Chapter 5 – The Enlightenment and the American Revolution

I. Philosophy in the Age of Reason (5-1)

A. Scientific Revolution Sparks the Enlightenment

1. Natural Law: Rules or discoveries made by reason

B. Hobbes and Lock Have Conflicting Views

1. Hobbes Believes in Powerful Government
   a. Thomas Hobbes distrusts humans (cruel-greedy-selfish) and favors strong government to keep order
   b. Promotes social contract—gaining order by giving up freedoms to government
   c. Outlined his ideas in his work called Leviathan (1651)

2. Locke Advocates Natural Rights
   a. Philosopher John Locke believed people were good and had natural rights—right to life, liberty, and property
   b. In his Two Treatises of Government, Lock argued that government’s obligation is to protect people’s natural rights and not take advantage of their position in power

C. The Philosophes

1. Philosophes: enlightenment thinkers that believed that the use of reason could lead to reforms of government, law, and society

2. Montesquieu Advances the Idea of Separation of Powers
   a. Montesquieu—had sharp criticism of absolute monarchy and admired Britain for dividing the government into three branches
   b. The Spirit of the Laws—outlined his belief in the separation of powers (legislative, executive, and judicial branches) to check each other to stop one branch from gaining too much power

3. Voltaire Defends Freedom of Thought
   a. Voltaire—most famous of the philosophe who published many works arguing for tolerance and reason—believed in the freedom of religions and speech
   b. He spoke out against the French government and Catholic Church—makes powerful enemies and is imprisoned twice for his views
4. Diderot Edits the *Encyclopedia*
   a. Denis Diderot begins publishing *Encyclopedia* (28-volume set of books with enlightenment ideas:  
      i. denounced slavery, praised freedom of expression, and urged education to all—as well as attacking 
         divine-right theory and traditional religion.
   b. *Encyclopedia* articles anger French government and Catholic Church
   c. *Encyclopedia* helps spread Enlightenment ideas across Europe
5. Rousseau Promotes The *Social Contract*
   a. Jean-Jacques Rousseau—believed that people in their natural state were basically good thus favors individual freedom and direct democracy
   b. *Social Contract*: outlined his belief that a government receive power from the people as long as they protect people’s natural rights
6. Cesare Bonesana Beccaria
   a. believed that laws existed to preserve social order not to avenge crimes.
   b. *On Crimes and Punishments* condemned torture, the death penalty, and other common abuses of justice.
   c. greatly influenced criminal law reformers in Europe and America.
7. Women Challenge the *Philosophes*
   a. Many Enlightenment thinkers take traditional views of women’s role—believe women had natural rights but those rights were limited to home and family
   b. Germaine de Staël in France and Catharine Macaulay and Mary Wollstonecraft of Britain argued that women were being excluded unfairly from the social contract itself.
   c. Prominent writer Mary Wollstonecraft urges greater rights for women:  
      i. In *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* she argued women need quality education to be virtuous and useful
ii. urges women to go into traditionally male professions like politics
d. Some wealthy women use their status to spread Enlightenment ideas

D. New Economic Thinking
1. Physiocrats—French thinkers that focused on economic reforms
2. Laissez Faire Replaces Mercantilism
   a. Physiocrats rejected mercantilism and favored laissez faire; also supported free trade and opposed tariffs.
   b. Mercantilism: required government regulation of economy to achieve favorable balance of trade (export more than you imported in order to build wealth)
   c. Laissez faire: policy allowing business to operate with little or no government interference
3. Smith Argues for a Free Market
   a. Adam Smith’s *The Wealth of Nations* argues that a free market should be allowed to regulate business activity.
   b. Manufacturing, trade, wages, profits, and economic growth are all linked to Supply and Demand.
III. Enlightenment Ideas Spread (5-2)

E. New Ideas Challenge Society

1. Writers Face Censorship
   a. The government and church authorities turned to censorship—controlling what was produced and/or limiting access to the ideas and information
   b. Many books were banned or burned and writers were imprisoned
   c. To avoid persecution, many authors created pen names and/or hid their ideas in fictional works

2. Ideas Spread in Salons
   a. Paris becomes center of the Enlightenment during 1700s
   b. City is home to salons—informal gatherings where thinkers (such as writers, philosophes, etc.) discuss ideas

F. Arts and Literature Reflect New Ideas

1. From Grandeur to Charm
   a. Pre-Enlightenment art style is baroque—grand, ornate design
   b. Enlightenment style is either:
      i. Neoclassical Style: based on Greek/Roman themes
      ii. Rococo Style: moved away from religion and was lighter, elegant, and charming

2. The Enlightenment Inspires Composers
   a. Classical music emerges; lighter, more elegant than earlier style
      i. Movement led by composers such as Johann Sebastian Bach, Franz Joseph Haydn, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Ludwig van Beethoven

3. The Novel Takes Shape
   a. Novel emerges: works of fiction with detailed plots and characters
      i. Samuel Richardson’s *Pamela* considered first true English novel (about a servant girl)
      ii. Daniel Defoe writes *Robinson Crusoe*, an exciting tale about a sailor shipwreck on a tropical island.
G. Enlightened Despots Embrace New Ideas

1. Some absolute monarchs accepted Enlightenment ideas and used their power to bring about social & political change and thus strengthen their own rule—they became known as enlightened despots.

