"The Eighteenth Century: European States, International Wars, and Social Change"

Chapter 18 Reading Guide *Western Civilization - 10th Ed. - Spielvogel*

**Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**MAJOR THEMES / BIG QUESTIONS: (as you work through the chapter, bear these questions in mind)**

* How and to what extent did rulers incorporate the ideals of the Enlightenment into their policies? (SP-2, SP-4)
* How did competition for trade routes and dynastic ambitions cause wars and shifts in diplomatic ties among nations? (SP-15, INT-6, INT-11)
* How did new forms of trade cause the need for innovation in banking and finance? (PP-1, PP-2, PP-6)
* How were the lower classes affected by the agricultural and Industrial Revolutions? (IS-2, IS-4, IS-9)
* How did demographic patterns and family life change as people moved into cities? (PP-2, PP-6, PP-7)
* In what ways did the slave trade affect European life and life in the colonies? (INT-6, PP-1, PP-7)

1. Read the blue section on page 528-29. Describe Europe’s “old order” and what kinds of changes began in the 18th century?

**18.1 The European States**

2.) Also in the yellow section, what changes did the European state system undergo in the 18th century?

3.) What are natural rights? How were they established and preserved?

4.) Did most philosophes approve of the idea of monarchs throughout the majority of this century? How did this fit with the notion of enlightened absolutism (or despotism)?

5.) Describe French economic and political policies of the 18th century. What were the successes? What were the setbacks? Who were the most important figures during this era?

6.) When did England become known as Great Britain? How was England’s government different in its operation from France? What’s the difference between Peerage and Gentry?

7.) Who was the last Stuart ruler of England? What dynasty replaced her? Who was the new king? How did this occur?

8.) Who was the first Prime Minister of Britain? What was Britain’s global policy for much of the 18th century? What ambitions did they have? What setbacks did they face?

9.) What happened to the Dutch Republic during this era? Why? (Explain 3 reasons, and you may have to do some outside reading to answer with proper depth)

10.) What three absolutist states in Central and Eastern Europe began to play a more important role in international politics during the 18th century?

11.) How did the army and bureaucracy of Prussia work? To what extent were they effective? What Prussian rulers were in charge during this time?

12.) Who were the nobility of Prussia? What role did they play in the military and government?

13.) Why was Frederick II better known as Frederick the Great? What were his major assets and accomplishments?

14.) What kinds of territorial changes took place in Prussia under Frederick the Great? Be specific in how these were acquired.

15.) What made the administration of Austria difficult?

16.) What caused the War of Austrian Succession? Who died? Who was the successor? Why was this an issue? (hint, you may have to look ahead to page 543-4 to fully answer this one)

17.) Who ruled Austria from 1740-80? What kinds of changes or reforms did she make while she was in power? Was she open to the Enlightenment?

18.) Joseph II is considered an important Enlightened Despot. Why? Name *several* reforms that he enacted and explain the degree to which each was either effective or lasting.

19.) Was Joseph II liked and appreciated for his time? Why or why not?

20.) What is an autocrat? Why is Catherine the Great an example of this? How did she come to power in the first place?

21.) Catherine the Great had a confusing relationship with the Enlightenment. Explain this concept. Was she for it or against it, and to what degree did her policies reflect this?

22.) Who benefited most from Catherine the Great’s rule and **why**? Who suffered the most and **why**?

23.) What was the Pugachev Rebellion? Was it successful, why/why not? What was its legacy?

24.) Under Catherine the Great, what territorial changes took place for Russia?

25.) So… Poland. What the heck happened there, eh? (read over the last few pages, and summarize the various changes it underwent during the 18th century – like the numerous partitions for instance…)

26.) What was the administration of Spain like after the Bourbons took over following the end of the War of Spanish Succession in 1713? Oh, and just a reminder, what was the name of the treaty that ended that conflict again??

27.) What changes pertaining to Spain and Austria did Italy face in the 18th century? Describe, in your own words, the blurb on Italy on page 542.

28.) What caused Swedish power to decline in the early 18th century? Why was it no longer absolutist for awhile? What changed this in the late 18th century?

