

Chapter 6-3

- The Spread of Enlightenment Ideas
 - I) A World of Ideas
 - II) Art and Literature in the Age of Reason
 - III) Enlightenment and Monarchy

I) A World of Ideas

Philosophes views often got them in trouble, especially in France where it was illegal to criticize the Catholic Church or government.

Many philosophes, such as Voltaire, landed in jail or were exiled.

Paris was the cultural and intellectual capital of Europe and young people from around the world, including America, came to study.

Philosophers, writers, artists, scientists and others gather regularly to discuss new ideas at meetings held by the women of Paris called **salons**.

I) A World of Ideas

The most famous was Madame Geoffrin who also corresponded with heads of states such as the King of Sweden and Catherine the Great of Russia

She helped finance a leading philosophe named Dennis Diderot who wanted to create a large set of books to which all the leading of scholars of Europe would contribute called the Encyclopedia.

Enlightenment ideas spread to intellectuals and the middle class throughout Europe in books, newspapers, pamphlets, personal letters, songs and visits.

II) Art and Literature in the Age of Reason

- Under the influence of the Enlightenment, the new artistic style changes from a grand, ornate (**baroque**) style to simple and elegant (**neoclassical**)
- Artists and architects worked in a simple and elegant style that borrow ideas from classical Greece and Rome
- Three composers from Vienna Austria, Franz Joseph Haydn, Ludwig von Beethoven, and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart are among the great music composers of this period.
- Beethoven's early work were in the same classical style as Mozart, however his later compositions began new trends which carried music into the Age of Romanticism.

II) Art and Literature in the Age of Reason

- Novels (lengthy works of fiction) present entertaining stories written in everyday English appeal to the middle class.
- English novelists such as Samuel Richardson and Henry Fielding developed many features of the modern novel, such as carefully crafted plots, use of suspense and climax and explored their characters' thoughts and feelings.
- A 3rd English novelist Daniel Defoe wrote Robinson Crusoe, a tale of a sailor stranded on a tropical island.

III) Enlightenment and the Monarchy

- The spirit of Enlightenment also swept through Europe's royal courts, and many philosophes felt the monarchy that respected peoples rights was the best way to govern.
- Monarchs who embraced the new ideas and made reforms became known as **enlightened despots**, despot meaning absolute rule.
- While rulers supported the new ideas they were motivated by their desire to make their country stronger and their rule more effective, they had no intention of giving up power.

III) Enlightenment and the Monarchy

- Frederick II of Prussia, who wrote to Voltaire, announced his goal is to serve and strengthen his country. He granted religious freedom, reduced censorship, abolished torture and improved education.
- The most radical of the reformers was Austria's Joseph II, who introduced freedom of worship for protestants and Jews, freedom of the press, and ended serfdom by saying peasants should be paid for their labor with cash.
- The ruler most admired by the philosophes was Catherine II of Russia who had read the works of the philosophes and exchanged many letters with Voltaire.

III) Enlightenment and the Monarchy

- Catherine eventually makes limited reforms that did little to improve the life of the Russian peasants
- After a massive uprising of the serfs in 1773, she later revokes the reforms and brutally crushed the rebellion.
- Catherine the Great does vastly enlarges the Russian Empire and gains a warm weather port, starting it on the way to becoming an international power.