



LIFE IN THE 18TH CENTURY

Unit 4: Chapter 20

I. Marriage and the family

A. **Nuclear family** common in pre-industrial Europe: Father, Mother, & children



B. Age at marriage higher prior to 1750

1. The Poor married later in life (late 20s or older for both men and women).
 - a. economic independence (**land ownership**)
 - b. Men required land / women needed a dowry
2. Many men and women never married.



C. Young adults work away from home

1. males: apprentices or laborers
2. females: **domestic servants** –
often victim of physical & sexual abuse



D. Premarital Sex and Birth-control Practices.

1. Premarital sex common before 1750.

a. Communal control

2. Birth Control

E. New Patterns of Marriage and Legitimacy

1. Growth of cottage industry: young people married for love.

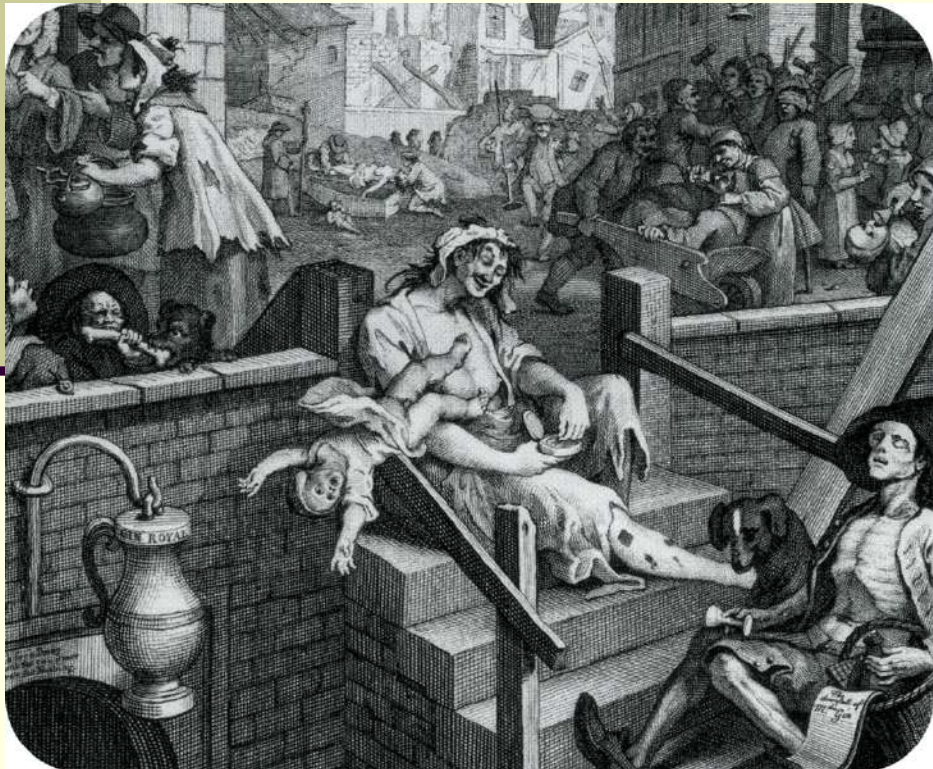
2. 1750-1850: explosion illegitimate births.

F. Changes in attitudes toward children

1. Child care and nursing
 - a. Wet-nursing & swaddling
2. **Infanticide** was rampant due to severe poverty
3. Children defined by indifference and strict physical discipline
 - a. due to high mortality rates
 - b. **“Spare the rod and spoil the child.”**

