

Chapter 11

The Age of Reason



“The Global Impact of Industrialization” (451)

- ◆ Who? British, Dutch, French, Chinese, Indians
- ◆ Where? India, Egypt, China, Europe
- ◆ When? 1780 to 1900 AD
- ◆ What? England was the best equipped for industrialization with its limited monarchy, coal and water power, and strong merchant class.
- ◆ The English aristocracy was more open to commerce than those of the Continent. The Industrial Revolution happened in Great Britain first.
- ◆ The Industrial Revolution introduced major changes.
- ◆ Previously China had been the world's leading manufacturer and India's textile industry produced high quality cotton textiles in vast quantities.
- ◆ Industrialization enabled the Europeans, especially the British, to compete with China and India's vast pool of cheap labor.
- ◆ Industrialization also led to rapid technological change. One invention seemed to spur many other innovations.
- ◆ The military advantages gained by European powers were enormous and allowed even small states like Holland to challenge mighty empires successfully.



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Absolutism (454)

- ◆ Who? Louis XIV, Thomas Hobbes
- ◆ Where? Europe
- ◆ When? 1660 to 1792 AD
- ◆ What? A form of government which emerged in Europe during the 17th Century.
- ◆ The monarch's power was believed to come from God (Divine Right) and was absolute. "I am the State" said Louis XIV.
- ◆ This was justified by writers like Thomas Hobbes (Leviathan) who argued that without an all powerful ruler society would degenerate into a "war of all against all" which he argued was the natural condition of man.
- ◆ Thinkers like Hobbes were undoubtedly influenced by Chinese political theories (especially Legalism) which were transmitted to Europe by Jesuits like Matteo Ricci.
- ◆ Absolutism was organized along rationalist lines and its logic was quite ruthless.
- ◆ The ruler sought to be feared and obeyed.
- ◆ At the same time the various social classes (especially the clergy, the aristocracy, and the bourgeoisie) retained certain privileges and rights.

Europe in the Seventeenth Century





the Decline of Spain (455)

- ◆ Who? The Hapsburg and Bourbon dynasties, Philip II, Philip III, Philip IV, Charles II, Olivares
- ◆ Where? Spain, Spanish America, Philippines, Spanish Netherlands, Naples
- ◆ When? 1588 to 1700 AD
- ◆ What? Spain had emerged as a great empire during the course of the 16th century.
- ◆ English speaking historians have tended to exaggerate the decline of the Spanish empire (which they attributed to moral inferiority rooted in Catholicism).
- ◆ Spain did decline but more slowly (in the mid 18th Century Spain was still a significant military and economic power).
- ◆ The causes of Spanish decline were rooted in the fact that Spain was a poor country; terrible mismanagement by many of Spain's rulers, especially in the area of the economy and strategic policy (see Paul Kennedy's *The Rise and Fall of The Great Powers* (1989)).
- ◆ the unfortunate genetic lottery that was the Hapsburg Dynasty (though the Bourbons who took over and still rule Spain were quite competent at first).
- ◆ and the overwhelming influence of the Spanish Inquisition and Catholic Church in stifling the Enlightenment in Spain.

