

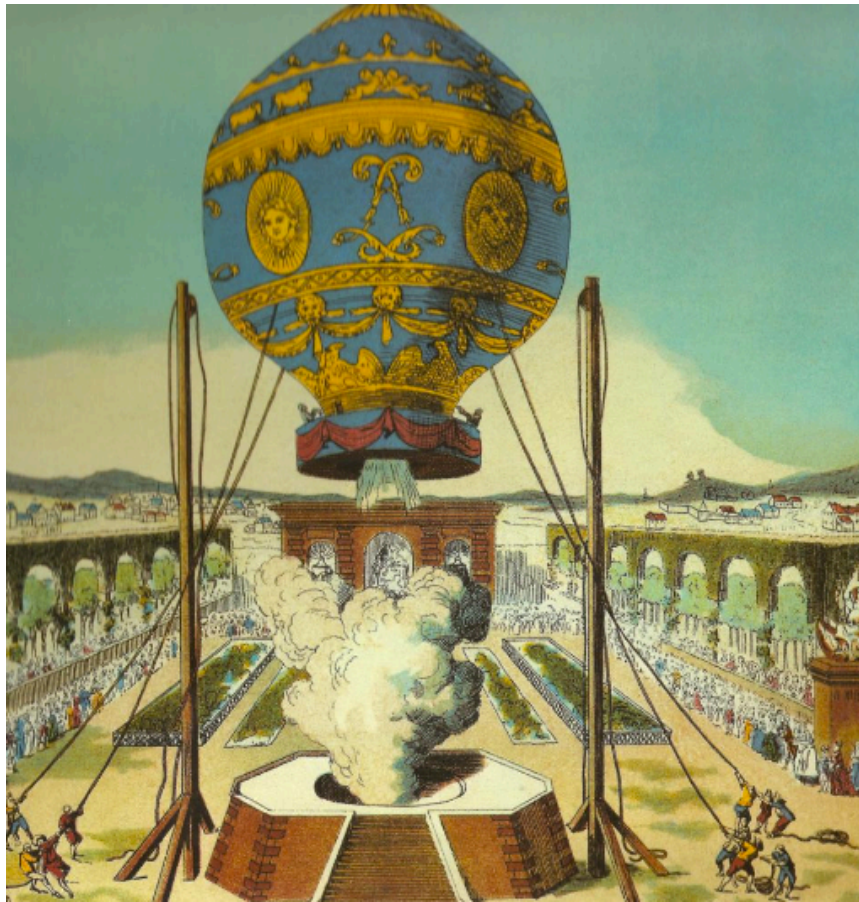
History

Theme I: The 18th Century, Expansion, Philosophy and Revolution

Chapter 2: The Enlightenment

Introduction

The 18th century was a period of prosperity and the birth and development of new ideas in Europe which called into question the fundamental order of society.



The flight of the Montgolfier brothers' hot air balloon at Versailles, 1783

The Montgolfier brother demonstrated a new scientific invention at Versailles in front of King Louis XVI and his court on 19th September 1783. The hot air balloon travelled several kilometres before descending back to the ground.

Key Philosophers and their ideas

Montesquieu
1689-1755



Separation
of powers

Rousseau
1712-1788



The law expresses
the will of the people

Voltaire
1694-1778



Religious Tolerance

D.N.L. Vocabulary

- 1. Absolutism:** describes how monarchs held all the power over France before the Revolution.
- 2. Academy (académie):** an intellectual society of literary writers, scientists and philosophers which grouped together the urban elite.
- 3. The Enlightenment (Lumières):** describes a current of thought in Europe during the 18th century developed by philosophers, scientists and artists. It was guided by the principle of reason, knowledge and critical analysis of the world.
- 4. Enlightened despot: (despote éclairé):** an authoritarian sovereign inspired by the ideas of the philosophers to undertake religious, political and economic reforms in their country.
- 5. Natural Rights (droits naturels):** universal rights which all people have from birth.
- 6. Philosopher (philosophe):** an intellectual who sought to understand the world through the use of reason.
- 7. Separation of powers:** concept of dividing power in a country so that one person could not control everything.

The diffusion of the new ideas of the philosophers of the Enlightenment

In the 18th century, most of the European states were led by royal dynasties headed by a king or queen who held **absolute power**. However, some rulers, such as Catherine the Great of Russia and Frederic II of Prussia were influenced by the ideas of the philosophers. They were known as **enlightened despots**.



Translations

Models of government

Absolute monarchy
 Parliamentary monarchy
 Republic
 Limits of the Germanic Holy
 Roman Empire

The Spread of Enlightenment Ideas

Great European centres of learning
 Academies at the end of the 18th century
 Publishers of scientific and philosophical papers

Voyages of ...

The Birth of Public Opinion

During the 18th century the King censored anyone who contested his power. Initially the new ideas of the Enlightenment were discussed only among the elites members of society (e.g. the nobles and the bourgeoisie) but bit by bit they were diffused into society in new meeting places such as coffee houses and saloons.

Document 1: A Parisian saloon.



New ideas circulated in saloons such as the one shown here.

Aristocrats, like Prince de Conti, were received in rooms like this in the big hotels. Here they listened to musicians (Mozart is shown sitting down on the left of this picture) and read philosophical books and essays.

Document 2: A famous Parisian café, le Procope



The Procope coffee house was frequented by artists and philosophers such as Voltaire and Rousseau, and also people from all walks of life: bourgeoisie, artisans and richer peasants.

Jean d'Alembert: a man of learning

Document 1

D'Alembert was both a scientist and philosopher. He was one of the most important mathematicians and physicists of the 18th century in France and Europe. He worked with another philosopher, called Diderot, to produce the first Encyclopédie. This work gathered together knowledge across all the domains: science, philosophy, history, arts, etc. This work was published all around Europe and it helped to spread the ideas of the age of reason.

Document 2



Timeline

1717: born in Paris. He was abandoned but brought up by the wife of an artisan.

During his studies he adopted the pseudonym d'Alembert.

1741: he was admitted to the Royal Academy of Sciences in Paris.

1754: he entered the Académie française.

1747-58: he produced the Encyclopaedia with Diderot. He wrote more than 1700 articles on Maths and Science.

He was friends with Diderot, Voltaire and Montesquieu.

1759: the encyclopaedia was censured, d'Almebert was attacked.

1783: buried In Paris without a religious ceremony.

Document 3



The encyclopaedia consisted of 17 volumes of texts and was written by 150 expert authors. It was banned by the King in 1752 and then condemned by the Pope in 1759. King Louis XV proclaimed that this work was intended to destroy royal authority and establish a spirit of independence and revolt and at the same time corrupt morals.

