Period 1: c. 1450 to c. 1648

Key Concept 1.1: The worldview of European intellectuals shifted from one based on ecclesiastical and classical authority to one based primarily on inquiry and observation of the natural world.

1. A revival of classical texts led to new methods of scholarship and new values in both society and religion.
   1. Revival in classical literature, secularism, and individualism
   2. Revival of ancient Greek and Roman texts, spread by printing press, challenges the power of the catholic church
   3. Admiration for Greek and Roman political institutions supports revival of civic humanist culture; produces secular models for individual and political behavior
2. The invention of printing promoted the dissemination of new ideas.
   1. Printing press spreads the renaissance beyond Italy
   2. Protestant reformers use printing press to disseminate ideas which spurs religious reform
3. The visual arts incorporated the new ideas of the Renaissance and were used to promote personal, political, and religious goals.
   1. Princes and popes commission paintings and architectural works based on classical styles and employing geometric perspective
   2. Human centered naturalism was encouraged through patronage
   3. Distortion, drama, and illusion used to promote stature and power
4. New ideas in science based on observation, experimentation, and mathematics challenged classical views of the cosmos, nature, and the human body, though folk traditions of knowledge and the universe persisted.
   1. Astronomy- Copernicus, Galileo, and Newton
   2. Medical- William Harvey,
   3. Inductive and deductive reasoning- Francis Bacon and Rene Descartes
   4. Alchemy and astrology appeal to the elite while peasants continue to believe the cosmos were governed by a divine force

Key Concept 1.2: The struggle for sovereignty within and among states resulted in varying degrees of political centralization.

1. The new concept of the sovereign state and secular systems of law played a central role in the creation of new political institutions.
   1. Foundation for centralized modern state based on monopoly on tax collection, military force, dispensing of justice, and controlling religion
   2. The Peace of Westphalia accelerates decline of the HRE
   3. Commercial and professional groups gain power
   4. Secular political theories- Machiavelli’s *The Prince*
2. The competitive state system led to new patterns of diplomacy and new forms of warfare.
   1. Religion no longer causes warfare; military based on balance of power
   2. Advances in military technology led to new forms of warfare
3. The competition for power between monarchs and corporate groups produced different distributions of governmental authority in European states.
   1. English Civil War
   2. Monarchies faced challenges from nobles who want to retain traditional forms

Key Concept 1.3: Religious pluralism challenged the concept of a unified Europe.

1. The Protestant and Catholic reformations fundamentally changed theology, religious institutions, and culture.
   1. Christian humanism employed Renaissance learning in the service of religious reform
   2. Reformers criticize the Catholic church and establish new interpretation of Christian doctrine
   3. Catholic Reformation revived the church but cemented division within Christianity
2. Religious reform both increased state control of religious institutions and provided justifications for challenging state authority.
   1. Religious reform initiated from the top down
   2. Some protestants didn’t recognize subordination of the church to the state
   3. Religious conflicts became the basis for challenging the monarch’s control of religious institutions
3. Conflicts among religious groups overlapped with political and economic competition within and among states.
   1. Issues of religious reform exacerbated conflicts between monarchy and nobility
   2. The efforts of Habsburg rulers failed to restore catholic unity across Europe
   3. States exploited religious conflicts to promote political and economic interests
   4. A few states allowed religious pluralism in order to maintain domestic peace

Key Concept 1.4: Europeans explored and settled overseas territories, encountering and interacting with indigenous populations.

1. European natives were driven by commercial and religious motives to explore overseas territories and establish colonies.
   1. Europeans wanted direct access to gold and spices
   2. Mercantilism gave state new role in promoting commercial development
   3. Christianity served as stimulus for exploration
2. Advances in navigation, cartography, and military technology allowed Europeans to establish overseas colonies and empires.
3. Europeans established overseas empires and trade networks through coercion and negotiation.
   1. Portuguese establish along African coast, in south and east Asia, and South America
   2. Spanish established colonies across Americas, Caribbean, and pacific, making it a dominant state
   3. France, England, an Netherlands establish their own trade networks to compete with Portugal and Spain
   4. Competition for trade led to conflict and rivalry among European powers
4. Europeans’ colonial expansion led to a global exchange for goods, flora, fauna, cultural practices, and diseases, resulting in destruction of some indigenous civilizations, a shift toward European dominance, and the expansion of the slave trade.
   1. Exchange of goods shifted center of European power from Mediterranean to Atlantic
   2. Columbian exchange creates economic opportunities for Europeans
   3. Europeans expanded slave trade

Key Concept 1.5: European society and the experiences of everyday life were increasingly shaped by commercial and agricultural capitalism, notwithstanding the persistence of medieval social and economic structures.

1. Economic change produced new social patterns, while traditions of hierarchy and status persisted.
   1. Innovations in banking and finance promote growth of urban financial centers
   2. Growth of commerce produced new economic elite
   3. Hierarchy and status continued to define social power and perceptions in rural and urban settings
2. Most Europeans derived their livelihood from agriculture and oriented their lives around the seasons, the village, or the manor, although economic changes began to alter rural production and power.
   1. Subsidence agriculture; 3 crop field rotation in north and 2 crop rotation in Mediterranean
   2. The price of revolution contributed to accumulation of capital and expansion of market economy through commercialization of agriculture
   3. Free peasantry and commercial agriculture in west; serfdom in east
   4. Attempts of landlords to increase revenue by restricting or abolishing traditional rights led peasant to revolt
3. Population shifts and growing commerce caused the expansion of cities, which often found their traditional political and social structures stressed by the growth.
   1. Population recovered to pre-plague level; there are uneven price increases which increase more than wages
   2. Migrants challenge ability of merchant elites and craft guilds to govern and strained resources
   3. Social dislocation and weakening of religious institutions left government with task of regulating public morals
4. The family remained the primary social and economic institution of early modern Europe and took several forms, including the nuclear family.
   1. Rural and urban households worked as units
   2. Debates about female roles in families
   3. Delayed marriage and childbearing
5. Popular culture, leisure activities, and rituals reflecting the persistence of folk ideas reinforced and sometimes challenged communal ties and norms.
   1. Leisure activities organized according to religious calendar and agricultural cycle
   2. Authorities use rituals an public humiliation
   3. Accusations of witchcraft peaked from 1580-1650