

CHAPTER  
**17**  
SECTION 1

**Note Taking Study Guide**

**PHILOSOPHY IN THE AGE OF REASON**

**Focus Question:** What effects did Enlightenment philosophers have on government and society?

*As you read this section in your textbook, complete the following table to summarize each thinker's works and ideas.*

| <b>Thinkers' Works and Ideas</b> |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Hobbes</b>                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Leviathan</i></li> <li>• _____</li> </ul>       |
| <b>Locke</b>                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• _____</li> <li>• _____</li> <li>• _____</li> </ul> |
| <b>Montesquieu</b>               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• _____</li> <li>• _____</li> <li>• _____</li> </ul> |
|                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• _____</li> <li>• _____</li> <li>• _____</li> </ul> |
|                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• _____</li> <li>• _____</li> <li>• _____</li> </ul> |
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SECTION 1

**Section Summary**  
**PHILOSOPHY IN THE AGE OF REASON**

In the 1500s and 1600s, the Scientific Revolution introduced reason and scientific method as the basis of knowledge, changing the way people looked at the world. In the 1700s, scientific successes, such as a vaccine against smallpox, convinced educated Europeans of the power of human reason. **Natural law**—rules discovered by reason—could be used to study human behavior and solve society’s problems. In this way, the Scientific Revolution sparked another revolution in thinking, known as the Enlightenment.

The ideas of **Thomas Hobbes** and **John Locke**, two seventeenth-century English thinkers, were key to the Enlightenment. Hobbes argued that people are “brutish” by nature, and therefore need to be controlled by an absolute monarchy. According to Hobbes, people enter into a **social contract** with their government, giving up their freedom in exchange for an organized society. In contrast, Locke thought that people are basically reasonable and moral. He also believed that people have certain **natural rights**, including the right to life, liberty, and property. Locke rejected absolute monarchy, believing that the best kind of government had limited power. In fact, Locke felt that people could overthrow a government if it violated their natural rights.

In France, Enlightenment thinkers called *philosophes* believed that the use of reason could lead to reforms in government, law, and society. Baron de **Montesquieu** proposed the ideas of separation of powers and of checks and balances as a way to protect liberty. His ideas would deeply affect the Framers of the United States Constitution. With his biting wit, **Voltaire** exposed abuses of power and defended the principle of freedom of speech. Denis **Diderot** edited a 28-volume *Encyclopedia*. This work included articles on human knowledge, explaining new ideas on topics such as government, philosophy, and religion. **Jean-Jacques Rousseau** believed that the good of the community should be placed above individual interests. However, the Enlightenment slogan “free and equal” did not apply to women.

Other thinkers, including **Adam Smith**, focused on using natural laws for economic reform. They rejected government regulation of the economy and instead urged the policy of **laissez faire**.

**Review Questions**

1. How did the Scientific Revolution lead to the Enlightenment?

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2. Identify three major ideas developed by Enlightenment thinkers.

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**READING CHECK**

Who were the *philosophes* and what did they believe?

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**VOCABULARY STRATEGY**

What does the word *philosophy* mean in the underlined sentence? It comes from a Greek word that means “love of wisdom.” Use this word-orgins clue to help you figure out what *philosophy* means.

**READING SKILL**

**Summarize** What ideas did Thomas Hobbes and John Locke have about human nature and the role of government?

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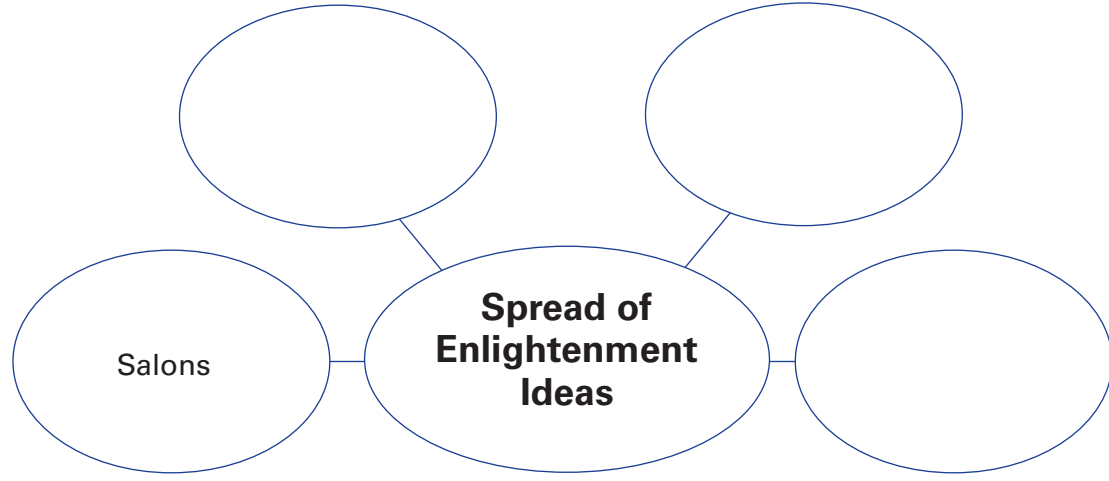
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**CHAPTER**  
**17**  
**SECTION 2**

