

AP World History  
Chapter 17: The Transformation of  
the West  
Chapter Notes

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- The Italian Renaissance: Starts Italy due to independence of Italian City-states, there was a Northern Renaissance as well (based in Lowlands: Netherlands)
- Humanism: focus on abilities of Humans to be able to think and be proactive, emphasis on Greece/Rome (artistic styles), development of new artistic styles such as use of perspective
- Thinkers like Machiavelli, Petrarch represent new Humanistic thinking
- Other European monarchies attracted to Italy, attempt to invade (France for example)
- Renaissance was an intellectual movement, did not effect common everyday life, Roman Catholic (RC) Church still very powerful

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- European continue to advance in terms of technology: invention of printing press (based on ideas supplied by Chinese)- Gutenberg: use of movable type: leads to mass production of books (knowledge) which means information flows further
- Family structures changing also: late marriage age with emphasis on nuclear family, causes changes in gender relations

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## The Reformation

- 1517 Martin Luther begins process to break away from RC church
- Luther stressed that only faith could gain salvation and challenged many Catholic beliefs, including papal authority, monasticism, and priestly celibacy. He said that the Bible should be translated into vernacular languages (which could be done through use of Printing press)

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- Causes of Reformation are extensive: power issues, corruption of RC church, changes in European society, etc.
- Luther will break away with support of German princes, his churches become known as Lutheran, have a very different view of Christianity
- Henry VIII in England breaks away over dispute of divorce, creates his own English church (Anglican) but does not change dogma
- Another version of Christianity based on teachings of John Calvin is established in Swiss area, idea of "predestination" becomes popular.

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- RC Church responds with Counter- Reformation (AKA Catholic Reformation)- creates a new “shock troop” in the form of the Jesuits- RC Church does makes reforms
- Europe enters a period of religious & political wars (from early 1500s to late 1600s): France has a major religious conflict which finally results in Edict of Nantes in 1598
- Thirty Years War is very damaging to Europe- ends with Treaty of Westphalia in 1648
- England enters period of Civil Wars culminating with execution of King Charles, and rule of Oliver Cromwell (a dictatorship for all practical purpose)
- Period ends around 1700 or so: Europe now divided into two religious camps (Protestant & Catholic)- both sides agree to live together, new political powers in place (France & England)- two different types of monarchy: Absolute and Parliamentary

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- ### The Commercial Revolution
- With large amounts of gold & silver flowing in from Americas (to western Europe), inflation sets in
  - Causes entrepreneurs to take risks, with more need for capital, rise of banks & insurance industries
  - Ways to move capital around develop, new trade leads to increased productivity and better living conditions, better nutrition

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• As a result of improving economy plus continued urbanization, we see a developing “proletariat” (urban working class) in western Europe. Series of social protests begin (in response to changes occurring in society due to economic changes)- groups like the “levelers” in England and the witchcraft hysteria are connected.

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**The Scientific Revolution (SR)**

- Begins with astronomy, replacement of geocentric view of universe with heliocentric
- Copernicus will challenge geocentric model
- Others start to follow Copernicus such as Galileo, data supplied by observers like Kepler will help to prove the case, culminates with work of Newton
- Use of new ways of thinking: inductive reasoning

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• Ideas generated by SR begin to filter into popular thought, influence development of things like deism and political ideas pushed by writers like John Locke, etc.

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**Changes in the Political Realm**

- Feudal monarchy is replaced by strong & powerful monarchs such as Louis XIV in France (“Absolute monarchy”) but also see a parliamentary monarchy develop in England (after English Civil War, settlement is called “Glorious Revolution”)
- This leads to development of the modern nation-state

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- In central Europe start to see rise of Prussia which becomes the nucleus for a unified Germany by end of 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- Warfare is quite common during this period, usually over colonial possessions, England will be big winner.

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**Enlightenment**

- Popularization of ideas of SR leads to Enlightenment- applying scientific thinking to social problems. Examples would be Diderot’s creation of the *Encyclopedia* & Voltaire
- New economic theory develops with Adam Smith & his book *Wealth of Nations* (replaces Mercantilism)
- By 1750 western Europe is prospering with growing population (influence of potato) and is poised to begin Industrial Revolution

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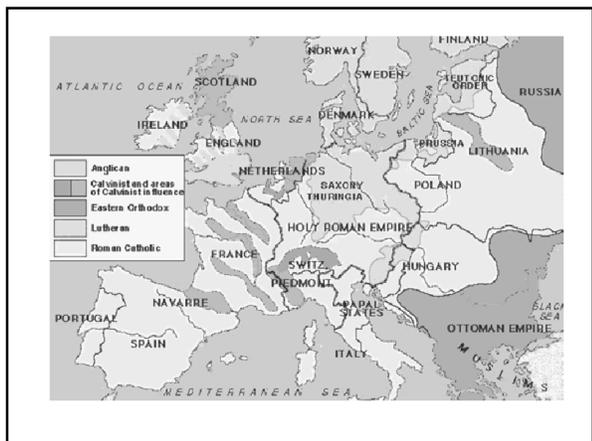
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