This chapter presents the dramatic transformation of Europe between 1500 and 1800 from a subregion of Eurasia to a dynamic global powerhouse. The expansion of European powers overseas is addressed in Ch 22-23. Here we will consider some of the internal changes that enabled the nations of W Europe, in particular, to assume such preeminence. This transformation occurred simultaneously and on multiple levels. Also, this chapter considers state-building and social & economic change in Russia under Peter I & Catherine II from Ch 29.

- Religious transformation. The Protestant Reformation, launched by Martin Luther in 1517 in Germany, successfully challenged the monopoly of the Roman Catholic Church on western Christendom. The printing press, recently introduced to Europe from China, advanced the ideas & texts of the Reformation throughout Europe.

- Political transformation. Powerful nation-states evolved w/ the resources & institutions to advance national interests abroad. At the same time, two models for political order emerged, represented by the absolutist monarchies of France & Spain and the English & Dutch constitutional monarchies.

- Economic transformation. The emergence of capitalism is evident in changes to the structures of banking, finance, & manufacturing. Adam Smith advocated a free market economy, w/ prices & wages determined through competition.

- Intellectual transformation. New technologies & scientific discoveries in the 16th-17th centuries fueled debate about the nature of the universe and called into question the authority of the Church in such matters. This discussion eventually led to the 18th century Enlightenment, an intellectual movement that raised important questions about the nature of humanity, religion, and political authority.

1. The Fragmentation of Western Christendom

A. The Protestant Reformation
   1) Martin Luther (1483-1546) attacked the sale of indulgences, 1517
      a. Attacked corruption in Roman Catholic Church; called for reform
      b. Argument reproduced w/ Johannes Gutenberg’s printing presses and widely read
      c. Enthusiastic response from lay Christians, princes, & many cities
      d. By mid-16th century, ½ of German people adopted Lutheranism
   2) Reform spread outside Germany
      a. Protestant movements popular in Swiss cities, Low Countries
      b. English Reformation sparked by Henry VIII’s desire for divorce
   3) John Calvin, French convert to Protestantism
      a. Organized model Protestant community in Geneva in the 1530s
      b. Calvinist missionaries were successful in Scotland, Low Countries, also in France & England

B. The Catholic Reformation
   1) Council of Trent, 1545-63 directed Roman Catholic Church’s reform
   2) The Society of Jesus (Jesuits) founded 1540 by Ignatius Loyola
      a. High standards in education
      b. Became effective advisors & missionaries worldwide

How did the practice of Christianity develop in the Early Modern Era? (1450-1750)
C. Witch-Hunts and Religious Wars
   1) Witch-hunts in Europe: Fears of witches intensified in 16th century
      a. Reformation’s conflicts fed hysteria re: witches & devil worship
      b. ~60,000 executed, 95% of them women
   2) Religious wars between Protestants and Catholics in 16th century
      a. Civil war in France for 30+ years (1562-1598)
      b. War between Cath. Spain vs. Prot. England, 1588 (Spanish Armada)
      c. Protestant Netherlands provinces revolted against Catholic Spain
   3) Thirty Years’ War (1618-1648), most destructive war up to WWI
      a. Began as local conflict; eventually involved most of Europe
      b. Devastated the HRE (German states): lost 1/3 of population

D. Theory of Political Power (not in textbook)
   1) Niccoló Machiavelli’s *The Prince*, 1516 ‘Advice’ manual for rulers
      a. Prince must stabilize his (new-found) power in order to endure
      b. Requires concern with reputation and willing to act immorally.

