

Chapter 22
Enlightenment and Revolution
(1550-1789)

Voices from the Past

In 1610, Galileo described what he had observed with his newly devised telescope:

“Now let us review the observations made during the past two months. . . . Let us speak first of that surface of the Moon which faces us. For greater clarity I distinguish two parts of this surface, a lighter and a darker. . . . [T]he darker part makes the Moon appear covered with spots. . . . From observation of these spots . . . I have been led to the opinion and conviction that the surface of the Moon is not smooth, uniform, and precisely spherical as a great number of philosophers believe it and the other heavenly bodies to be, but is uneven, rough, and full of cavities, not unlike the face of . . . Earth, relieved by chains of mountains and deep valleys.”

—*Discoveries and Opinions of Galileo*, Stillman Drake, ed., 1957

Galileo's observations helped to create a new view of the universe in the seventeenth century.

- **The Scientific Revolution**

- **Geocentric**

- Earth

- Ptolemy

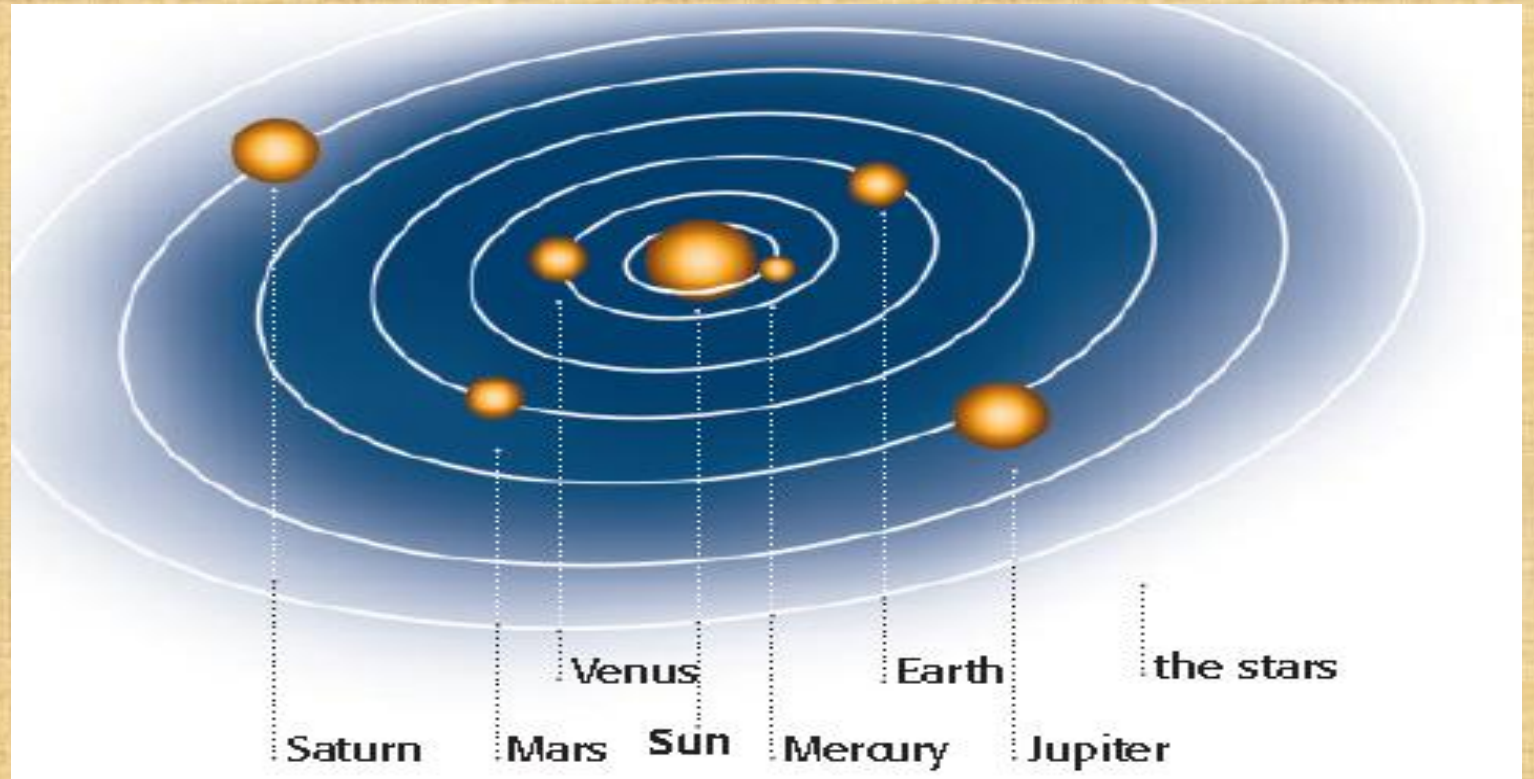
- **Scientific**

- **Heliocentric**

- Sun

- Copernicus

- Kepler



- **Church Conflict**
- Scientific Method
 - Observation
 - **Galileo**
 - Bacon
 - Descartes
 - Newton
- Tools
 - Microscopes
 - Barometers
 - Thermometer
 - Anatomy
 - Inoculation/vaccination
 - Chemistry

