

Demographic and Social Change

Period 1: 1450-1648

- Economic change produced new social patterns while traditions of hierarchy and status persisted
 - Growth of commerce produced a new economic elite in many areas
 - Gentry in England
 - Nobles of the robe in France
 - Hierarchy and status continued to define social power in urban and rural settings
- 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
 - Subsistence agriculture was the rule in most areas, with three-crop field rotation in the north and two-crop rotation in the Mediterranean; in many cases, farmers paid rent and labor services for their land
 - The price revolution benefitted large landowners in western Europe
 - Serfdom was strengthened in eastern Europe
 - Landlords attempted to increase their revenues, which led to peasants revolting in some cases
- Population shifts and growing commerce caused the expansion of cities, which often had stresses placed on their political and social institutions
 - Population recovered to its pre-Plague level in the 16th century
 - Population pressures contributed to uneven price increases
 - Agricultural commodities increased more sharply than wages, which reduced living standards for some
 - Migrants in cities challenged elites and strained resources
 - Sanitation problems
 - Poverty issues
 - Crime rates went up
 - City governments often attempted to regulate public morals
 - Think of Calvin's Geneva here

- Family remained the primary social and economic institution of early modern Europe and took several forms, including the nuclear family
 - Rural and urban households often worked as units
 - Men and women engaged in separate, but complementary tasks
 - The Renaissance and Reformation raised debates about female roles in the family, society, and the Church
 - Renaissance figures debated women's right to an education
 - Reformation figures debated women as preachers
 - Europeans often responded to economic challenges and environmental challenges like the Little Ice Age by delaying marriage and childbearing, which restrained population growth and ultimately improved the economic condition of families
- Popular culture and leisure activities reflected the persistence of folk ideas and reinforced and sometimes challenged communal ties and norms
 - Leisure activities continued to be organized according to the religious calendar and agricultural cycle and remained communal in nature
 - Blood sports (bull baiting)
 - Carnival
 - Saint Day festivals
 - Local and church authorities continued to enforce communal norms through rituals of public humiliation
 - Stocks
 - Public whipping
 - Accusations of witchcraft peaked from 1580-1650

Period 2: 1648-1815

- In the late 17th century, small landholdings, low agricultural productivity, poor transportation, and bad weather limited and disrupted the food supply which caused famines. This changed in the 18th century as Europeans began to have a better balance between population and food supply leading to steady population growth. This was in part caused by the Agricultural Revolution.
 - By the middle of the 18th century, improved agricultural techniques and improved transportation increased the food supply
 - Populations grew and reduced the number of demographic crises
 - Plague disappeared as a major epidemic and inoculation reduced smallpox
- Consumer revolution of the 18th century occurred
 - Had new concerns for privacy
 - New goods were purchased for homes
 - Had new venues for leisure activities like coffee houses
- By the 18th century, family and private life reflected new demographic patterns and the effects of the commercial revolution
 - Illegitimate births did increase in the 18th century
 - Population growth was limited though by the European marriage pattern and by the early practice of birth control
 - Infant and child mortality began to decrease and commercial wealth began to increase
 - Families dedicated more space and resources to children and child-rearing as well as private life and comfort
- Cities offered new opportunities to people and attracted migrants from rural areas
 - This transformed urban life and created challenges
 - The Agricultural Revolution produced more food using fewer workers
 - This led to people migrating to cities in search of work
 - The growth of cities eroded traditional values and city governments strained to provide protection and a healthy environment to live in
 - The concentration of the poor in cities led to greater awareness of poverty, crime, and prostitution as social problems, and prompted increased efforts to police marginal groups

Period 3: 1815-1914

- Industrial Revolution led to various changes
 - New social classes
 - Proletariat and bourgeoisie
 - Agricultural elites did persist in some areas (less industrialized regions)
 - Class identity developed with this, especially for the middle class and those in trade unions for the working class
 - Rapid population growth occurred and urbanization
 - Longer lives
 - Lower infant mortality rates
 - Cities experienced overcrowding while rural areas experienced declines in labor and weakened communities
 - Family structure altered
 - Bourgeois families became focused around the nuclear family, the cult of domesticity, and distinct gender roles
 - Wages and the quality of life for working classes improved by the end of the century because of child labor laws, social welfare, better diets, and birth control
 - Marriage moved more toward love
 - Leisure time centered increasingly on the family or small groups
 - More consumerism occurred due to the Second Industrial Revolution
 - Mass marketing occurred, which increased demand for new consumer goods (clothes, processed foods, labor saving devices)
 - More leisure time
 - Better transportation
 - Some areas still had famines (Ireland)