29.) What 3 major arguments serve as the backbone of the argument that Enlightened Absolutism really wasn’t what it was cracked up to be?

**18.2 Wars and Diplomacy**

30.) What were the principles of “self-interest” and “balance-of-power” and how did each guide European state relations of the 18th century?

31.) Why were “international rivalries” and “continued centralization of the European state” closely related concepts of this time? What pieces of evidence can you point to that support the books argument? (this is an excellent LEQ topic…)

32.) By far the most important conflict of this century was the Seven Years’ War (known as the French and Indian War in North America). Many historians refer to it as the first true world-wide war. What were the three major areas of conflict?

33.) What rivalries instigated the conflict? Who was against who?

34.) What was the major point of contention in the European theatre of conflict in the Seven Years’ War? Who emerged as the victor here and why?

35.) What was the major point of contention in the Indian theatre of the Seven Years’ War? Who emerged as the victor here and why?

36.) The French and Indian War was the greatest point of contention in the Seven Years’ War. What two major regions were comprised of this theatre?

37.) Who were the two major forces battling it out in North America? What are the factors that allowed the British to be more successful in this conflict?

38.) Spielvogel argues that “professional standing armies” were a standard feature of 18th c. Europe. What does this mean? How did the size, composition, and use of militaries change during this century? (hint, another great LEQ and answering this appropriately will require you to use a lot of depth)

39.) How did the nature of warfare change? What made war of the 18th century so different from previous centuries? Why weren’t they necessarily more destructive?

**18.3 Economic Expansion and Social Change**

40.) What happened to the European population in the 18th century (particularly the 2nd half of it) and why? (hint, multiple reasons)

41.) Describe the conditions that people lived in? Were they ideal? What were some features of life at this time?

42.) What was at the heart of Europe’s social organization? Was this similar or different to previous eras?

43.) How did marriage work in upper-class houses? What was the family structure or hierarchy?

44.) What were the differences of child-rearing between lower class and higher class families? How did these attitudes alter in western Europe in the latter half of the 18th century?

45.) What was primogeniture? Why did it come under attack?

46.) What is infanticide and what role did it play in Europe at this time – was it accepted, how widespread was it?

47.) Where did so many children end up, if not the victims of infanticide? Why was this so?

48.) Why might some be surprised about the marriage age of couples outside the aristocracy at this time? At what age did many people marry in Northwestern Europe?

49.) Elaborate on how various factors influenced birthrate during the 18th century (e.g. marriage rate, age, illegitimate births, etc.)

50.) What contributions did women and children offer to families of the working classes (urban workers and peasants)?

51.) What four interrelated factors contributed to the dramatic increase of food production in the 18th century??

52.) What was the open-field system? What does it mean to let land lie fallow? What system replaced it?

53.) How did an increase in livestock affect….

a.) crop production? b.) the European diet? c.) new innovations?

54.) What two crops were the most important ones brought to Europe from the New World? Where were they primarily grown and why were they so important?

55.) What was the enclosure movement? How was it particularly influential (and rather corrupt) in England?

56.) What happened economically in many places in Europe at this time pertaining to…

a. Gold and Silver

b. Public and Private Banks

c. National Debt

d. Why France didn’t have a national Bank

e. Dutch Capitalism

57.) What was the most important industry of the 18th century? What system was used to produce this product and how did it operate?

58.) What product emerged as a potential competitor in the late 18th century? In what two places was it mainly produced?

59.) Make a small chart below to show what kinds of new inventions allowed for the rapid production of these products; who invented them; and their primary function. (name at least 3).

60.) What was the consumer revolution? Where did it take place? What kinds of things were people “consuming”?

61.) How did the global economy change in the 18th century? What changes occurred that made trade in the 18th century different from the mercantilist economy of the 15th and 16th centuries?