***With sincere heart and unpretended faith I abjure, curse, and detest the aforesaid errors and heresies of Copernicus and also every other error...contrary to the Holy Church, and I swear that in the future I will never again say or assert...anything that might cause a similar suspicion toward me.
---Galileo Galilei***

Voices from the Past

The French intellectual Voltaire attacked religious intolerance in *The Ignorant Philosopher*:

“I say, there is scarce any city or borough in Europe, where blood has not been spilled for religious quarrels; I say, that the human species has been perceptibly diminished, because women and girls were massacred as well as men. I say that Europe would have a third larger population if there had been no theological disputes. In fine, I say, that so far from forgetting these abominable times, we should frequently take a view of them, to inspire an eternal horror for them. . . . It is for our age to make amends by toleration, for this long collection of crimes, which has taken place through the lack of toleration during sixteen barbarous centuries.”

—*From Absolutism to Revolution 1648–1848*, Herbert H. Rowen, ed., 1963

Religious toleration was one of the major themes of the Enlightenment.

• The Enlightenment in Europe

• Government

- Hobbs-social contract
- Locke-natural rights
- Voltaire-tolerance
- Montesquieu-separation of power
- Rousseau-freedom
- Beccaria-Justice

It is true that in democracies the people seem to act as they please; but political liberty does not consist in an unlimited freedom... We must have continually present to our minds the difference between independence and liberty. Liberty is a right of doing whatever the laws permit, and if a citizen could do what the laws forbid he would be no longer possessed of liberty, because all his fellow citizens would have the same power.

---Baron De Montesquieu

- Spreading the Enlightenment
 - Paris Salons
 - Encyclopedia
- Art
 - Baroque vs. neoclassical
 - novels

Cybercafés

These days, when people around the world gather to explore new ideas and discuss current events, many do so at Internet cafés. These are coffee shops or restaurants that also provide access to computers for a small fee. While Internet cafés originated in the United States, they are thought to be on the decline in America as more people become able to afford their own computers. Overseas, however, Internet cafés continue to boom. Observers estimate that some 200,000 operate in China. Most of them are illegal. China's Communist government has little desire to give so many of its citizens access to the kind of uncensored information that the Internet provides. As was the case with the Enlightenment, however, the spread of new ideas is often too powerful to stop.

Voices from the Past

The eighteenth-century Prussian king Frederick II once said:

“[The services a monarch must provide for his people] consisted in the maintenance of the laws; a strict execution of justice; . . . and defending the state against its enemies. It is the duty of this magistrate to pay attention to agriculture; it should be his care that provisions for the nation should be in abundance, and that commerce and industry should be encouraged. He is a perpetual sentinel, who must watch the acts and the conduct of the enemies of the state. . . . If he be the first general, the first minister of the realm, it is not that he should remain the shadow of authority, but that he should fulfill the duties of such titles. He is only the first servant of the state.”

—*The Western Tradition*, Eugen Weber, 1972

These comments reveal the impact of the ideas of the Enlightenment on the rulers of the period.

- Enlightened despots
 - Frederick the Great
 - Prussia
 - Joseph II
 - Austria
 - Catherine the Great
 - Russia

Old Ideas

The state and its citizens exist to serve the monarch. As Louis XIV reportedly said, "I am the state."

New Idea

The monarch exists to serve the state and support citizens' welfare. As Frederick the Great said, a ruler is only "the first servant of the state."

Voices from the Past

On July 2, 1776, the Second Continental Congress adopted a resolution declaring the independence of the American colonies. It read:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it and to institute new Government.”

— *The Declaration of Independence*

The ideas of the Enlightenment had clearly made an impact on the colonies in North America. Despite their close ties to their European mother countries, the colonies of Latin America and British North America were developing in ways that sometimes differed significantly from those of Europe.

- Enlightened America
 - Economic growth
 - Mercantilism b/w England & Colonies
 - Locke's natural rights
 - Hobbs' Social Contract
 - Rousseau's freedom
- French & Indian War
 - Taxes
 - Tyrant King George III
 - Taxation w/o Representation
- Declaration of Independence
 - Rights and Freedom
 - Social Contract
 - Justice for Complaints

Thomas Jefferson 1743–1826

The author of the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson of Virginia, was a true figure of the Enlightenment. As a writer and statesman, he supported free speech, religious freedom, and other civil liberties. At the same time, he was also a slave owner. Jefferson was a man of many talents. He was an inventor as well as one of the great architects of early America. He designed the Virginia state capitol building in Richmond and many buildings for the University of Virginia. Of all his achievements, Jefferson wanted to be most remembered for three: author of the Declaration of Independence, author of the Statute of Virginia for Religious Freedom, and founder of the University of Virginia.

- Revolutionary War 1775-1783
 - Washington's Patriots
 - British & Loyalists
 - Louis XVI's French
 - Treaty of Paris, American Victory
- United States Republic
 - Articles of Confederation 1777-1789
 - Weak
 - No taxing power
 - No separation of powers
 - No national leader
 - Constitution of 1789
 - Federal System
 - Checks and Balances
 - Taxation
 - Separation of Powers
 - 3 branches
 - Executive
 - Legislative
 - Judicial
 - Bill of Rights