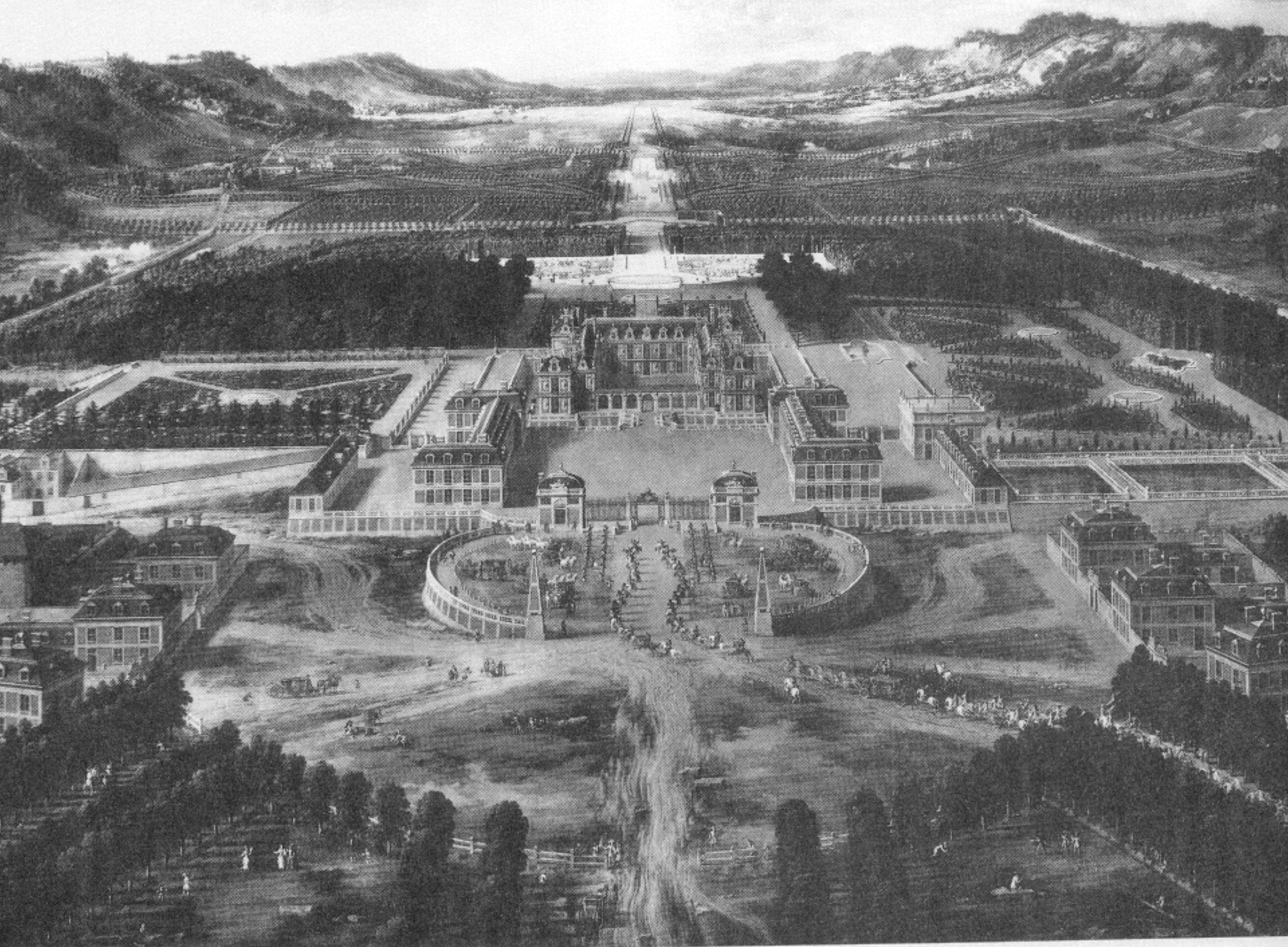
Louis XIV (456)

- ◆ Who? Louis XIV, Louvois, Colbert
- ◆ Where? France, Germany, Low Countries, Italy
- ◆ When? 1660 to 1715 AD
- ◆ What? The Sun King personified Absolutism.
- ◆ Ascending the French throne at the age of six he became determined to rule without interference from any quarter.
- ◆ During his long reign, he crushed the French aristocracy, subordinated the Catholic Church in France to the crown, centralized the economy (mercantilism), established a powerful colonial empire and navy, built the largest army in Europe, waged war on practically all the rest of Europe, installed a cousin on the Spanish throne, and built the magnificent palace of Versailles.
- ◆ He became a model for all other Absolutist rulers to follow.
- ◆ Louis XIV was a master of the "theatre of power", a consummate and ruthless showman whose policies made France the most powerful country in Europe until the rise of Germany.



the dominance of French culture (459)

- ◆ Who? Louis XIV, Jean Racine, Nicholas Poussin, Jean Moliere
- ◆ Where? Versailles
- ◆ When? 1660's to 1870's
- ◆ What? Classicism.
- ◆ An emphasis on order and restraint which fit in with the new infatuation with rationalism.
- ◆ Though it stifled freedom of expression and was not spontaneous, Classicism appealed to the aristocracy of Europe.



