Account for the reasons why the western peasantry realized societal and economic changes in the 18th century while the eastern peasantry saw little change in their social and economic status. (2 body paragraphs).

(Contextualization) In Europe in the 18th century, the Agricultural and Industrial Revolutions began in Great Britain through a series of innovations in tools and methods of production. The Agricultural Revolution represented a shift from subsistence agriculture to a more capitalist, commercial form of farming, and the Industrial Revolution represented the growth in the production of consumer goods and the increased consumer demand for household items. (Thesis) In the west, the Agricultural Revolution and Industrial Revolution created social and economic changes with the introduction of urban capitalism onto country merchants and the growth of the middle and artisan classes. However, on the other side of Europe, the economy and society remained static and changed very little. (Argument) The changes and innovations associated with the “revolutions” of the 18th century were concentrated in western Europe, originating in Great Britain.

Body 1: In Western Europe, the Agricultural Revolution caused a change in the economy of the country-side, and the Industrial Revolution caused social changes resulting from the growth of cities and factories.

- **Evidence**: The enclosure system of the AR was fronted by landowners who wanted to increase their profits as the price and value of wheat increased.
- **Analysis**: Traditionally, under the open-field system, the villages would control who would grow what, and the farmers shared a common pasture to let their livestock graze. However, as landowners enclosed their lands and took control of the shared pastures and reclaimed wasteland, it introduced a capitalistic attitude of the urban merchant onto country-side merchants. Rather than a stable food supply, these landowners aimed for a growing food supply and adopted the crop-rotation system to further their profits.
- **Evidence**: In the consumer revolution which accompanied the beginning of the IR, there was an increased production of consumer goods which lowered the price of a luxurious life and allowed lower classes to imitate the lives of higher classes.
- **Analysis**: In cities, the middle bourgeoisie class played a major role in the revolution in consumption. They were the owners of factories and wholesale/retail businesses and produced the consumer goods, but they also bought the most. Although this class did not enjoy titles of nobility, they could still acquire consumer goods to enjoy material comfort and prosperity and imitate the lives of the nobles and superiors. The same effect can be seen in the artisan class. More goods could be bought than before, and many artisans sought to imitate the lives of the middle class.

Body 2: In contrast to the changes in western Europe, eastern Europe experienced relatively little changes and success except for the introduction of maize and potatoes due to the dominance of the lord and serf agrarian economy.

- **Evidence**: The lord-and-serf system was the dominant system for farming in eastern Europe.
- **Analysis**: This system allowed the nobles to have control over agriculture instead of villages, so it discouraged innovation from landlords to increase profits and productivity of the land. Rather, the nobles believed that expanding the amount of land and thus increasing the labor of the serfs would increase production. Thus, the economic system for farming and success was limited in Eastern Europe.
- **Evidence**: The economy of eastern Europe was mostly agrarian, so there consumer revolution and birth of factories had little effects on the lord-and-serf system.
- **Analysis**: The industrialization of eastern Europe was limited due to the predominance of the traditional agrarian economy. Most of countryside consisted of estates populated by serfs, and throughout the old regime, nobles had gained increasing power and control over them. Thus, nobles could prevent their serfs from leaving, and the social structure in eastern Europe remained mostly unchanged.

(Conclusion) While Western Europe experienced major societal and economic changes as a result of the AR and the IR, Eastern Europe experienced little changes due to the predominance of the traditional serfdom agrarian economy.

(Synthesis) As in the Agricultural and Industrial Revolutions, eastern Europe would also be insignificant in the age of Colonialism and mercantile empires. Landlocked and mostly agrarian, it would be difficult for countries such as Russia, Poland, and others to control and maintain trade with colonies. Furthermore, until the centralization of Russia, Prussia, and Austria, there were no central governments, causing Eastern Europe to lag behind western Europe economically and politically.