

EUROPE THEN / EUROPE NOW

(European History Review Exercise)



1450 (Middle Ages)	1815 (Mid-Point)	2015 (Present Day)
The Three Orders: Clergy, Nobility, Everyone Else	Traditional orders are being challenged (<i>to varying degrees</i>)	Social inequalities based on wealth & education - not hereditary privilege
Political Privileges Nobility Church Land Ownership	French Rev. largely abolished hereditary political privileges that still existed elsewhere (<i>especially in Eastern Europe</i>) <i>Conservative Aristocracy vs Ascendant Liberal Bourgeoisie</i>	Equal Political Rights Laws are applied equally to all social classes
Aristocratic Monarchies Privileged classes had nearly exclusive say in government	Limited Suffrage Beginning to see bourgeois participation in government	Parliamentary Democracy Universal Suffrage - all citizens may participate in politics
No meaningful role for women in the public sphere	Nascent Feminist movement has yet to bear fruit. (Mary Wollstonecraft - 1790s)	Women in official leadership positions - even heads of government (<i>e.g., Thatcher, Merkel</i>)
Religion was central to society Institutional Church held a lot of political power State Religions Toleration Little Religious Diversity	Religious Toleration Concordat of 1801 Catholicism the "Majority Religion" NOT a State Religion Test Acts - Political Discrimination <i>Liberalism challenges institutionalized religion</i>	Secularized Only about 70% of Europeans profess Christianity - many of those nominally <i>Very few nations with established churches</i>
Isolation Before the Age of Exploration, Europeans had very little contact with anyone outside of Europe Exotic goods were very expensive and rare Subsistence farming in a local production-based economy	Trade European colonies in the New World and trade in the Indies Exotic goods are becoming less expensive and more plentiful Commercial Agriculture Economy increasingly consumer-based (liberalism)	Globalization Europe trades with and interacts with the world <i>What is an exotic good? lol</i> European culture influenced by cultures from other continents
Feudalism (Localism) <i>Rife with local wars and conflicts (largely dynastic & religious)</i>	Nationalism <i>Continual Continental Warfare in the 18th century (Balance of Power)</i>	European Integration <i>Economic and political cooperation - no continental war since 1945</i>
Little Ethnic Diversity Laws banning ethnic and religious minorities (Jews, Muslims)	Religious and ethnic minorities are present and legally tolerated (<i>still discriminated against</i>)	Post-WWII Immigration - substantial part of European population not native to Europe

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INSTRUCTIONS FOR STUDENTS:

Compare Europe in 1450, 1815, and today in terms of social structure, political privileges, forms of government, women's rights, religion, interaction with the world, and ethnic diversity.

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