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Constitutionalism (460)

- ◆ Who? John Locke, William and Mary
- ◆ Where? British Isles
- ◆ When? 1660 to 1792 AD
- ◆ What? The philosophy that the ruler's power should be limited and that people had "natural rights" that the government could not violate.
- ◆ This ran exactly contrary to the idea of Absolutism.
- ◆ John Locke wrote extensively about the "Social Contract", the idea that the ruler and his subjects entered into a contract which defined and limited the ruler's powers and that the ruler governed only with the consent of the people, anything else was tyranny.
- ◆ These ideas were first put to the test during the Glorious Revolution of 1688-89.

the triumph of Parliament (461)

- ◆ Who? William and Mary, James II, Jacobites, Louis XIV
- ◆ When? 1688
- ◆ Where? The British Isles
- ◆ What? Since 1642 Parliament had struggled with the Stuart dynasty over how much authority the king should have.
- ◆ James II wanted to be a ruler on the model of Louis XIV. Parliament balked and called in William III of Holland.
- ◆ This led to the Glorious Revolution (1688-89). William III accepted the English crown with conditions.
- ◆ They had to read a Declaration of Rights which limited their power and govern in partnership with Parliament.
- ◆ England would be a constitutional monarchy.

“The Bill of Rights” (462)

- ◆ Who? Parliament
- ◆ When? 1689 AD
- ◆ Where? British Isles
- ◆ What? Also called the Declaration of Rights.
- ◆ It established rights that subjects were believed to possess under a constitutional monarchy such as the right to petition government, bear arms in self defense, and seek redress of grievances.
- ◆ The Crown must also seek the consent of the people (through Parliament).
- ◆ This differs from the US Bill of Rights in that the people are not directly represented.

the Scientific Revolution (465)

- ◆ Who? Copernicus, Galileo, Vesalius, Kepler, Newton, Descartes
- ◆ Where? Europe
- ◆ When? 1543 A.D.
- ◆ What? The discovery of gravity.
- ◆ The discovery that the earth orbits the sun.
- ◆ The discovery of how the body's vessels transport fluids.
- ◆ These discoveries and others led to a fundamental transformation in how people understood the world and their universe.
- ◆ Descartes' famous assertion that "I think, therefore I am (cogito ergo sum)", proved to be the first of a series of rational proofs that accounted for the existence of humanity, God, and God's universe.
- ◆ As a result the universe came to be seen as an immense and intricate machine that operated according to mathematically formulated laws.
- ◆ This fundamentally altered how man, in the West, saw his world.
- ◆ It is the origin of modern science.