2. The Consolidation of Sovereign States

   A. The Attempted Revival of Empire
      1) Charles V (reigned 1519-1556), Holy Roman Emperor
         a. Inherited a vast empire of far-flung holdings
         b. Pressures from France & Ottomans halted expansion

   B. The New Monarchs of England, France, and Spain
      1) Enhanced, enlarged & centralized state power & wealth
         a. Standing armies in France & Spain, direct taxes, fines, & fees
         b. Reformation royal power, gave access to Church’s wealth
      2) The Spanish Inquisition, Catholic court of inquiry, founded 1478
         a. Intended to discover secret Muslims & Jews, but was often used by
            monarchy to detect Protestant heresy & political dissidents

C. Constitutional States and Absolute Monarchies
   1) Constitutional states of England and the Netherlands
      a. Individual rights, limited govt’ powers, & representative inst’ions
      b. Both had a prominent merchant class & enjoyed unusual prosperity, built commercial empires overseas w/ little state interference
      c. English Civil War, 1642-49 led to Constitutional monarchy
   2) Absolutism in France, Spain, Austria, & Prussia
      a. Based on the theory of the Divine Right of Kings
      b. Cardinal Richelieu, Econ Minister 1624-42, crushed nobles’ power
   3) The Sun King of France, Louis XIV (reigned 1643-1715)
      a. Model of royal absolutism: the court at Versailles
      b. Large standing army kept order
      c. Promoted econ development: roads, canals, industry & exports
   4) Rulers in Spain, Austria, Prussia, & Russia saw France as a model

What role did religion play in legitimizing political rule?

What new governmental policies accompanied [new trade] developments?

What factors encouraged commercial growth in this era?

How did political rulers legitimate and consolidate their rule?
3. Westernization and Empire

A. A Window on the West

1) Peter I (reigned 1682-1725): known as Peter the Great
   a. Fascinated w/ technology found in Moscow’s foreign quarters
      (1) Peter traveled to Europe to study gov’t, military, industry
   b. As Tsar, he imposed program of rapid modernization
      (1) Russian industries forced to incorporate the most advanced
          science & technology (usually from W. Europe)
      (2) Russians sent abroad to study

2) Peter’s reforms: progressive but autocratic
   a. Military reform: to build powerful, modern army
      (1) Offered better pay & modern weapons to peasants
      (2) Aristocratic officers ordered to study mathematics & geometry
      (3) Defeated Sweden in Great Northern War, 1700-22
   b. Bureaucratic reform: to facilitate collection of taxes
      (1) Only nobles educated to serve as gov’t officials
      (2) Table of Ranks allowed social mobility for civil servants by
          merit & service
   c. Social reform: challenged established customs
      (1) Abolished seclusion of women; encouraged social mixing of
          sexes
      (2) Subjects ordered to shave beards, wear western clothing

3) St. Petersburg, the “Window on the West”
   a. New capital on the Baltic Sea built by Peter in 1703
   b. Headquarters for Russian navy, administrative center for gov’t

B. The Limits of Westernization

1) Catherine II (reigned 1762-1795) aka Catherine the Great
   a. Married Peter’s unpopular grandson, replaced him as ruler
   b. Continued Peter’s westernization policies; appointed educated
      officials
   c. Attracted to Enlightenment’s ideals, corresponded w/ philosophes
   d. Rejected any changes that would weaken her autocratic rule

2) Pugachev’s Rebellion led by Emelian Pugachev, (1773-74)
   a. Cossacks, exiles, peasants, & serfs, protested taxes
   b. Killed 1,000s of nobles, officials, & priests; 1774

3) The end of Catherine’s reforms: Catherine soured on reform by both
   Pugachev’s Rebellion & French Revolution
   a. Reversed policy of westernization; restricted foreign influence

What new technologies, governmental policies, & merchant activities accompanied [new trade] developments?

