, November 30

- HISTORICAL ARGUMENTATION: Enlightened Absolutism DBQ/LEQ
- HOMEWORK: Text 554-562

*** Chapter 18 Exam Monday, December 5; study guide and terms due