

Ch. 18 The Eighteenth Century: European States, International Wars, and Social Change



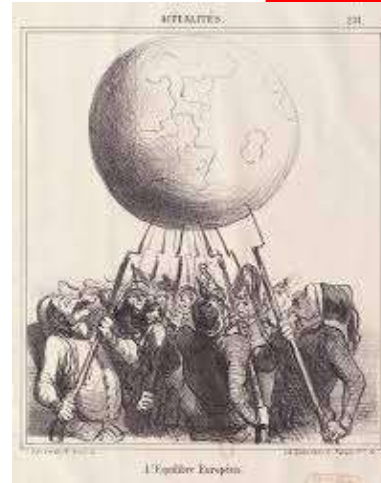
FQ: How did the concepts of “balance of power” and “reason of state” influence international relations in the eighteenth century? What were the causes and results of the Seven Years’ War?

Review Question

- Define “balance of power” and provide one example from Ch. 18.

KEY TERMS

- *Balance of power*: a distribution of power among several states such that no single nation can dominate or interfere with the interests of another.



- *Reason of state*: principle that a nation should act on the basis of its long-term interests and not merely to further the dynastic interests of its ruling family.

Review Question

- List the two main causes of the War of Austrian Succession.

War of Austrian Succession (1740-1748)



- Sparked by the succession to the Austrian throne. Charles VI (1711-1740) left no male heir.
- Maria Theresa took over Austria.
- Frederick the Great of Prussia invaded and took Silesia from Austria.
- French allied with Prussia v. Austria & Great Britain.
- Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle promised return of all occupied territories except Silesia, which led to future war.

Review Question

- What were the causes of the Seven Years' War? What were the results? (List at least two for each)

The Seven Years' War (1756-1763)

“The First World War”



- Major European powers of the 18th century: Russia, France, Austria, Great Britain, Prussia.
- 1756 – Diplomatic revolution led to allies and enemies mixing and matching.
- Britain v. France over colonial empires
- Prussia v. Austria over Silesia

Three major areas of conflict

- 1. Europe
- 2. India
- 3. North America



Conflict in Europe



- 1757 - Frederick the Great of Prussia was able to take on Austria, France and Russia in Battle of Rossbach.
- Prussia was eventually worn down over time.
- Peter III came to power in 1762 and withdrew Russian troops because he admired Frederick the Great.
- Peace of Hubertusburg - all occupied territory returned and Prussia now controlled Silesia.

War in India



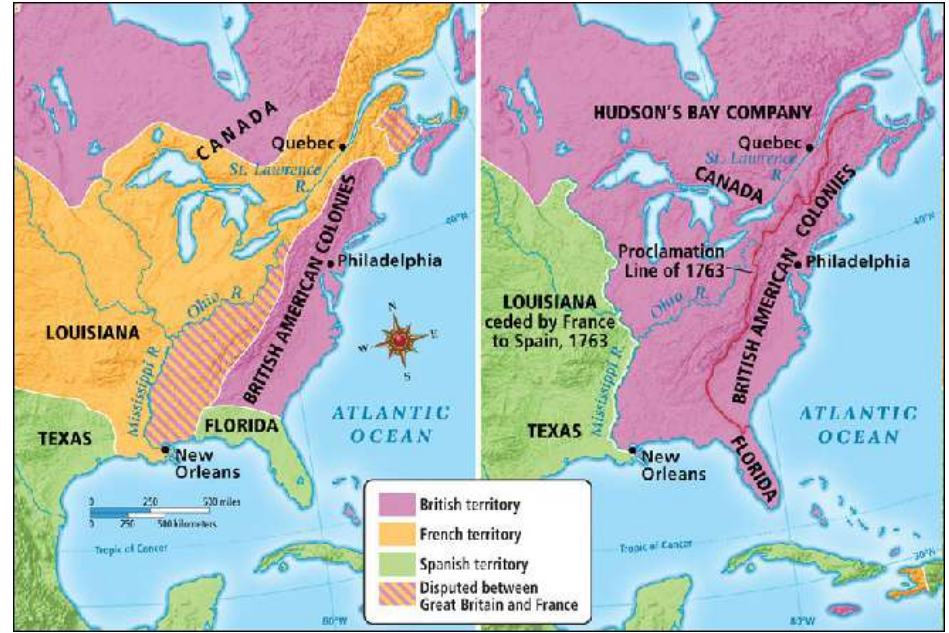
- France v. Britain was known as the "Great War of Empire".
- French and British both supported opposing Indian princes.
- French eventually withdrew from India as a result of the Treaty of Paris in 1763.