How did trade affect the diffusion of scientific & technological traditions?
C. The Russian Empire in Europe

1) Slavic Orthodox minorities in E. Europe began to look to Russia for political & spiritual leadership.
2) Absorption of Ukraine by 1667
3) The partition of Poland, 1790s
   a. Polish parliament ineffective & unstable; country poorly defended
   b. Carved up among Austria, Prussia, & Russia
4) Southern expansion of Russian empire into Ottoman territories
   a. Pushed into Balkans, welcomed by Greek Orthodox minorities
   b. England & France halted expansion, (Crimean War, 1850-53)

D. The Russian Empire in Asia

1) By 1800 Russia controlled Volga River to Caspian Sea
   a. Georgia: Orth. Christians; absorbed into Russian empire, 1783
   b. Armenia and Azerbaijan also annexed
2) Siberia less hospitable, but rich in resources, especially furs
   a. Conquest began in 1581 when Cossacks crossed the Ural Mtns
   b. Local peoples forced to pay tribute in furs at Russian forts
3) Native Siberian peoples lived by hunting, fishing, herding reindeer
   a. Some groups welcomed Russian trade, while Yakut people resisted
      and were brutally crushed; 70% of population killed
   b. Smallpox reduced >50% of total Siberian population
   c. Few Siberians converted to Christianity
4) By 1763 population of Siberia doubled with addition of Russian trappers, soldiers, & serfs
5) American and Pacific explorations
   a. Vitus Bering led 2 maritime expeditions across Asia to Pacific
   b. Other Russian explorers pushed further into Alaska & W. Canada

4. A Society In Tension

A. Muscovite Society Before Westernization

1) Rural life centered on peasant villages w/ extended families;
   a. male heads of households determined village affairs
   b. Women had property rights, responsibility for arranging marriages
2) Russian serfdom more flexible before 1600
   a. Peasants mostly free in Siberia, as payment for settling there
   b. Euro Russia: serfs bound to land of nobles, crown, & monasteries
3) Law Code of 1649 placed serfs under strict control of landlords
   a. Serfs not officially “slaves” but could be sold as private property
   b. Also fixed occupational castes; sons forced into trades of their fathers
4) Catherine gave nobility greater control over lands and serfs
   a. Nobles supported her reforms in exchange
   b. Most Russians were now subject to nobles’ harsh & arbitrary rule

How did pre-existing land-based empires and new empires during this era compare to previous era’s empires?

What role did pastoral and nomadic groups play in new trade networks?

What Classical era trade networks continued during the post-Classical era, and which new cities were added?

How did rulers finance their territorial expansion?
B. The Growth of Trade and Industry
   1) European trade with Russia began in mid-16th century
      a. Europeans bought Russian furs, leather, & grain on the White Sea
      b. Russians bought Western European armaments, textiles, paper, silver
   2) Expansion to south and east increased trade w/ Asia
      a. Volga River delta provided access to Islamic empires
      b. Caspian Sea attracted merchants from as far away as India
   3) Russian merchants demanded restrictions on more competitive foreign merchants
   4) Peter’s primary goal was industrial development
      a. Invited engineers, shipbuilders, officers, teachers, technicians to Russia
      b. ~200 new industrial plants opened: iron, arms, textiles, glass, paper
      c. Peter allowed factory owners to draft serfs (b/c there was no pre-existing urban working class)
   5) Population doubled in 18th century from 15 to 30 million

End of section from Ch 29 pp. 782-794

C. The European States System
   1) The Peace of Westphalia (1648) ended the Thirty Years’ War
      a. Laid foundation for system of independent sovereign states
      b. Abandoned notion of religion unity
      c. Did not end war between European states
   2) The balance of power
      a. No ruler wanted to see another state dominate all the others
      b. Diplomacy based on shifting alliances in national interests
   3) Military development costly & competitive
      a. New armaments (cannons & small arms) & new military tactics
      b. Other empires—China, India, & Islamic states—did not keep up

5. Early Capitalist Society

A. Population Growth and Urbanization
   1) Population growth
      a. American food crops improved Europeans’ nutrition & diets
      b. Increased resistance to epidemic diseases after c. 1650
      c. European population between 1500-1800 grew from 81-180 million
   2) Urbanization
      a. Rapid growth of major cities, e.g. Paris 130,000 in 1550, to 500,000 in 1650
      b. Cities increasingly important as admin & commercial centers