**18.4 The Social Order of the Eighteenth Century**

62.) In terms of continuity and change, make a T-chart that describes features of Europe’s social order that *continued* into the 18th century, and describe features that *changed* in the 18th century. (3 on each side)

63.) What kinds of features of peasant life in much of western Europe were the most resented by them? Why? (hint, there’s at least 4)

64.) What roles did nobles play in the 18th century social order? What privileges did they carry? What positions were they able to hold? How did their diet differ from peasants?

65.) How might nobility have differed across different locations in Europe? Name a few examples.

66.) Why weren’t all nobles the same, even in a single location?

67.) What kinds of daily functions did nobles attend that made their life “sweet”? The majority of aristocratic landowners did not participate in court society. What were the features of the country house?

68.) What was a “grand tour” and what kind of goals were meant to be attained by such a trip? Walk me through an example of what a grand tour may look like.

69.) Townspeople (or urban dwellers) made a distinct minority of the overall population with the exception of a few places. What kinds of roles did townspeople play? Why were towns important to the social structure of Europeans?

70.) People who lived in towns could be either very wealthy or very poor. Talk about the differences between different kinds of urban dwellers.

71.) How big of a problem was poverty in the 18th century? What kinds of attitudes developed (or changed over time) toward the poor? Why?

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THE PRIMARY SOURCES**

1. “The French King's Bedtime”: What does this document reveal about the condition of the French monarchy and the high French aristocracy during the reign of Louis XVI? Was there anything different between the coucher of Louis XVI and that of Louis XIV? If so, what? How might the royal behavior described here aggravate socio-political tensions in the French realm and unpredictably magnify “enlightened” critiques of kingly government and misrule? Would any particular segments of French society be especially critical of Louis XVI’s behavior? If so, which and why? (page 531)

2. “Frederick the Great and His Father”: Based on these documents, why was the relationship between Frederick the Great and his father such a difficult one? What in particular did Frederick William I deplore in the behavior and attitude of his son? What does this troubled relationship tell you about the effects of rulership on the great kings of Europe and their families? What new duties and concerns of monarchs (like Frederick William) may have reshaped relations between kings and their sons? (page 534)

Opposing Viewpoints: Page 536 - Questions in box

3. “British Victory in India”: What differences, if any, would Clive had likely mentioned if the battle of Plassey had occurred in Europe? According to the letter, what part did native Indians seemingly play in the battle? Why such little mention? Who are the “blacks” referred to by Clive? Does his use of that word suggest anything about European attitudes towards non-Europeans? If so, what? Plassey was a crucial battle in the Seven Years’ War. Why? (page 542)

4. “Martial Arrangements”. Page 544 – Questions in box

5. “Impact of Agricultural Changes”. Page 547 – Questions in box

6. “The Beginnings of Mechanized Industry: The Attack on New Machines”. Page 550 – Questions in box

7. “Poverty in France”: What does this document reveal about the nature of poverty in France in the eighteenth century? Was there anything new about the events of 1708 as described in the document? If so, what were they? If not, why not? How would growing ranks of the poor in Europe further destabilize this society? Would traditional European modes of poor relief be in any way up to the challenge posed by more and more poor? Why or why not? (page 556)

**Key Terms and Identifications:**

1. enlightened absolutism

2. Louis XV

4. Cardinal Fleury

5. Louis XVI & M. Antoinette

6“pocket boroughs”

7. the Hanovarians/the Georges

8. Robert Walpole

9. William Pitt the Elder

10. Patriots v. the Orangists

11. Frederick William I

12. Junkers and “Prussian militarism”

13. Frederick II the Great

14. Maria Theresa

15. Joseph II

16. Catherine II the Great

17. Emelyn Pugachev

18. Treaty of Kuchuk-Kainarji

19. partitions of Poland

20. War of the Austrian Succession

21. Silesia

22. Robert Clive

23. Seven Years’ War

24. Montcalm and Wolfe

25. Treaty of Paris

26. scurvy and yellow fever

27. agricultural enclosures

28 John Law’s “bubble”

29. the “putting-out” or “domestic system”

30. Richard Arkwright’s “water-frame”

31. Thomas Gainsborough

32. Grand Tour

33. “balance of power”

34. “reason of state”