Political Changes in the Atlantic World  
 The Enlightenment and revolution fueled important political changes in the Atlantic World. The Enlightenment was an intellectual movement of the 18th century and had many different roles within it including, tolerance of religions and race. This was to make sure everybody was treated equal, including people with different beliefs. The next was that reason should be used when making decisions, you should always think about your choices before you go through with them. The third was to dislike or distrust absolutist or arbitrary government; people did not want to be subject to individual will or power. The fourth enlightenment role was individualism, the idea that people are individuals and their ideas matter. The last one is freedom of speech, this was to inspire people to talk about how they feel in public or in writing whenever they wanted to. These roles expanded contact with other cultures, from America to Asia. All of these changes resulted in major revolutions in different countries. The Glorious Revolution, the American Revolution, and the French Revolution, all with help from the Enlightenment period helped fuel important political transformations in the Atlantic World, such as giving people more rights and privileges, and also giving people more cleverness to want a better government.  
 The Glorious Revolution started in 1688 and consisted of overthrowing King James II of England, this is when Parliament emerged enormously. The Glorious Revolution brought about limiting powers of the monarch and civil rights guaranteed to all Englishmen by the Bill of Rights. The Glorious Revolution also protected the people from arbitrary taxation and expropriation of their properties. These freedoms allowed entrepreneurs to invest in new industrial and commercial enterprises. This all would not have been possible if it were not for the Enlightenment period, in which it allowed people mental power to write the Bill of Rights and give people privileges and government power. The people wanted to have parliamentary government, but King James II did not. The people were able to overthrow him; this would not be possible without having the intellect that the Enlightenment age brought upon the people.

The American Revolution was one of the political disruptions during the 18th century. The American Revolution is commonly referred to as the American Enlightenment because it caused social, political, and intellectual alterations in both the society and the government. John Adams was the second president of the United States and he was very representative of Enlightenment values. John Adams said, “When I look back and recollect the series of political events, the chain of causes and effects, I am surprised at the suddenness as well as the greatness of this revolution” (World History Textbook 624). John Adams wrote this in a letter he wrote to his wife, Abigail, on July 3, 1776. He is reminiscing on the earlier days and thinking how much political events have improved with the revolution. The American Revolution was focused around ideas of Enlightenment. The age of Enlightenment brought about many changes in intellect and culture and helped people to want to change with the Revolution. The American Revolution continued the trends already under way in the colonial period. The percentage of owning property was persistently growing. Men of property still dominated politics as they had in colonial times and representatives came from upper classmen. Simon Bolivar was also a political leader in Latin America; he played a strong role in finding independence for Hispanic America. He said, “As a model for those who aspire to the enjoyment of the rights of man and who seek all the political happiness which is compatible with frailty of human nature” (World History Textbook 671). Bolivar is saying that if you do not want political happiness, then it will never happen, because you have to want government to change before it will. The greatest political achievement of the new nation was the constitution of 1787, and the Bill of Rights of 1791. These documents stated that the national government controlled diplomacy, war, peace, interstate and international commerce, the army and navy and Indian affairs. The Bill of Rights promised an open, liberal society that would tolerate freedom of religion, speech, and the press. The Bills of Rights were very specific principles underlying limited monarchy. The Bill of Rights states, “That the freedoms of speech, and debates or proceedings in parliament, ought not to be impeached or questioned in any court or place out of parliament” (World History Textbook 590). This was just one of the Bills of Rights, and it tells the rights that people are entitled to.  
Without the enlightenment period, we would not have the development of scholarship, which helped us write the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

The French Revolution was a period of radical, social and political changes. The French Revolution started in 1789, and was one of the most fundamental events in the history of the European world, in which it transformed the western society. A committee was formed during this revolution called the Committee of Public Safety, which was brought together to handle different problems that came forth from the revolution. This committee consisted of 12 people, and one of them went by the name, Maximilien Robespierre. He was one of the most influential figures of the French Revolution. The greatest influence on his life was a young man named Jean Jacques Rousseau, in which he studied most of his ideas. Robespierre gave a speech to the National Convention and stated that the committee needed to focus on upgrading the revolutionary government so that it would be successful. Robespierre said, “The theory of revolutionary government is as new as the Revolution that created it. It is as pointless to seek its origins in the books of the political theorists, who failed to foresee this revolution” (World History Textbook 656). Robespierre believed that the people of France were fundamentally good and that this revolutionary government is a new idea and people cannot just search for the inspiration in a book; they have to see it and change with it themselves. Napoleon Bonaparte was another political leader in France, his actions helped to shape Europeans politics in the early 19th century. Bonaparte stated his views on religion, “I am very glad that I have no religion, I find it a great consolation, as I have no imaginary terrors and no fear of the future” (World History Textbook 660). If it were not for Enlightenment, people such as Napoleon Bonaparte would not have been able to have this freedom of speech to tell others what they feel. The enlightenment period helped to change this political revolution in France, because people used an open mind more and they were about to have freedom of speech and say what they wanted to, which helped them change politically.

Enlightenment had a great impact on the revolutions, as it had great influence to new ideas and social opinions. It also affected areas outside of the Atlantic World, because people started traveling and trading more, which led to meeting new people. When people would see other countries changing and revolving politically, they would want to change and be on the same level as them. The Enlightenment changed many people’s lives during this century and helped make countries much better with their government system, and it also gave them many more privileges. The revolutions with help from the Enlightenment period helped increase important political transformations in the Atlantic World by giving people more rights and a better government.

# Works Cited

# Class Powerpoints

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