

From Puritanism to the Enlightenment 1640-1780

Notes (You will be quizzed on this information and it will show up on a unit test – please keep this paper in your notebook to study later.)

What will we be reading? We will be reading *Journal of the Plague Year* by Daniel Defoe and *A Modest Proposal* by Jonathan Swift.

What makes it interesting? Both of these writers expose flaws of society. You may also recognize imagery from popular movies and cartoons. Swift also wrote *Gulliver's Travels* and Defoe wrote *Robinson Crusoe* from which the concept for the movie *Cast Away* came.

Notes (from pages 493 in your text)

Time: The Restoration (refers to “restoring” the monarchy to England)

- In the 1640s, King Charles II and the Puritans were in conflict that eventually led to a civil war, the execution of the king and a decade of strict Puritan government
- The Restoration refers to the Restoration of Charles II to the throne in 1660
- Ended in 1780 after the period known as the Enlightenment and Neoclassicism which focused on science and philosophy

Who ruled?

- A variety of monarchs including Charles I, the Puritan Commonwealth, Charles II, as well as James II, George I Parliament

What was going on back then?

The **Puritan movement** was a radical form of Protestantism that believed in the “pure” word of God based on their interpretations of the Bible. Conflicts between James and Parliament emerged questioning who had authority. Eventually, this conflict resulted in a Civil War. Oliver Cromwell led the Parliamentary army and at the end of the war tried the king for treason. Cromwell led England as Lord Protector until his death in 1658. However, there was no solid ruling party to follow.

The Restoration of Charles was a statement about the country’s need for stability. England had gone through a difficult Civil War and what people wanted most was order.

Politics & Religion: Again in England, politics and religion were intertwined. People wanted religious freedom, but did not want to struggle for it. Bringing back the Protestant king Charles II helped insure that stability. In fact, James II was “peacefully” removed and housed in France because of his Catholic affiliation. At this time, Parliament emerged as the true ruler of England, just as it is today. Two parties formed in Parliament: the Whigs and the Tories. Also England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland united into Great Britain. However, Ireland was “least fortunate” for it was used by England as a “colony for economic gain.”

Setbacks: The Plague of 1665 & the Great Fire in 1666. (London was rebuilt by the design of Christopher Wren.)

Developments: Sir Isaac Newton (math and astronomy); William Harvey (circulation of blood); John Locke (philosophy & human behavior)

From Puritanism to the Enlightenment 1640-1780

Lifestyle: London had half a million people / all of England over 5 ½ million. London developed in a disorganized manner, known as urban sprawl, yet its commerce and architecture were impressive. Most interesting was the development of social class/order. It was based on a stratified system that was believed to be divinely ordained.

1. The Great, who live profusely.
2. The Rich, who live very plentifully.
3. The Middle Sort, who live well.
4. The Working Trades, who labor hard, but feel not want.
5. The Country People, Farmers, etc who fare indifferently.
6. The Poor, that fare hard.
7. The Miserable, that really pinch and suffer want.

Lifestyle continued...

The wealthy wore elaborate layers of fine clothes and wore their hair in tall, powdered wigs. The poor did not wear these types of clothes, but wore simpler clothing and hairstyles.

Paintings and architecture were generally simple, though there were lavish “Georgian” estates. The term “picturesque” emerged, meaning resembling pictures. Professionals, middle-class, and some artists gathered in the first coffeehouses, though this wasn’t accessible to all.

The Enlightenment was known as the Age of Reason, referring to a time when people were 1) content and 2) used reason guided by science to view the world.

Education: People did not believe in education for all, thinking that it “would elevate the humble people above their station.” Oxford and Cambridge were the two universities. Most of the population was illiterate, though a few middle class and women did get a basic education.

Literature: Popular forms of literature include comedies of manners and novels. Poetry was not used as much earlier in this period. Writers were dependent on patrons who had some control over what was being written. (If the writer wanted to make money, they often had to write things they didn’t necessarily want to.) Lending libraries were established, though people had to pay fees to borrow books.

The literature generally focused on public rather than private life and can be broken into three distinct periods:

The Restoration: focused on court life, French style, traditional values & wit

The Age of Pope: focuses on moral analysis often in the form of satire

The Age of Johnson: focuses on actual life in the form of the novel

Well-known authors and their work:

John Milton – *Paradise Lost*

John Bunyan – *Pilgrim’s Progress*

Alexander Pope – *The Rape of the Lock*

Danielle Defoe – *Robinson Crusoe* and *A Journal of the Plague Year*

Jonathan Swift – *Gulliver’s Travels* and *A Modest Proposal*

Samuel Johnson – *A Dictionary of the English Language*

From Puritanism to the Enlightenment 1640-1780

Daniel Defoe

- wrote *A Journal of the Plague Year*, a fictional re-creation of the bubonic plague told in journal form
- wrote *The Life and Strange Surprising Adventures of Robinson Crusoe* and *Moll Flanders*
- was persecuted and cheered when jailed for speaking out against religious intolerance
- was a secret agent for the government

Jonathan Swift:

- Born in Ireland
- Was frustrated with his career status (he had hoped to climb the ladder and be successful, but often just missed opportunities by chance)
- He was disgusted by the inequities among people and society.
- Said “man is capable of reason but seldom uses it”
- Known for using irony and satire to make commentaries about society
- Also wrote *Gulliver's Travels*

Terms:

Irony – the result of a difference between what is expected and what actually occurs

Satire – an often humorous portrayal of human flaws to point out a problem with people or society