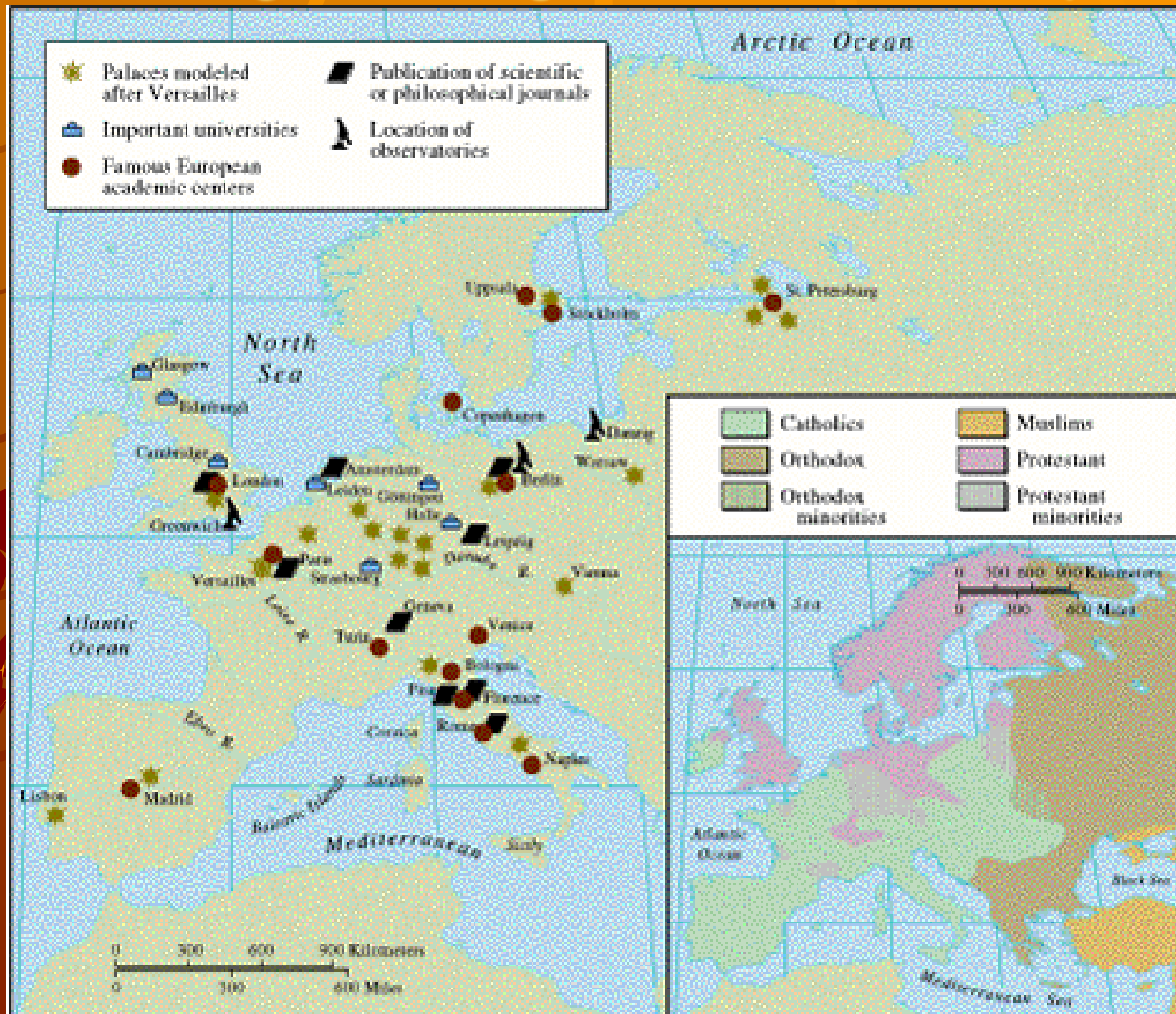
the New Scientists (466)

- ◆ Who? Copernicus, Galileo, Vesalius, Kepler, Newton, Descartes
- ◆ Where? Europe
- ◆ When? 1500 to 1700 A.D.
- ◆ What? These men pioneered new understanding of the world and the universe.
- ◆ Their conclusions often contradicted what the Church taught.
- ◆ Their methods were thorough relying not just on logical theorems but on demonstration and evidence.
- ◆ They helped lay the foundations for the "scientific method".

the Enlightenment (468)

- ◆ Who? The Philosophes (Voltaire, Hume, Locke, Rousseau, Diderot, Kant, Montesquieu etc.)
- ◆ Where? Europe
- ◆ When? 1700 to 1792 A.D.
- ◆ What? An intellectual movement which emphasized reason over the emotions and rationalism over mysticism.
- ◆ Reason was regarded as the primary basis of authority.
- ◆ This led to, among other things:
 - ◆ a greater centralization of authority
 - ◆ increased emphasis on the rights of the common man
 - ◆ humanization of the penal code
 - ◆ rationalization of the economy
 - ◆ the pursuit of "truth" through science rather than religion.