The French and Indian War



- French began establishing forts from the Appalachians to the Mississippi.
- British saw this as a threat to their future expansion.
- French allied with native Americans through trade.
- British were revived by William Pitt the elder who believed the French colonial empire must be destroyed in order to establish a British world power.

Treaty of Paris - 1763



- British navy had a big impact on the war.
- France gave up Canada and lands east of the Mississippi to Great Britain.
- France also withdrew from India making Great Britain the world's greatest colonial power.

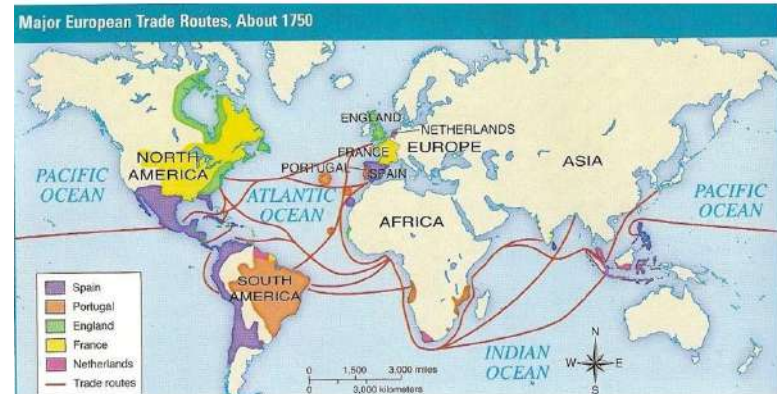


FQ: What changes occurred in agriculture, finance, industry and trade during the eighteenth century?

Economic Patterns of the 18th Century



Major European Trade Routes and Colonies-1750 (18th Century)



- Rapid population growth
- Expansion in banking and trade
- Agricultural revolution (Britain)
- “Stirrings of industrialization”
- Worldwide trade and consumption.

Growth of European Population

- Estimated European population
 - 1700 - 120 million
 - 1750 - 140 million
 - 1790 - 190 million
- Decline in the death rate caused by:
 - better food (corn & potatoes)
 - farmer's surplus
 - end of Bubonic Plague

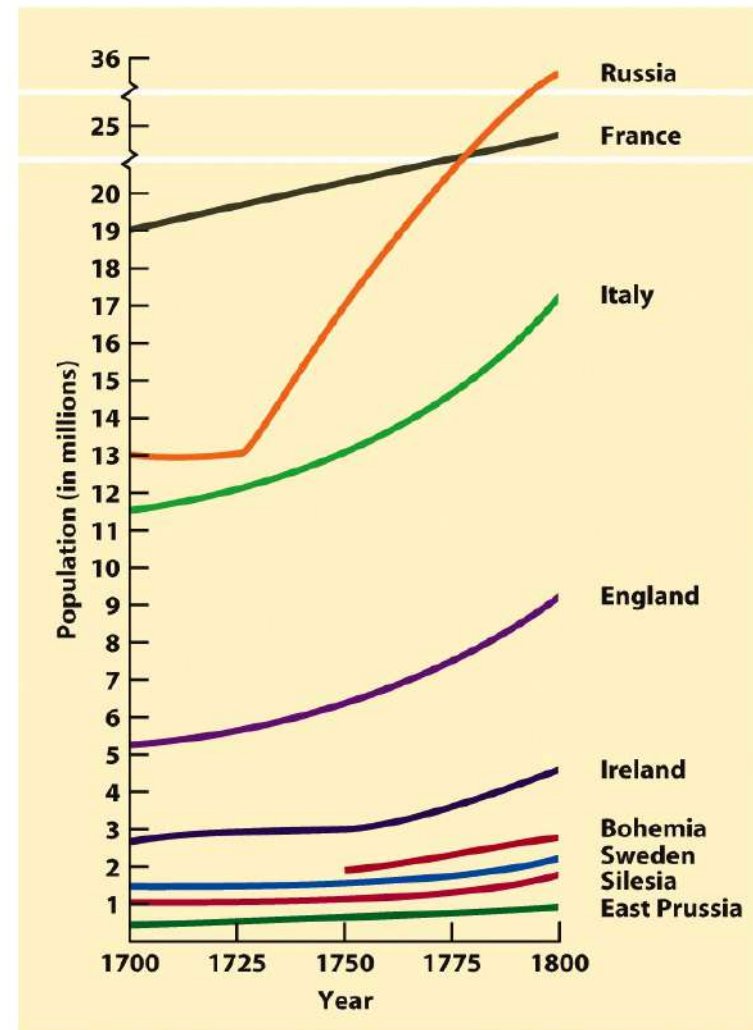


Figure 18.2 The Increase of Population in Europe in the Eighteenth Century
Chapter 18, *A History of Western Society*, Tenth Edition
Copyright © 2011 by Bedford/St. Martin's
Page 559

Historian Debate: Was there an agricultural revolution?