G. Foundling hospitals emerged

1. St. Vincent de Paul
2. extremely high mortality rates in foundling homes 50 to 90% infant deaths

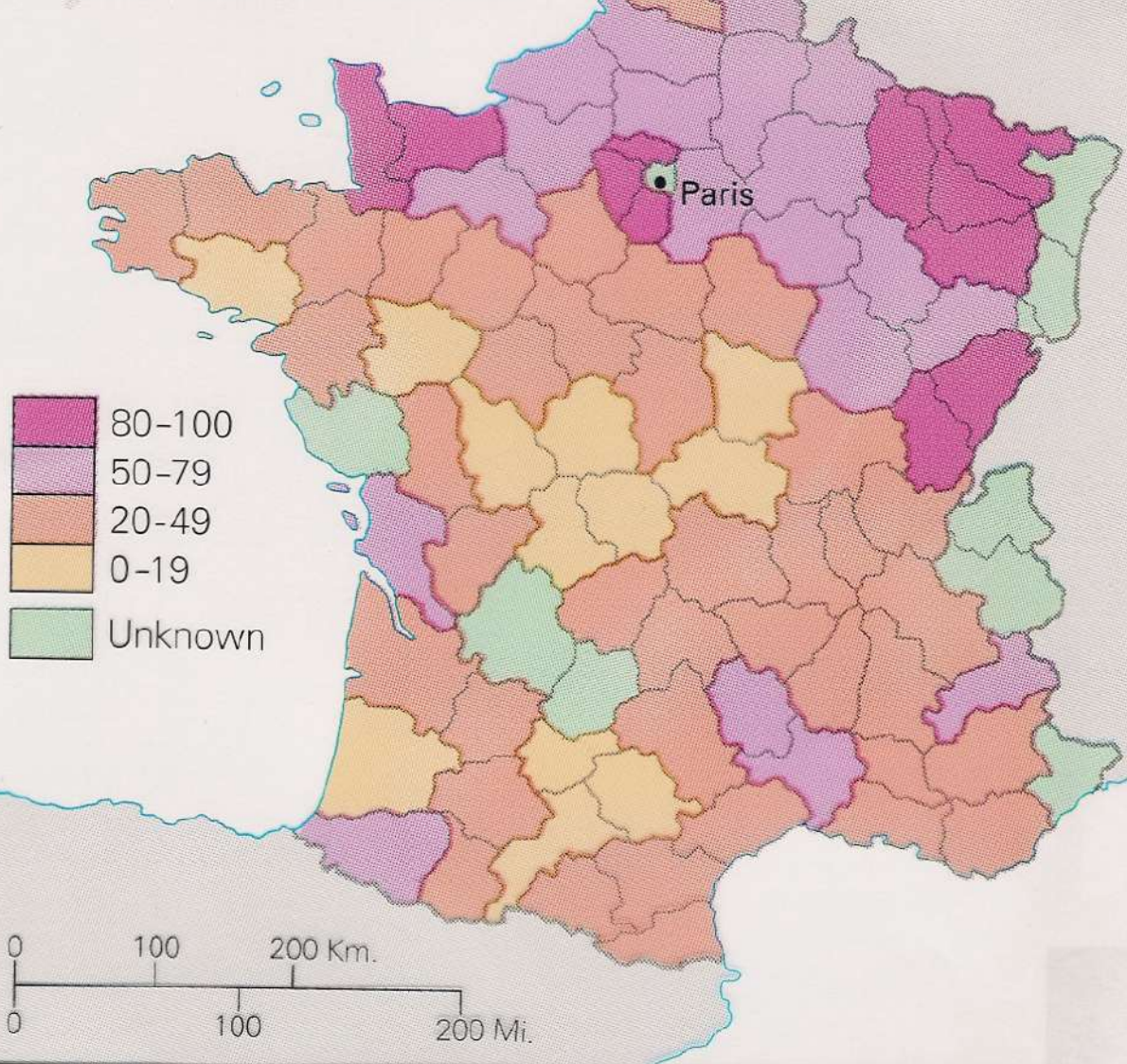


H. Reformation spurred formal education for the masses.



1. Prussia first to develop universal compulsory education
2. Enlightenment – emphasis on education
 - a. Rousseau’s – *Emile*
 - 1) called for greater love & tenderness toward children

Percent of bridegrooms able to sign their names on the marriage register, 1786-1790.



Literacy Rate in 18th century France

II. Nutrition and medical advances

A. Increased life spans

1. Disappearance of the plague and starvation.
 - a. Brown Rat drove out the black rat
2. Development of public health techniques
 - a. sanitation / sewers / quarantine



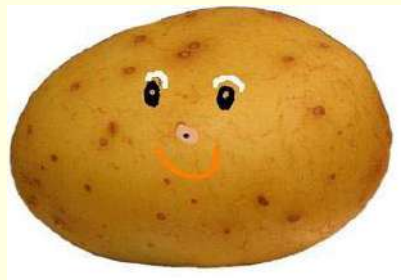
B. Improvement in diet and nutrition

1. Upper-class diet

- a. rich in meats, sweets, nuts & cheese
- b. suffered from gout, scurvy, and heart disease (lacked Vitamins A & C)

2. Poor peoples' diet

- a. primarily bread & vegetables
- b. suffered from malnutrition & starvation



C. Medicine

1. **Smallpox** (killed 60 million in 18th century)

a. Lady Mary Wortley Montagu

1) smallpox inoculation

b. **Edward Jenner**

1) Cowpox could be vaccine
against smallpox



D. Medical Professions



1. **Midwives** – Madame du Coudray
 - a. Manual on the art of childbirth
 - 1) best at treating medical needs of women
2. **Physicians** – university educated, typically only treated the wealthy using traditional methods
3. **Faith healers** – exorcisms, most effective with psychological maladies
4. **Apothecaries** – herbs & medicines
5. **Surgeons** - glorified butchers, amputations

III. Religious Reform

A. Church hierarchy and state power sought to regulate religious life at the local level.

1. Local parishes were focal point of religious devotion
2. Protestant authorities regulated their churches strictly.

B. Pietism and Methodism provided challenge to established churches.

1. **“Pietism”** led to Protestant revival.
 - a. Emotional content of Christian faith stressed.
 - b. Reasserted “priesthood of all believers.”
 - 1) Spurred public education.
 - c. believed in practical power of Christian rebirth in everyday affairs – “born again”

C. John Wesley (1703-1791) founded **Methodism.**

1. sought to reform stagnant state of religion in England.
 - a. preached in open fields.
 - b. rejected predestination.
2. The Great Awakening & Evangelism

