



# Lesson #3

# The Enlightenment Spreads

## The Big Idea

Enlightenment ideas spread through the Western world and profoundly influenced the arts and government.

## Why it Matters Today

An “enlightened” problem-solving government and society prevails in modern civilization today.

# Setting the Stage

- The philosophes' views about society often got them in trouble.
- In France, it was illegal to criticize either the Catholic Church or the government.
- Many philosophes landed in jail or were exiled.
- Nevertheless, the Enlightenment spread throughout Europe with the help of books, magazines, and word of mouth.

# A World of Ideas

(Peinture de G. Lemonnier, XVIIIème siècle, Rouen )

Voici le salon de Madame Geoffrin (4). Elle y reçoit des artistes de son époque, comme Montesquieu (1), Diderot (3), Rousseau (2) autour d'un buste de Voltaire (5).



# Salons

- **Salons** were informal social gatherings at which writers, artists, *philosophes*, and others exchanged ideas.
- Paris was the cultural and intellectual capital of Europe.
- The buzz of Enlightenment ideas was most intense in the mansions of several wealthy women of Paris.
- The most influential salon hostess was **Marie-Therese Geoffrin**, who helped finance the publication of **Denis Diderot's** large set of books called *Encyclopedia*.

# Diderot's *Encyclopedia*

- The first **encyclopedia** volumes were published in 1751.
- The Enlightenment views in these articles angered both the French government and the Catholic Church.
- Their censors banned the work because they felt it undermined royal authority and encouraged a spirit of revolt.
- Nonetheless, Diderot continued to publish his *Encyclopedia* (Freedom of the press).
- The salons and *Encyclopedia* helped spread Enlightenment ideas to educated people all over Europe.
- As a result they began to spread through newspapers, pamphlets, and even political songs.

# New Artistic Styles

- The Enlightenment ideals of order and reason were reflected in the arts – music, literature, painting, and architecture.
- European art in the 1600s and early 1700s were dominated by the style called **baroque**.
- Under the influence of the Enlightenment, style began to change.
- Artists and architects worked in a simple and elegant style that borrowed ideas and themes from classical Greece and Rome, known as **neoclassical**.



# Baroque Art

Caravaggio,  
*Supper at Emmaus*  
1601



- Baroque art is less complex and more realistic. The movement was encouraged by the Catholic Church as a return to tradition and spirituality.

# Rococo Art

Francois Boucher  
*The Fountain of Love*  
1748

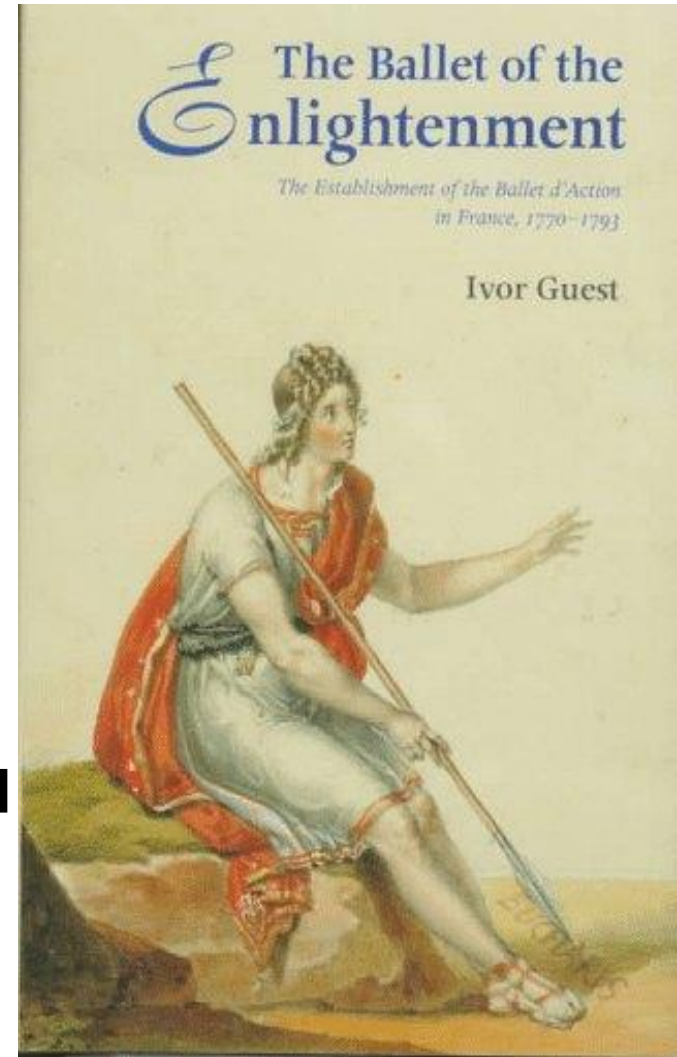


- Characterized by elegant, refined yet playful subject matters. Decorative designs were used to illustrate stories.



# The Enlightenment Inspires Composers

- The new Enlightenment ideals composers and musicians to develop new forms of music (baroque to rococo).
- An elegant style of “classical” emerged.
- Ballets, operas were performed for the social elite.
- Mozart, The Musical Genius



# #5

- As you read about the spread of ideas during the Age of Reason, explain how each of the following people reflected Enlightenment ideas.

<b>1. Mary Astell</b> Pg. 170	1. 2.
<b>2. Mary Wollstonecraft</b> Pg. 170	1. 2.
<b>3. Frederick the Great</b> Pg. 171	1. 2.
<b>4. Joseph II</b> Pg. 172	1. 2.
<b>5. Catherine the Great</b> Pg. 172	1. 2.

# #6 Assessment

- *Reading Check*

1. Why did the Catholic Church seek to censor the writings of Enlightenment thinkers? Pg. 167-68
2. How did **baroque** and **neoclassical** architecture differ? Pg. 168
3. Why do you think the issue of education was important to both **Astell & Wollstonecraft**? Pg. 170
4. How accurately does the term “**enlightened despot**” describe Catherine the Great? Explain. Pg. 172
5. Why did the Enlightenment not have much impact of the lives of poorer Europeans? Pg. 175