

The Enlightened Despots



What did the Enlightened thinkers think?

- Most wanted absolute monarchs that would push forward their ideas.
- Take power away from the aristocracy, church, parliaments, diets, etc.



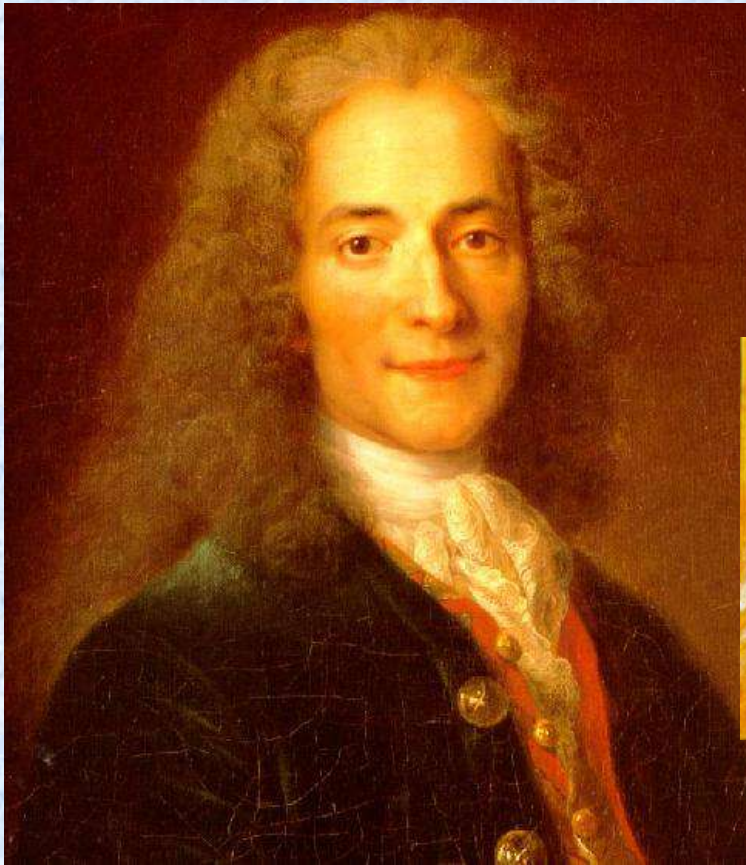
Frederick II of Prussia

- Previous knowledge, what do we already know about him?
- Sparked the war of Austrian Succession when he invaded Silesia.
- Sparked the Seven Years War when he invaded Saxony.



An Enlightened Thinker?

- Had Voltaire serve on his court.
- Wrote history, literary criticisms, and music



Religious Toleration

- Prussia was a Lutheran country.
- Catholics and Jews welcomed.
- Protected Catholics in Silesia.



Muslims Welcome in Prussia

- Frederick II said that if the Turks wanted to settle in Prussia, he would have a mosque built for them.



Other Enlightened Ideas...

- **Most qualified get jobs regardless of rank or family.**
- **Nobles attended college.**
- **“I am a servant of the people.”**



Crime

- The use of torture is banned.
- Capital punishment used sparingly.



Downfall

- High taxes to pay for the protection of noble interests kept Prussia from flourishing economically.



Russia

- **Russia was ruled by a host of different people prior to Catherine II.**
- **Russia was in turmoil.**
- **Peter III comes to power.**
- **Peter is married to Catherine II, a German Princess...**



Murder???



Catherine the Great

- A fan of Diderot and Voltaire.
- Protected Christians in the Ottoman Empire.



Expanded Russia

- Took over Crimea and had free access through the Bosphorus Strait.



A Peasant Uprising Brings Fear...

- Abandons Enlightened thoughts.
- Censors Books.



Joseph II of Austria

- **Imposed religious, legal, and social reforms.**
- **Slept on straw and ate boiled beef.**
- **Ended Serfdom.**



Brought Poland, Bavaria, Roman, and Hungary under his control.



Religious reforms

- **Freedom of Religion**
- **Controlled the Roman Catholic Church in the Habsburg Empire.**



Weakness

- He never won the support of his political constituents.



Task:

- Create a 3 column character chart for Catherine, Joseph II, and Frederick II
- Using your books, write examples of Enlightenment ideas adopted by these individuals.
- Include examples of anti-Enlightenment ideas.