Chapter 24

The Transformation of Europe
The Protestant Reformation

- Martin Luther (1483-1546) attacks Roman Catholic church practices, 1517
  - Indulgences: preferential pardons for charitable donors
- Writes *Ninety-Five Theses*, rapidly reproduced with new printing technology
- Excommunicated by Pope Leo X in 1521
- 1520s-1530s dissent spread throughout Germany and Switzerland
The Demand for Reform

- Luther’s expanded critique
  - Closure of monasteries
  - Translations of Bible into vernacular
  - End of priestly authority, especially the Pope
    - Return to biblical text for authority

- German princes interested
  - Opportunities for assertion of local control

- Support for reform spreads throughout Germany
Reform outside Germany

- Switzerland, Low Countries follow Germany
- England: King Henry VIII (r. 1509-1547) has conflict with Pope over requested divorce
  - England forms its own church by 1560
- France: John Calvin (1509-1564) codifies Protestant teachings while in exile in Geneva
- Scotland, Netherlands, Hungary also experience reform movements
The Catholic Reformation

- Roman Catholic church reacts
  - Refining doctrine, missionary activities to Protestants, attempt to renew spiritual activity
- Council of Trent (1545-1563) periodic meetings to discuss reform
- Society of Jesus (Jesuits) founded by St. Ignatius Loyola (1491-1556)
  - Rigorous religious and secular education
  - Effective missionaries
Witch Hunts

- Most prominent in regions of tension between Catholics and Protestants
- Late 15th century development in belief in Devil and human assistants
- 16th-17th centuries approximately 110,000 people put on trial, some 60,000 put to death
  - Vast majority females, usually single, widowed
  - Held accountable for crop failures, miscarriages, etc.
- New England: 234 witches tried, 36 hung
Religious Wars

- Protestants and Roman Catholics fight in France (1562-1598)
- 1588 Philip II of Spain attacks England to force return to Catholicism
  - English destroy Spanish ships by sending flaming unmanned ships into the fleet
- Netherlands rebel against Spain, gain independence by 1610
The Thirty Years’ War (1618-1645)

- Holy Roman emperor attempts to force Bohemians to return to Roman Catholic Church
- All of Europe becomes involved in conflict
  - Principal battleground: Germany
- Political, economic issues involved
- Approximately one-third of German population destroyed
The Consolidation of Sovereign States

Emperor Charles V (r. 1519-1556) attempts to revive Holy Roman Empire as strong center of Europe

- Through marriage, political alliances
- Ultimately fails
  - Protestant Reformation provides cover for local princes to assert greater independence
  - Foreign opposition from France, Ottoman Empire
- Unlike China, India, Ottoman Empire, Europe does not develop as single empire, rather individual states
- Charles V abdicates to monastery in Spain
Europe in 1559 on Page 723 Bentley 4e
The New Monarchs

- Italy well-developed as economic power through trade, manufacturing, finance

- Yet England, France, and Spain surge ahead in 16th century, innovative new tax revenues
  - England: Henry VIII
    - Fines and fees for royal services; confiscated monastic holdings
  - France: Louis XI, Francis I
    - New taxes on sales, salt trade
The Spanish Inquisition

- Founded by Fernando and Isabel in 1478
- Original task: search for secret Christian practitioners of Judaism or Islam, later search for Protestants
  - Spread to Spanish holdings outside Iberian peninsula in western hemisphere
- Imprisonment, executions
  - Intimidated nobles who might have considered Protestantism
  - Archbishop of Toledo imprisoned 1559-1576
Constitutional States

- England and Netherlands develop institutions of popular representation
  - England: constitutional monarchy
  - Netherlands: republic

- English Civil War, 1642-1649
  - Begins with opposition to royal taxes
  - Religious elements: Anglican church favors complex ritual, complex church hierarchy, opposed by Calvinist Puritans
  - King Charles I and parliamentary armies clash
  - King loses, is beheaded in 1649
The Glorious Revolution (1688-1689)

- Puritans take over, becomes a dictatorship
- Monarchy restored in 1660, fighting resumes
- Resolution with bloodless coup called Glorious Revolution
- King James II deposed, daughter Mary and husband William of Orange take throne
  - Shared governance between crown and parliament
The Dutch Republic