The Age of Enlightenment in Europe



the Philosophes (469)

- ◆ Who? Voltaire, Locke, Rousseau, Montesquieu, Diderot, Kant, Hume, and other philosophers
- ◆ Where? Europe
- ◆ When? 1700 to 1792 A.D.
- ◆ What? Thinkers who shaped the Enlightenment.
- ◆ They encouraged reason, knowledge and education.
- ◆ They sought to overcome superstition and ignorance.
- ◆ Knowledge and learning should be used to improve the world not just serve as a topic of discussion.
- ◆ They often used analogies and metaphors to comment on contemporary issues of the day.
- ◆ Their ideas would influence the development of science and the American and French Revolutions.



Enlightened Despotism (473)

- ◆ Who? Joseph II, Frederick II the Great, Catherine II the Great.
- ◆ Where? Russia, Central and Eastern Europe
- ◆ When? 1750 to 1792 A.D.
- ◆ What? Inspired by the Enlightenment monarchs in Europe sought to make their states stronger through rational reforms.
- ◆ The economy was rationalized to maximize royal revenue.
- ◆ The law and education were made more rational to maximize human resources available to the crown.
- ◆ That and religious tolerance also ensured popular support for the dynasty.
- ◆ The power of the nobility and church was curbed.
- ◆ Enlightened despotism created strong states but failed to provide social or economic equality and freedom.

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✦ Frederick II and Voltaire in the Study of the Royal Palace of Sans Souci in Potsdam. Although Frederick appointed





Latin America (477)

- ◆ Who? The Spanish and Portuguese in the Americas, Indians, Africans, and Mestizos
- ◆ Where? Central and South America, the Caribbean
- ◆ When? 1600 to 1800 A.D.
- ◆ What? A multi-racial society modelled on Europe's but possessing its own unique institutions such as peonage and slavery.
- ◆ Latin America missed out on much of the Enlightenment.
- ◆ Tension between the classes led to rebellion but the Europeans preserved their domination of society.

Latin America in the Eighteenth





✿ Mexico City 1672. Tenochtitlan, which the Spanish had destroyed in 1519, was replaced by the city of Mexico. The city was built on a plateau, and the large building complex in the foreground is the main square and the cathedral.

“Forced Migration” (479)

