



POLITICAL CHANGE IN EUROPE

Industrial Revolution

POLITICAL CHANGE

- The Scientific Revolution and the age of Exploration expanded Europeans' knowledge and changed life in many ways. The 1600s and 1700s brought still more changes. Some people began to use reason to improve government and society.
- During the 1600 and 1700s monarchs, or kings and queens, ruled in most of Europe.
- Many monarchs believed they ruled through divine right, or thought God gave them the right to rule however they chose.
- Some people challenged rule by divine right, and thought rulers' powers should be limited to protect people's freedoms.
- John Locke, an English philosopher, thought government should be a contract between a ruler and the people.

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- Locke also believed that all people had certain natural rights, such as life, liberty, and property.
- If a ruler did not protect these natural rights, people had the right to change rulers.
- These ideas would inspire some Europeans to rise up against their rulers.
- Age of Revolution
- 1642 the English forced King Charles I from power and strengthened their Parliament. They also made sure future Kings would honor the Magna Carta.
- The American Revolution in 1775.
- 1789 The French Revolution

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- During the French Revolution there was a period called the Reign of Terror.
- The Reign of Terror was a bloody period of the French Revolution during which the government executed thousands of its opponents and others at the guillotine.
- The guillotine was a device to behead people with a large, heavy blade.
- 1799 Napoleon Bonaparte will take control of France.
 - Brilliant military leader.
 - By 1810 Napoleon had control of most of Europe.
 - In 1812 Napoleon invaded Russia. Of over 100,000 troops only 10,000 will return home from the disastrous invasion.
 - This was a huge blow to Napoleon's power and he would then be defeated by Great Britain, Prussia, and Russia in 1814.