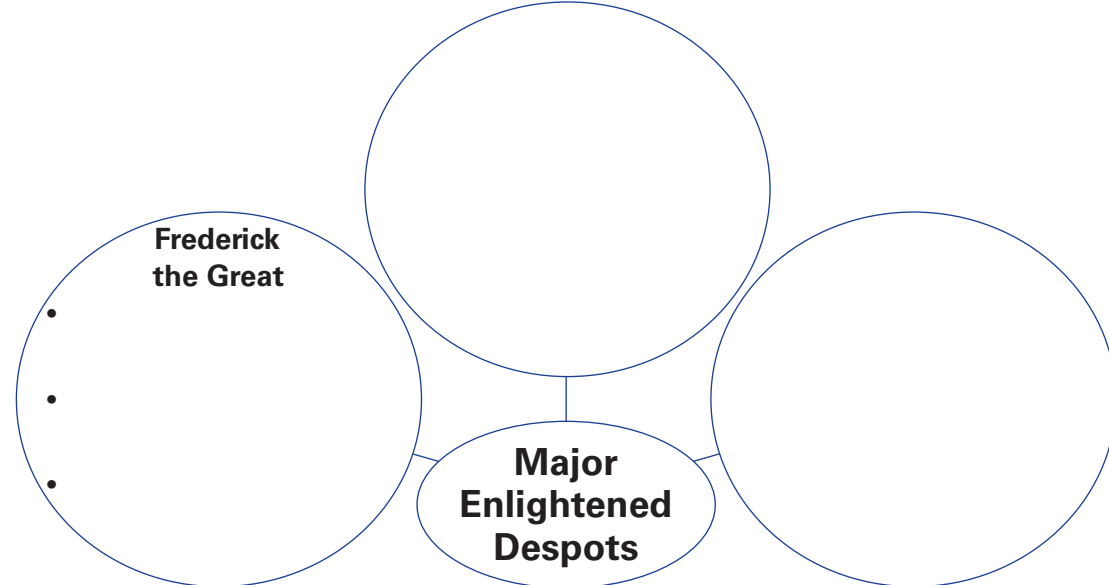
**Note Taking Study Guide**  
**ENLIGHTENMENT IDEAS SPREAD**

**Focus Question:** As Enlightenment ideas spread across Europe, what cultural and political changes took place?

A. As you read "New Ideas Challenge Society" and "Arts and Literature Reflect New Ideas," complete the following concept web to categorize how Enlightenment ideas spread.



B. As you read "Enlightened Despots Embrace New Ideas" and "Lives of the Majority Change Slowly," complete the following concept web to summarize information about enlightened despots and their contributions.



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**Section Summary**  
**ENLIGHTENMENT IDEAS SPREAD**

Enlightenment ideas flowed from France, across Europe and beyond. Before the Enlightenment, most Europeans had accepted a society based on divine-right rule, a strict class system, and a belief in a heavenly reward for earthly suffering. The ideas of the Enlightenment, found in books such as Diderot’s *Encyclopedia*, challenged those traditional beliefs and customs. In response, most government and church authorities waged a war of **ensorship**. They banned and burned books, and imprisoned writers. Censorship, however, did not stop the spread of ideas. *Philosophes* and others disguised their ideas in works of fiction. Ideas continued to spread in **salons**, where people gathered to discuss new concepts in literature, the arts, science, and philosophy.

In the 1600s and 1700s, the arts evolved to meet changing tastes and reflect new Enlightenment ideals. In visual art and in music there was a transition from the heavier splendor of the **baroque** style to the lighter, more charming style of **rococo**. Ballets and operas—plays set to music—were performed at royal courts. Opera houses sprang up in Europe. Composers later created elegant works in a style known as classical. A growing audience of middle-class readers also led to the rise of a new type of literature—a prose form called the novel. Daniel Defoe’s *Robinson Crusoe* was written at this time.

The courts of Europe were also affected by the Enlightenment as *philosophes* tried to persuade European rulers to make reforms. A few European monarchs did accept Enlightenment ideas, but retained their absolute control. These **enlightened despots** used their power to bring about some political and social changes. In Prussia, **Frederick the Great** kept tight control over his subjects yet allowed a free press and religious tolerance. **Catherine the Great** of Russia abolished torture and criticized the institution of serfdom. In Austria, **Joseph II** traveled in disguise among his subjects to learn of their problems. Despite the spread of Enlightenment ideas, however, the lives of most regular Europeans changed slowly.