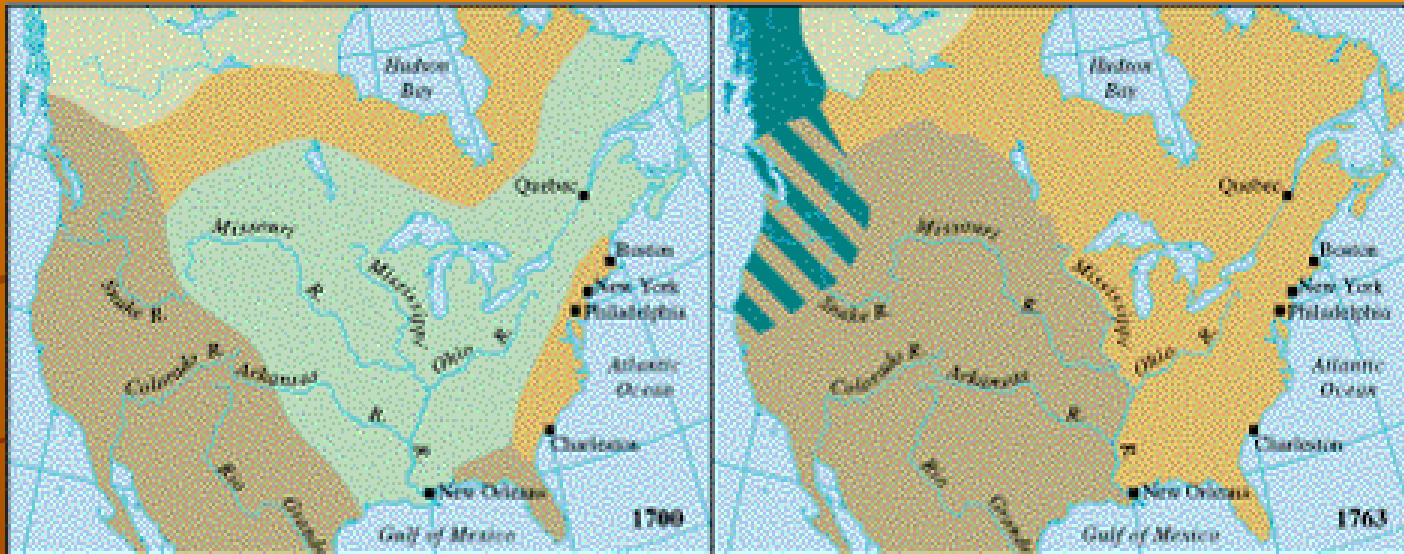
- ◆ Who? Africans
- ◆ When? 1500 to 1800 A.D.
- ◆ Where? Brazil, the Caribbean, the American South
- ◆ What? One of the largest migrations in human history.
- ◆ Millions of Africans, mostly males, were transported involuntarily to the New World.
- ◆ They contributed to the creation of the social and economic basis of the Americas.
- ◆ In the 19th Century the anti-slavery movement led to the abolition of slavery.

British North America (483)

- ◆ Who? British colonists
- ◆ Where? New England to Virginia
- ◆ When? 1620 to 1800 A.D.
- ◆ What? The society developed by the British in North America allowed more scope for economic activity and social mobility than Latin America.
- ◆ It was at once more like Europe's and more different from Europe's.
- ◆ It was far less multi-racial than Latin America and had a much larger European population.
- ◆ But it was far less class oriented.
- ◆ There was more local control and less royal interference.

the American revolution (487)

- ◆ Who? Patriots, Loyalists, British, Hessians, French, Spanish, Africans, and Native Americans
- ◆ Where? The Atlantic Colonies and Louisiana
- ◆ When? 1776 to 1783 A.D.
- ◆ What? The rebellion of the 13 colonies against King George of Great Britain.
- ◆ This led to the formation of a new nation, one not governed by kings, the United States of America.
- ◆ The first Republic since ancient Rome and Athens.



British
 Spanish
 French
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 Boundary of French Louisiana, 1800–1803

