The Eighteenth Century Brings Social Change

Parliament and Political Patronage
- Great Britain, 1707 (Scotland and England)
- Parliament dominated by landed aristocracy
  - House of Lords (peers)
  - House of Commons (landed gentry)
- Boroughs of England
- In England only a quarter of the males voted
- Ministers chosen by the king
  - George I, 1714-1727
  - George II, 1727-1760 (Hanoverians)
- Robert Walpole, 1721-1742, prime minister
- “Wilkes and liberty”

Enlightened Absolutism
- The Enlightened Monarch
- Frederick William II (1740 – 1786)
- Empress Maria Theresa (1740-1780)
  - Joseph II (1780-1790)
- Catherine the Great, (1762-1796)
- Policies of monarchs not did not reflect enlightened thought (except for Joseph II)
- Law code
- Strengthens landholders at expense of serfs

The Prussia Comes of Age
- Prussia: Army and Bureaucracy
- Frederick William I, 1713-1740
  - General Directory
  - Bureaucracy
  - Junkers
  - Army
- Frederick the Great, 1740-1786
  - Law code
  - Maintains serfdom
  - Expansion into Silesia

The First Global Wars
- War of the Austrian Succession, 1740-1748
  - Vulnerability of Maria Theresa
- Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, 1748
- Seven Years’ War, 1756-1763
- Diplomatic Revolution
- European War
• Indian War
• North American War
• William Pitt (the Elder)
• British victory, Britain becomes “Superpower”

Why Seven Years War? (1754-1763)
• Rivalry between Britain and France
• A cold war over trade
• European Wars over Dynastic succession
• British Prime Minister William Pitt expands the war
• Worldwide conflict
• In 1758 the tide turns
• 50,000 troops in America
• France loses Louisburg and Ft. Frontenac
• 1759 British/Iroquois take Forts Niagara, Ticonderoga, and Crown Point

The “Modern” European Army
• European Armies grew in size
• Warfare was standardized, use of tactics to preserve armies
• Professional armies
• Class division in the armies, the structure of society matched the that of the army
• Britain had no standing army except in wartime

The Growth of Agriculture
• Land under cultivation with abandonment of open-field system
• Crop rotation increases livestock
• Using a hoe and planting seeds in the ground become regular practice Jethro Tull (1674-1741)
• Potatoes and corn come from Americas
• Enclosure
• Agricultural production would fall after 1750
• Historians focus on England…

New Methods of Finance & Industry
• National Banks
• National debt (Great Britain sells bonds)
• Investment in colonial trading companies
• Global Trade (Slavery and sugar factories)
• Textile manufacturing leads to cottage industry
• Mechanized production
• Richard Arkwright (1732-1792) “water frame”
  – Flying Shuttle – John Kay (1704)
  – Spinning Jenny – James Hargreaves
• Mechanized looms, 1780s
Society in the 1800’s
- Peasants
  - Western tenant farmers (think England)
  - Eastern serfs (think Russia)
- The centrality of village life
- Nobility
  - High nobility
  - Petty Nobles (many would fall into ranks of Ordinary)
- Emergent middle class (Petty Bourgeoisie)
- Towns and cities would grow in the 1700’s

Family Life in the 1800’s
- Growth of the European Population
  - Falling death rate
  - Improvements in diet
  - Lack of hygiene
  - Outbreaks of disease
- Family, Marriage, and Birthrate Patterns
  - Treatment of Children
  - Nuclear family
  - Late marriages
  - Family economy