

- Politics of 18th C.
 - lose America (1776)
 - fascinated w/French democracy
 - devastated with overthrow of European/French democracy
 - Fall of Bastille (July 14, 1789); freed only 7 prisoners
 - sparked many debates regarding “revolution”
 - * Thomas Paine’s *Rights of Man*
 - * Burke’s *A Philosophical Enquiry*
 - * Mary Wollstonecraft’s *A Vindication of the Rights of Men*
 - Napoleon ruled until 1814 (dictator; anti-British)
 - attempt to abolish slave trade in Britain (very successful)
 - women head the movement
 - early feminist movement (Wollstonecraft, Baillie, Barbault, Hays)
 - gives voice to women in a time when they had no power (political or economic)
 - shifting class system & economic theories because of Industrial Revolution & colonial expansion
 - naval force not to be paralleled until end of 19th C.
 - colonies include: India, W. Indies, Africa & N.America
 - rise of the middle class & urban centers
- Sciences of 18th & 19th C:
 - Chemistry: 1789, Lavoisier pub. *Elements of Chemistry* (French)
 - Geology: Lyell, *Principles of Geology* (1830-33)
 - forces of geological change = permanent but gradual
 - Psychology: threat to mind, free will & soul
 - Locke = 17th & 18th C, mind governed by psychological laws equal to physical (Natural) laws
 - Organicism: Schlegel
 - change is inevitable; nature in constant state of becoming; power of mind needed to understand a world
- Literature of 18th C.
 - Dr. Samuel Johnson (d.1784)
 - began the modern dictionary (1755)
 - Swift & Pope both die 1745 (wrote satire, a ridiculing and publicly disruptive style)
 - they pushed a tradition of satirical writing which authors rejected in the 1790s
 - Publishing
 - copyright laws began to protect author’s works (1774) & pay them
 - periodicals came up every where and were cheap (easier to read than poetry/novels & shorter)
 - rise of consciously “British” Literature (“nationalism”)
 - writing sold directly to booksellers instead of patronage system
 - Marquis de Sade plays in 1780s
- Rise of the Novel in the 18th C.
 - novel becomes popular during mid-18th C. with rise of middle class
 - becomes distracted, leisure reading & easier than poetry
 - Richardson, *Clarissa*: 1st, conduct novel, sentimental, *bildungsroman* (growth of character)
 - Fielding, *Tom Jones* & *Joseph Andrews*: realistic novel, lots of graphic scenes, *bildungsroman*
 - Defoe, *Moll Flanders*: thief, prostitute, incest, travel to U.S., *bildungsroman*
 - at first, an attempt to give an exact description of realism
 - focuses on the progress/growth of one person
 - attracts people because reflects society
 - Gothic novel appears (1760-1820)
 - deals with the fantastic, romantic & “sentimental”
 - evolved from “sentimental” & realistic novels
 - includes sexuality, danger, female rage, power
 - medieval morality plots
 - popular form for women writers (publish under male pseudonym)
 - becomes “woman’s reading” & potentially corrupting to young women
 - appears beside women’s conduct manual
 - many women illiterate & uneducated