**Review Questions**

1. How did most government and church authorities try to stop the spread of Enlightenment ideas?

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2. What effect did Enlightenment ideas have on art, music, and literature?

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**READING CHECK**

What traditional beliefs and customs did the ideas of the Enlightenment challenge?

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**VOCABULARY STRATEGY**

What does the word *evolved* mean in the underlined sentence? What clues can you find in the surrounding words, phrases, or sentences? Circle the context clues in the paragraph that could help you learn what *evolved* means.

**READING SKILL**

**Summarize** How did enlightened despots contribute to the Enlightenment?

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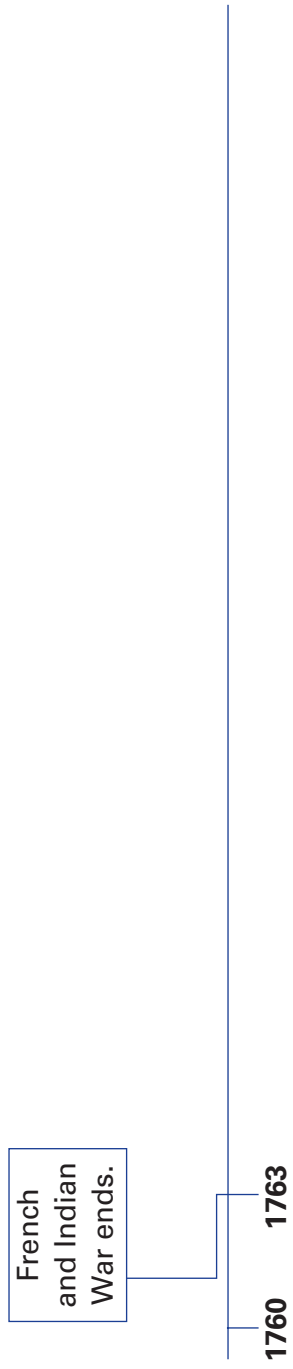
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CHAPTER  
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SECTION 3

**Note Taking Study Guide**  
**BIRTH OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLIC**

**Focus Question:** How did ideas of the Enlightenment lead to the independence and founding of the United States of America?

*As you read this section in your textbook, complete the following timeline with the dates of important events that led to the formation of the United States.*



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SECTION 3

## Section Summary

### BIRTH OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLIC

In the mid-1700s, Britain was a formidable global power. Key reasons for this status included its location, support of commerce, and huge gains in territory around the world. Furthermore, the new king, George III, began to assert his leadership and royal power.

Britain's growing empire included 13 prosperous colonies on the east coast of North America. The colonists shared many values. These included an increasing sense of their own destiny separate from Britain. In some cases, Britain neglected to enforce laws dealing with colonial trade and manufacturing.

Tensions between the colonists and Britain grew as Parliament passed laws, such as the **Stamp Act**, that increased colonists' taxes. The colonists protested what they saw as "taxation without representation." A series of violent clashes with British soldiers intensified the colonists' anger. Finally, representatives from each colony, including **George Washington** of Virginia, met in the Continental Congress to decide what to do. Then in April 1775, colonists fought British soldiers at Lexington and Concord, and the American Revolution began.

On July 4, 1776, the Second Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence. Written primarily by **Thomas Jefferson**, it reflects John Locke's ideas about the rights to "life, liberty, and property." It also details the colonists' grievances and emphasizes the Enlightenment idea of **popular sovereignty**.

At first, chances for American success looked bleak. The colonists struggled against Britain's trained soldiers, huge fleet, and greater resources. When the colonists won the Battle of Saratoga, other European nations, such as France, joined the American side. With the help of the French fleet, Washington forced the British to surrender at **Yorktown, Virginia**, in 1781. Two years later American, British, and French diplomats signed the **Treaty of Paris**, ending the war.

By 1789, leaders of the new United States, such as **James Madison** and **Benjamin Franklin**, had established a **federal republic** under the Constitution. The new government was based on the separation of powers, an idea borrowed directly from Montesquieu. The Bill of Rights, the first ten amendments to the Constitution, protected basic rights. The United States Constitution put Enlightenment ideas into practice and has become an important symbol of freedom.

## Review Questions

1. What first caused tensions to rise between the colonists and Britain?

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2. What are some Enlightenment ideas found in the Declaration of Independence?

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### READING CHECK

How did France help the Americans win the Revolution?

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### VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does the word *assert* mean in the underlined sentence?

What context clues can you find in the surrounding words, phrases, or sentences that hint at its meaning? Circle the word below that is a synonym for *assert*.

1. declare
2. deny

### READING SKILL

**Recognize Sequence** Place the events leading to the American Revolution in the correct order.

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