**AP World History Crash Course: The Enlightenment**

**Before the Enlightenment:**In the late 1500's, a revolution began. This period of great change is known as the “Scientific Revolution.” For centuries, mankind had been progressing, but very slowly – especially in the area of science. Medicine was primitive, people's idea of the universe was very limited and restricted by religious belief, man's idea of how nature functioned was limited by superstition and fear, and human beings did not even have a basic understanding of how and what they breathed, how they saw or heard, or what ideas or tools were necessary to figure these puzzles out.

Starting in the late 1500's, men like Kepler, Copernicus, Galileo, Newton, Leibniz, and others began to explain to mankind the nature of both the seen and the unseen universe. To do this, they devised new methods of calculation and measurement, and perhaps more importantly, they introduced what we know as the “Scientific Method.” For centuries, humans had taken as absolute truth that which they appeared to see and perceive, and that which had been passed down to them from prior generations – without dispute. The men of the Scientific Revolution questioned everything, and to do this, they observed, measured, experimented and formulated hypotheses and theories about why things were the way they were, and set about proving or disproving their hypotheses, or the ideas of the ages. The Scientific Revolution is another topic which will be covered in AP World History, and one which you will need to understand before you move on to the Enlightenment period.

**The World Changed:**It was not only in science that reason and close observation triumphed over ignorance and unquestioned tradition. Ideas about human society, government, religion and culture began to be questioned. Intellectuals in the late 17th and early 18th century thought that if people had been so wrong about the nature of the universe, perhaps they could be wrong about a great many other things, including perhaps most importantly, the rights of man. These thinkers, known to us as the “Philosophes” (the French word for “philosophers”) ushered in an age called the Enlightenment – for during this time, many people in Europe and North America came to see that they had been living in the unquestioned darkness of tyranny and ignorance for many centuries.

**America is based on Enlightenment ideas:**With only one or two exceptions, the governments of Europe and North America in the 18th century were monarchies, most of them absolute monarchies in which the king or queen was not controlled or limited by anyone or any law. The monarch’s word was law. In England, King George III was more limited in his power than other European monarchs, but still exercised a great deal of direct influence, especially over the North American colonies, which was increasingly resented.

The Enlightenment period led directly to the founding of the United States of America, and the American Revolution was really the taking of Enlightenment ideas and putting them into practice - and so has the entire history of America to the present day. The French Revolution spread the ideas of the Enlightenment throughout Europe, and when the Revolutionary period was over in the early 1800’s much of European society had changed. You will be studying these changes as AP World History takes you into the study of the modern world.

**France - the home of the Enlightenment:** During the early to mid 1700's, some French (and other) writers began to criticize the structure of French society, culture and especially government. France was an absolute monarchy where the king's will was law, and subject to change on a whim. This monarchy was based on an idea known as the “Divine Right of Kings”, which held that monarchs were placed on the throne by God, and were ruling in His stead – therefore, disobeying the King was tantamount to disobeying God. Using logic, reason, sarcasm and wit, men such as Voltaire, Montesquieu, Condorcet, Diderot and many others began to show that not only was this idea ridiculous, but that many other ideas held to be true in France and Europe were too. Mostly, the philosophes condemned the privilege, rights and riches of the few in the upper class who enjoyed absolute power while the majority of the people had no rights at all and lived in poverty. This is the **main point** of this crash course in AP World History on the Enlightenment – that people in Europe and North America began to assert their rights as individuals, and were determined that others would have that ability as well.

Both the American and French revolutions were grounded on Enlightenment thought. As Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence, a model of Enlightenment thought. Ten years after the American Revolution, the French people rose up against their monarch, and proclaimed a government of “Liberty, Equality and Brotherhood.” These two events were the culmination and manifestation of Enlightenment ideas, and are still being felt today, especially in nations attempting to establish the rule of law and some form of democracy.

If you take nothing else from this AP World History crash course on the Enlightenment, let it be this: that without the thinkers of the Enlightenment, a great many of us might still be living in a state of both ignorance and oppression.

**5 Industrialization Facts for AP World History Questions**

Imagine a world where you went to bed when the sun went down and woke up when it rose. A world where most people did not travel more than twenty-five miles or so from home – for their entire lives. A world where trees, peat or dung were burned to heat homes, if they were heated at all. If someone wanted to travel twenty miles for supplies, they might ask their nearest neighbor to take their children in. Since the trip would take three or four days, a person might also be carrying supplies for his or her neighbors in return for their plowing his field or other work. If you've imagined this world, you've imagined the Earth as it existed before the Industrial Revolution of the 18th and 19th centuries. AP World History will answer many of the questions that you have about how the world of today came to be. Knowledge of this period is crucial not only for your success in approaching different AP World History questions, but for your understanding of the world around you. Often times students of AP World History are surprised by how interesting learning about the Industrial Revolution has been. You probably have a lot of questions about the Industrial Revolution – here are some answers:

1. A question that many AP World History students have is why the countries of Western Europe and the United States seemed to dominate the world in the 20th century. Among other things, you will learn that the Industrial Revolution began in England, spread to Western Europe and then to North America. Eastern Europe and Russia lagged behind the industrial development of the West, as did Africa, Asia and South America, which put these regions at a decided economic and military disadvantage in the 19th and early 20th centuries.
2. The second thing you will learn is that this period of history saw the beginnings of industrial, mechanized production. Prior to this period, production of anything required human or animal power. When people learned how to create and harness the power of steam, and built uniform machines that used it to make things many times faster than ever dreamed of before, the standard of living of people and countries rose dramatically.
3. You will learn that as a result of the Industrial Revolution, human society and culture in Europe and America changed radically. Cities became more numerous and populated and family farms and businesses were destroyed by the economic changes of the Industrial Revolution. The structure of the family itself changed – for centuries,families tended to stay close together, for economic reasons, to name just one. The Industrial Revolution changed the way families related to each other.
4. The Industrial Revolution also changed the environment radically. The first few generations of factories polluted their surroundings on a massive scale. Water supplies were poisoned, forests died, species became extinct, habitats were destroyed, and animals even began to evolve in different ways in response to the changes in their environment. Halfway through the Industrial Revolution, mankind discovered that petroleum (oil) could be used to power machines, ships, and much else (like cars - which were invented in the latter part of the Industrial Revolution). The use of and drilling for petroleum also changed the environment radically, as did the use of another fossil fuel – coal. Today, we are directly feeling the effects of this development with the problem of global warming.
5. The world became a “smaller” place as a result of the Industrial Revolution. New inventions, such as the steam engine made possible steamships and railroads which allowed people to travel to foreign lands much more rapidly than before. Additionally, since the factories of Europe both used raw materials from and sold finished good to other nations, international trade increased dramatically.

In many ways the Industrial Revolution was the most influential period of modern times. We hope that some of the questions that you had about this period of time have been answered and that it has helped you prepare for your AP World History class.

# 7 Facts about Napoleon for AP World History Review

So you're taking AP World History and you need to know some things about Napoleon Bonaparte? You've come to the right place. This short article will get you started for your AP World History Review, giving you seven basic must know facts about Napoleon. Review them carefully, you will see them again.

### 1. Napoleon was an emperor and military**genius.**

Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1821) ruled France from 1799-1814, as “First Consul”, and eventually “Emperor of the French.” Bonaparte was a military man, having become an officer after attending France's equivalent of West Point. People recognized in Napoleon, even at a young age, an exceptionally talented, charismatic and gifted man and military officer. His armies conquered lands from Spain to Moscow. He was and is considered one of the great military geniuses in human history, and the battles he fought and the principles he developed are still taught in military schools world-wide.

**2. Napoleon spread** Enlightenment**ideas**.

Napoleon introduced some of the ideas of the French Revolution and the Enlightenment to the rest of Europe. One of these was that the family of a man's birth should not limit what he could become. Many of Napoleon's field marshals were men who were born into peasant, lower class or middle class families, as were many of his officers. Another of the principles of the French Revolution that Napoleon introduced was a greater level of religious toleration and protection – in France and in areas under his control.

### 3. Napoleon made peace with the**Catholic** Church.

Another important fact for you to know is that Napoleon re-established friendly relations with the Catholic Church. During the Revolution, revolutionaries and the Church worked against each other. That came to a stop when Napoleon and the Pope signed the “Concordat” On July 15th, 1801, establishing good relations.

### **4. Napoleon instituted a new legal system.**

Napoleon also instituted a new legal system for France. He created a written legal code for all of France. This code, which is known as the” Napoleonic Code”, was revolutionary in that it established a written, definitive and easily accessible set of laws for the entire country. Prior to the Revolution and Napoleon, the country was ruled by the King whose word was law, who in turn ruled through his nobles (various aristocratic landowners who had virtually absolute power over vast areas of France). Laws might or might not be written down, and were frequently both made up to cover situations as they arose, or to keep the rest of the population down.

### 5. Napoleon played a huge role in the**Louisiana** Purchase.

To a great degree Napoleon is responsible for the expansion of the United States. The famous “Louisiana Purchase” of 1803 made by American president Thomas Jefferson, which included much of the land along the Mississippi River was sold to the Americans by Napoleon for fifteen million dollars. The territory had been controlled by France for close to one hundred and fifty years, and had limited American expansion.

### 6. Napoleon would ultimately be**defeated** at Waterloo.

The phrase “He met his “Waterloo”, which is still used in English today, meaning someone who finally been defeated after a string of victories, refers directly to Napoleon. In 1812, Napoleon, whose empire stretched to the borders of Russia, invaded that huge country. At first, it appeared that Napoleon might succeed, but as summer turned to fall and fall turned into winter, success became less and less likely. As the Russians retreated, they destroyed everything that the invading French might be able to use – primarily food. Grain was burned, other crops destroyed, animals slaughtered. By the time the French army reached Moscow, it was a starving, frostbitten wreck. Back in Europe, the countries kept down for so long by Napoleon, and the one enemy he could never defeat, England, attacked him relentlessly. In 1814. Napoleon surrendered and was taken into English custody He was sentenced to exile on a small island of Elba in the Mediterranean. A few months later, he escaped, returned to France, gathered an army, deposed the newly installed king, and named himself Emperor once again. Napoleon was finally defeated at the large battle of Waterloo in Belgium. He was then sent to live out his remaining days on a remote island in the Atlantic,St. Helena.

### 7. Napoleon was from**Corsica.**

Napoleon was not French. Though the island that he came from, Corsica, came under French control one year before Napoleon was born. It had been a possession of the Italian state of Genoa. Napoleon's family settled in Corsica in the 1500's from Italy. His name on Corsica was*Napoleone di Buonaparte*, and he spoke French with a heavy Corsican accent. Some historians suggest that Napoleon's Corsican background and accent, and the discrimination it caused in France caused him to both focus on his studies to outshine his French rivals, and to support the idea of promotion by merit in the army and the government.

Now you know know seven of the most important facts about Napoleon Bonaparte, one of the greatest military minds in history. Review these facts and keep them in mind to help you succeed in AP World History.