How did the physical size of post-Classical trade networks compare to the previous era?
What obstacles to empire-building did empires confront, and how did they respond to these challenges?
What factors encouraged commercial growth in this era?
B. Early Capitalism and Proto-Industrialization
   1) The nature of capitalism
      a. Private parties sought to take advantage of free market conditions
      b. Economic decisions by private parties, not gov’ts or nobility
      c. Forces of supply & demand determined price
   2) Supply and demand
      a. Merchants built efficient transportation/communication networks
      b. New institutions & services: banks, insurance, stock exchanges
   3) Joint-stock companies like EEIC & VOC expanded & organized commerce
   4) Capitalism actively supported by gov’ts, especially England & Dutch
      a. Protected rights of private property, upheld contracts, settled disputes
      b. Chartered joint-stock companies & authorized these to explore, conquer, & colonize distant lands
   5) The “putting-out” system (proto-industrialization) 17th-18th centuries
      a. Entrepreneurs bypassed guilds, moved production to countryside
      b. Rural labor cheap, cloth production highly profitable

C. Social Change in Early Modern Europe
   1) Early capitalism altered rural society: improved material standards, increased financial independence of rural workers
   2) Profits and ethics
      a. Medieval theologians thought profit making to be selfish, sinful
      b. Adam Smith: society would prosper if/when/because individuals pursued their own interests
      c. Capitalism’s selfishness (real or perceived) → deep social strains
         (1) bandits, muggers, & witch-hunting all proliferated
   3) The “nuclear family” strengthened by capitalism
      a. Families more independent economically, socially, & emotionally
      b. Love btwn men & women, parents & children became more important

6. Science and Enlightenment

A. The Reconception of the Universe
   1) The Ptolemaic universe: A motionless Earth surrounded by nine perfect, concentric spheres
      a. Could not account for observable movement of the planets
      b. Compatible w/ Christian conception of creation
   2) The Copernican universe
      a. Nicolaus Copernicus suggested that sun = center of universe, 1543
      b. Implied that the Earth = just another planet
B. The Scientific Revolution
1) Galileo Galilei (1564-1642) first to use telescope to survey the sky
   a. saw Moon’s mountains, sunspots, Jupiter’s moons,
   b. theory of velocity of falling bodies anticipated modern Law of Inertia
2) Johannes Kepler (1571-1630) planetary orbits = ellipses
3) Isaac Newton (1642-1727)
   a. Published *Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy*, 1686
   b. Mathematical explanations of laws that govern mvmnts of bodies
   c. Newton’s work symbolized the scientific revolution—direct observation & mathematical reasoning

C. The Enlightenment
1) Science and society
   a. Enlightenment thinkers sought natural laws that governed human society in the same way that Newton’s laws governed the universe
2) John Locke: all human knowledge comes from sense perceptions.
   a. Gov’t must protect citizens’ 3 Natural Rights
      (1) Life
      (2) Liberty
      (3) Property (not “pursuit of happiness,” that was Jefferson’s version)
   b. Citizens have a right/duty to overthrow any gov’t that does not protect these rights.
3) Adam Smith: 3 Laws of Economics *The Wealth of Nations*, 1776
   a. supply & demand
   b. competition
   c. self-interest
4) Montesquieu: used political science to argue for political liberty
5) Rousseau: *The Social Contract* 1762
   a. Influential work of political philosophy. See Study Guide.
6) Center of Enlightenment = France, where philosophes debated
7) Voltaire (1694-1778)
   a. philosophe, championed religious liberty & individual freedom
   b. Prolific writer; wrote some 70 volumes in life, often bitter satire
8) Deism (“day-ism”) popular among Enlightenment thinkers
   a. Accepted existence of a god, but denied Christianity’s supernatural teachings
   b. God = the “Clockmaker,” ordered the universe according to rational & natural laws
9) The theory of progress—the ideology of the philosophes
10) Impact of Enlightenment
    a. Weakened the influence of organized religion, encouraged secular values based on reason rather than religious revelation
    b. Subjected society to rational analysis, promoted progress & prosperity