Period 4: 1914 to Present

- Welfare state policies increased social programs for the people
- Had widespread death from World Wars and genocide
- Did have improvements in the standard of living due to new food technology, mass production, and industrial efficiency
 - More income and more consumer goods
 - Better communication and transportation technologies
- Lives of women improved and had women's rights movements
- New voices gained prominence in political, intellectual, and social discourse
 - Green Parties
 - Gay and lesbian movements
 - Intellectuals and youth reacted against perceived bourgeois materialism and decadence like the 1968 Paris riots
 - Guest workers and immigration
 - Do have anti-immigration groups and parties grow

General Overview by Century

-Marriage and Family Patterns

-16th and 17th Centuries

- nuclear family
- divorce available in some cases, usually required Pope's approval
- prostitution began to increase
- marriages still based around economic concerns, but became increasingly more romantic
 - mid to late 20s for marriages
- infanticide common
- low rate of illegitimate birth

-18th century

- nuclear family mostly
- marriages based more on romance
 - marriage now in late 20s or much later since couples needed to wait economically
 - more women do not marry
- huge increase in illegitimate births from 1750-1850
 - in part due to urbanization
- increase in infanticide
- young people increasingly working away from the home in the city
- harsh discipline practiced with children

-19th century

- ideal of romantic love most important reason to marry
 - men marry late
 - middle class more likely than others to consider economic issues
- fewer children per family
 - parents care more about children since they survive
- less economic dependence on parents
 - cult of domesticity for women
- illegitimacy declines
- prostitution began to increase

-20th century

- baby boom after WWII happened
- women began having children earlier and had fewer children
 - baby bust issue
- less economic dependence on parents

-General nutrition and health

-16th and 17th centuries

- poor life expectancy
 - around 25 years
- price revolution led to less food consumption due to higher prices until around 1650
- bread was the staple food for lower classes, potato starts to become important
- diseases like smallpox and famine common

-18th century

- improved diet occurred
 - more vegetables available, especially the potato
- life expectancy went up to 35 years
 - less deadly war
 - improved diet
 - Black Death gone
 - major advances in disease control, such as Jenner's inoculation method for smallpox
- development of public health began to occur
 - advances in clean water and hygiene
 - reform beginning to occur for hospitals

-19th century

- increased life expectancy
- significant decline in infant mortality after 1890
- large public health movement began to occur
 - remember Chadwick and public health reform
- bacterial revolution
 - Pasteur with germ theory
- were poor living conditions in cities

-20th century

- increased life expectancy after WWII
- leaner and healthier lifestyle after the 1970s
- medicine has heavily advanced obviously

-population changes

-15th-17th centuries

- population growth until around 1650
- enclosure movements beginning to push people into cities
- serfdom still present in Eastern Europe

-18th century

- population explosion happened
 - 1720: 120 million, 1800: 190 million, 1850: 260 million
 - this was due to the agricultural revolution
 - new crops
 - better diet
 - less destructive wars
 - it was not due to medical advances

- cottage industry and enclosure beginning to push some people into cities

-19th century

-very heavy industrialization led to urbanization across Europe

-huge population growth across Europe led to large cities (London went from 900,000 in 1800 to 2,500,00 in 1850)

-not as urbanized in far north or east of Europe

-had large industrial centers begin to emerge, such as Manchester

-role of city changed to industrial center

-people began migrating into urban areas to find jobs

-had migration overseas as well

-Europeans looking for a better opportunity in their life

-this was especially true during the hungry forties (8 million would leave Ireland between 1835-1850)

-20th century

-increase in the welfare state due to mass population

-have had continued migration overseas

-have also had immigration concerns for Europe during this time period

Important Economic Dates

- Commercial Revolution (1500-1700)
- **Antwerp=financial center of Europe (1500s)**
- Golden Age of Spain (1550-1650)
 - Had large colonies overseas
 - Large silver and gold trade
 - Know reasons for decline
- Golden Age of the Netherlands (1600-1650)
 - **Amsterdam was the financial center of Europe in the 17th century**
 - Know reason for decline
- Exploration Period (1500s-1700s)
 - Mercantilism was the major economic theory and practice
- Development of capitalism (1700s)
 - Adam Smith: *Wealth of Nations* (1776)
- Cottage Industry and Enclosure (late 1600s through 1700s)
- Agricultural Revolution (1700s)
- First Industrial Revolution (1750-1850)
 - Britain dominates
- Second Industrial Revolution (1850-1900)
 - Germany dominates toward end
- Rise of economic liberalism (1800s)
- Socialism (1800s)
- Welfare state began to emerge (late 1800s)
 - Germany was the first welfare state
- Hyperinflation in Weimar Republic (1920s)
- Stalin's Five Year Plans and collectivization of agriculture (1930s)
- Economic miracle in Western Europe (immediately after WWII; c. 1945-1960)
- European Union formation (1990s, but had been building since WWII)

Important Population Dates

- Population explosion (1700s)
 - Due to improved diet and decline in disease
- Industrialization led to urbanization (1750-1900)
- Medical advances led to population improvements starting in the 1800s NOT BEFORE