2. Frederick II Attempts Reform
   a. Frederick the Great (King of Prussia) saw himself as the “first servant of the state”
      i. He reform education, justice system, religion—allowing people to choose their own religion
      ii. He did, however, fail to end serfdom

3. Catherine the Great Studies Philosophes’ Works
   a. Catherine II (Empress of Russia) believed in the Enlightenment ideas of equality and liberty while not losing any of her power.
   b. Sought to abolish capital punishment and torture
   c. Mainly remembered for expanding Russian Empire

4. Joseph II Continues Reform
   a. Joseph II (Austrian Hapsburg Emperor) traveled in disguise to learn of people’s problems
   b. Allows freedoms of worship and the press (ending censorship)
   c. Chose talented middle-class people to run departments
   d. Abolished serfdom (but the practice is reinstated after his death)

H. Lives of the Majority Change Slowly

1. Peasants in the West were more prosperous than those in the East
2. In Russia and Eastern Europe, peasants were Serfs and considered property
VI. Birth of the American Republic

I. Britain Becomes a Global Power
   1. Britain’s rose to world power, in part, due to its: island location, colonial possessions, favorable business climate, powerful navy
   2. Controlling the Island: Britain merged with Scotland and took over & oppressed the Irish
   3. British Government
      a. Britain developed three new political institutions: political parties, the cabinet, and the office of prime minister.
      b. Britain had developed a constitutional government—government whose power is defined and limited by law
   4. In 1760, George III began his 60-year reign and he wanted to reestablish the power of the monarch

J. The Colonies in the Mid-1700s
   3. The British controlled 13 colonies—colonists had control over much of their own affairs
   4. Colonists identify less and less as British subjects: many began to believe that the U.S. should break away from Britain

K. Colonist Express Discontent
   4. Britain in Debt
      a. War (British vs. French) drained the British of money and king believed colonist should help with debt
      b. Parliament passed the Sugar Act (import tax) in 1764 and the Stamp Act (tax on items such as newspapers and pamphlets) in 1765
      c. Colonist protested (no taxation without representation)

5. Colonists Rebel Against Britain
   a. Boston Massacre: In 1770, British soldiers opened fire on protesters who had been pelting them with snowballs
   b. Boston Tea Party: In 1773, colonist destroyed tea to protest British taxes
c. Continental Congress: Colonial leaders (John Adams, George Washington, etc.) continued to meet to discuss what actions needed to be taken

6. Colonists Declare Independence
   a. Lexington-Concord: Militia guarding weapons depot clash with British Soldiers—unordered “shot heard around the world” started the American Revolution
   b. Declaration of Independence: Thomas Jefferson wrote (inspired by John Locke’s ideas) and reflect the principle of popular sovereignty: it was adopted on July 4, 1776

L. The American Revolution Continues
5. Advantages
   a. Britain Advantages: had professional soldiers, more money, a superior navy, and one third of the colonists were loyal to the King
   b. Colonists Advantages: fighting at home, good leadership, and fighting for survival (freedom)

6. France Provides Support
   a. In 1777 the French joined on the side of the Americans
   b. The Netherlands and Spain also joined the Americans

7. Treaty of Paris Ends the War
   a. In 1781, General Washington forced the surrender of the British at Yorktown
   b. Two years later, the Treaty of Paris ended the war which recognized U.S. independence

M. Articles of Confederation
1. The Articles of Confederation: America was governed by the Articles of Confederation for several years, but they were too weak
2. Northwest Ordinance of 1787
   a. created procedures for dividing up the Northwest Territory and requirements for admission of new states
3. A Weak National Government
   a. Articles of Confederation set government plan for new republic—create legislature only, no executive or judicial branches
b. Weak national government fails to provide unity and order

4. Federalist Papers
   a. Federalist favored the new constitution (strong central government)
   b. Federalist Papers—written by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay—were done to convince people that a stronger central government was needed

N. A New Constitution
   1. Enlightenment Ideas Have Great Impact
      a. During the summer of 1787, a new constitution was created and the new document established a government run by the people, for the people
      b. Although there were numerous representatives working on the constitution, James Madison is credited with being the “Father of the Constitution”
      c. The Constitution created a federal republic, with power divided between the federal, or national, government and the states
      d. Created three branches of government legislative, executive, and judicial (from Montesquieu)
      e. The Bill of Rights (the first amendments to the Constitution) recognized the ideas that people had basic rights that the govt. must protect, such as: freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, etc.

2. Symbol of Freedom
   a. The United States Constitution would serve as a model for other democratic nations