Thursday, March 1

Announcements

Due to the shortened period...

• We will grade your Period 4 notebook on Monday.
• We will setup the Period 5 notebook on Monday.

Today in Class...

• Complete the class notes on the Enlightenment using the PPT posted on my website.
• Complete the charts in your notes using the handouts posted on my website.
• Work on the research for your Enlightenment Salon person that you will represent in class on Monday.
The Enlightenment
The word Enlightenment refers to a change in outlook among many educated Europeans that began during the 1600s.

The new outlook put great trust in reason as the key to human progress.

In the 1700s, this way of thinking became widespread in Europe.
The Roots of the Enlightenment

• Enlightenment thinkers felt that rational understanding would lead to great progress in government and society.

• In 1702, Bernard de Fontenelle wrote that the new century “will become more enlightened day by day, so that all previous centuries will be lost in darkness by comparison.”
The Roots of the Enlightenment

• In France, thinkers called philosophes championed these ideas. They often gathered in informal meetings called salons where they exchanged and debated ideas.
• Gatherings like these, some of which were organized by women, helped to shape and spread the ideas of the Enlightenment.
Influence of the Scientific Revolution

• Enlightenment thinkers were inspired by the example of scientists such as Galileo and Newton.
  – Scientists used observation and logic to understand the physical world. Their methods were rapidly overturning old beliefs.
  – Now thinkers wanted to take a similar approach to problems of human life.
Influence of the Scientific Revolution

– Enlightenment thinkers asked questions like:
  • What natural law governs the way people should live?
  • How well do our institutions agree with natural law?
  • Does natural law give all people certain rights?
  • What is the best form of government?

– Philosophers didn’t always agree but they shared a trust in reason and observation as the best sources of understanding and progress.
Influence of the Renaissance and the Reformation

• The humanists of the Renaissance questioned accepted beliefs. They celebrated the dignity and worth of the individual.
• During the Reformation, Protestants rebelled against the Catholic Church and put individual conscience ahead of the authority of the church.
• Enlightenment thinkers went even farther in rejecting authority and upholding the freedom of individuals to think for themselves.
Influence of Classical Cultures

• Trust in reason goes all the way back to the ancient Greeks as does the idea that people should have a say in their government.
• Used the examples of democracy in ancient Athens and the republic of ancient Rome.
Influence of Christian Ideals

• Enlightenment philosophers preferred rational understanding to faith based on the Bible. Yet most of them saw the laws of nature as the work of an intelligent Creator. They saw human progress as a sign of God’s goodness.

• Often their approach to moral problems reflected Christian values, such as respect for others and for a moral law.
New Ideas of the Enlightenment

• Believed that humans were perfectly able to discover truth for themselves rather than relying on the Bible as God’s word.
• Ideas about right and wrong should be based on rational insight, not the teachings of religious authorities.
• Questioned the divine right of kings and stressed individual rights that governments must respect.
For the rest of class today

- You are working individually to study Hobbes, Locke, Montesquieu, Voltaire, and Beccaria as well as women and the impact of the Enlightenment.
  - These are the big 4 of the Enlightenment!
  - The readings are posted on my website. They are short, one-page readings on each person.
  - When you are done, work on your Enlightenment Salon research for the person you will represent in class on Monday.