- Traditional interpretation:
 - more farmland
 - increased crop yields per acre
 - healthier and more abundant livestock
 - improved climate
- Some historians debate the timing and degree of an agricultural revolution.

Agriculture in England



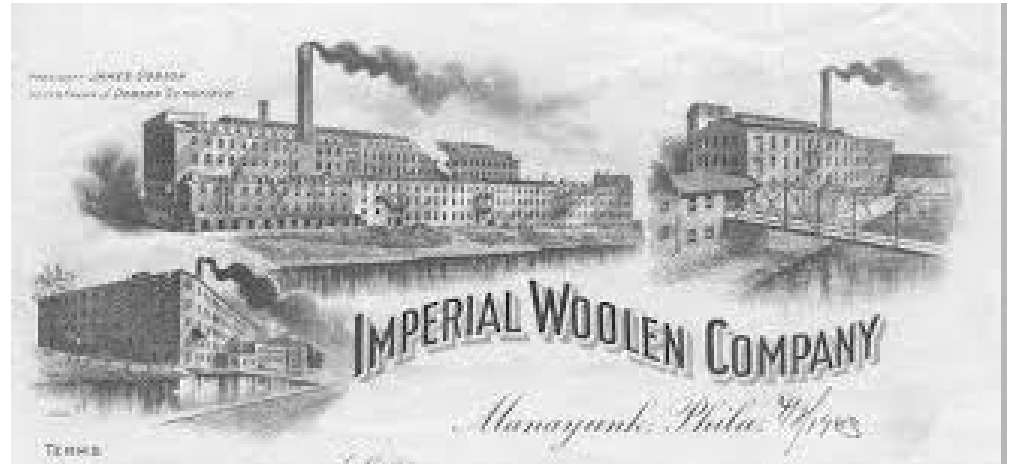
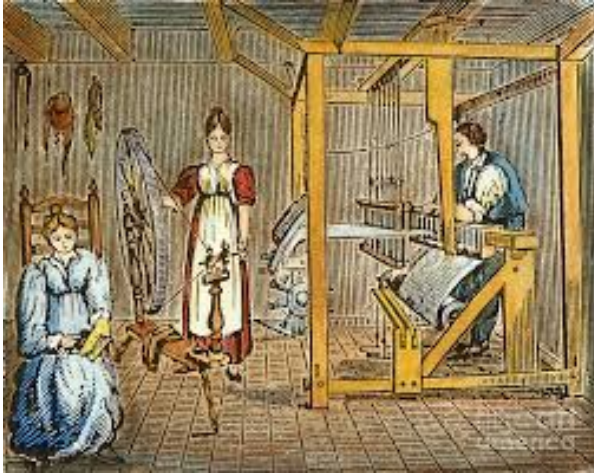
- **Enclosure acts:** laws enacted in eighteenth century Britain that allowed large landowners to enclose the old open fields, thereby combining many small farmers to become tenant farmers or wage laborers on the large estates.
- Change in agricultural practices led to social consequences.

New Methods of Finance



- Gold and silver declined.
- Establishment of paper notes led to an increase in credit.
- Bank of England (1694) - made loans using "banknotes" backed by credit.
 - public bonds led to "national debt"
- French were less confident in paper notes after their colonial trading companies experienced an economic collapse.

European Industry



- TEXTILES
- Woolen cloth made up 75% of Britain's exports.
- "Cottage Industry" couldn't keep up with new cotton demand.
- Rural workers saw new machines as a threat to their livelihood.

Mercantile Empires and Worldwide Trade



- Mercantilist theories were put into action by Europe's overseas expansion.
- Increase in overseas trade has led some historians to point out the emergence of a global economy in the eighteenth century.
- African slave trade and the plantation economy were key parts of the new Atlantic economy which led to greater prosperity for western European nations.