- King Philip II of Spain attempts to suppress Calvinists in Netherlands, 1566
- Large-scale rebellion follows, by 1581 Netherlands declares independence
- Based on a representative parliamentary system
Absolute Monarchies

- Theory of Divine Right of Kings
- French absolutism designed by Cardinal Richelieu (under King Louis XIII, 1624-1642)
  - Destroyed castles of nobles, crushed aristocratic conspiracies
  - Built bureaucracy to bolster royal power base
  - Ruthlessly attacked Calvinists
Louis XIV (The “Sun King,” 1643-1715)

- *L’état, c’est moi*: “The State – that’s me.”
- Magnificent palace at Versailles, 1670s, becomes his court
  - Largest building in Europe
  - 1,400 fountains
  - 25,000 fully grown trees transplanted
- Power centered in court, important nobles pressured to maintain presence
Absolutism in Russia: The Romanov Dynasty (1613-1917)

- **Peter I (“the Great,” r. 1682-1725)**
  - Worked to modernize Russia on western European model
  - Developed modern Russian army, reformed Russian government bureaucracy, demanded changes in fashion: beards forbidden
  - Built new capital at St. Petersburg

- **Catherine II (“the Great”, r. 1762-1796)**
  - Huge military expansion
    - Partitions of Poland, 1772-1797
  - Social reforms at first, but end with Pugachev peasant rebellion (1773-1774)
The European States System

- No imperial authority to mediate regional disputes
- Peace of Westphalia (1648) after Thirty Years’ War
- European states to be recognized as sovereign and equal
  - Religious, other domestic affairs protected
- Warfare continues: opposition to French expansion, Seven Years’ War
- Balance of Power tenuous
- Innovations in military technology proceed rapidly
Europe after the Peace of Westphalia, 1648
Population Growth and Urbanization

- Rapidly growing population due to Columbian Exchange
  - Improved nutrition
    - Role of the potato (considered an aphrodisiac in 16th and 17th centuries)
    - Replaces bread as staple of diet
  - Better nutrition reduces susceptibility to plague
  - Epidemic disease becomes insignificant for overall population decline by mid-17th century
Population Growth in Europe

- 1500
- 1700
- 1800

Millions
Early Capitalism

- Private parties offer goods and services on a free market
- Own means of production
- Private initiative, not government control
- Supply and demand determines prices
- Banks, stock exchanges develop in early modern period
- Joint-Stock Companies (English East India Company, VOC)
  - Relationship with empire-building
- Medieval guilds discarded in favor of “putting-out” system
Impact of Capitalism on the Social Order

- Rural life
  - Improved access to manufactured goods
  - Increasing opportunities in urban centers begins depletion of the rural population
- Inefficient institution of serfdom abandoned in western Europe, retained in Russia until 19th century
- Nuclear families replace extended families
- Gender changes as women enter income-earning work force
Capitalism and Morality

- Adam Smith (1723-1790) argued that capitalism would ultimately improve society as a whole.
- But major social change increases poverty in some sectors:
  - Rise in crime
  - Witch-hunting a possible consequence of capitalist tensions and gender roles.
The Copernican Universe

- Reconception of the Universe
  - Reliance on 2nd-century Greek scholar Claudius Ptolemy of Alexandria
  - Motionless earth inside nine concentric spheres
  - Christians understand heaven as last sphere
- Difficulty reconciling model with observed planetary movement
- 1543 Nicholas Copernicus of Poland breaks theory
  - Notion of moving Earth challenges Christian doctrine
The Scientific Revolution

- Johannes Kepler (Germany, 1571-1630) and Galileo Galilei (Italy, 1564-1642) reinforce Copernican model
- Isaac Newton (1642-1727) revolutionizes study of physics
- Rigorous challenge to church doctrines
The Enlightenment

- Trend away from Aristotelian philosophy and Church doctrine in favor of rational thought and scientific analysis
- John Locke (England, 1632-1704), Baron de Montesquieu (France, 1689-1755) attempt to discover natural laws of politics
- Center of Enlightenment: France, *philosophes*
- Voltaire (1694-1778), caustic attacks on Roman Catholic church: *écrasez l’infame*, “erase the infamy”
  - Deism increasingly popular
The Theory of Progress

- Assumption that Enlightenment thought would ultimately lead to human harmony, material wealth
- Decline in authority of traditional organized religion