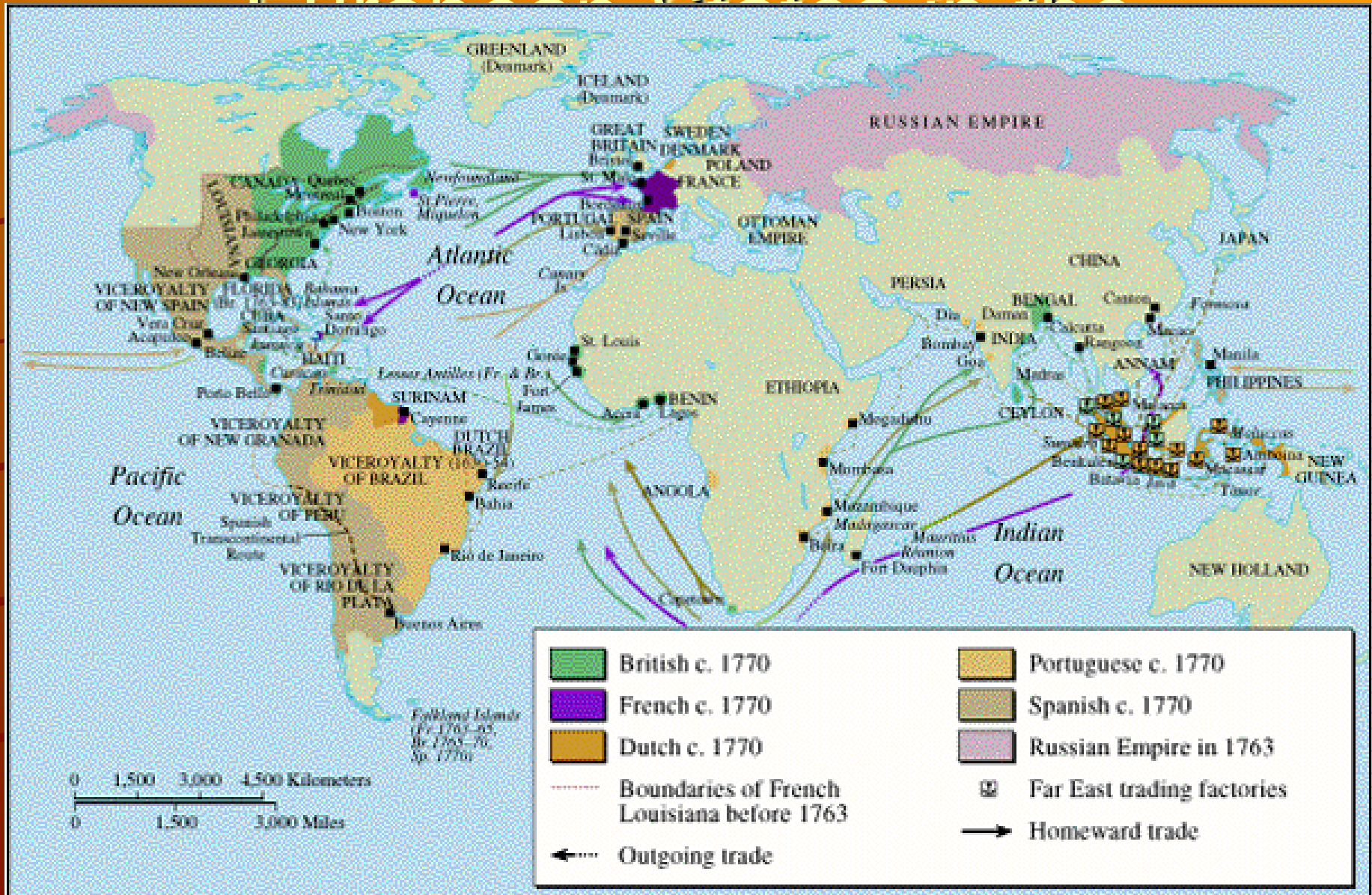


the Global Economy (495)

- ◆ Who? The British, Dutch, Americans, French, Chinese, Indians
- ◆ Where? Atlantic, Pacific, Indian ocean, Americas, China, India
- ◆ When? 1700 A.D. to present
- ◆ What? The emergence of a global economy as the result of European navigational feats, establishment of colonies and bases, and trade.
- ◆ The trade of slaves, sugar, tobacco, and cotton led to growing fortunes and financed the Industrial Revolution.

Global Trade Patterns of the

European Colonial Era



Summary

- ◆ The Scientific Revolution led to the Enlightenment which led to the triumph of Reason over Faith. This paved the way for Europe's lasting dominion of the globe.
- ◆ Absolutism centralized power in the hands of the monarch and the State.
- ◆ Constitutionalism placed limits on the power of the State but the State still had much greater control than at any previous time.
- ◆ Rationalized economics led to the emergence of new industries (sugar, fur, textiles), private corporations, and eventually the Industrial Revolution.
- ◆ The American Revolution led to the first self governing Republic since ancient Rome.

Discussion Question

- ◆ How were the new ideas of the scientific revolution and enlightenment connected to the political and economic revolutions taking place during this period?

