Chapter 11—Enlightenment and Rococo
The London fire in 1666 decimated the city, homes, churches, etc. 100,000 people were homeless, and yet in the midst of this tragedy, a new city was born.
While it is important to understand this tragedy, it is absolutely essential that you understand this event in your own lives.

Tragedy can produce triumph, pain can produce promise, and suffering can produce success.
The rebuilt London and along with Paris were the cultural and artistic centers of Europe and much of the rest of the world.

This was the time that became the Age of Enlightenment.

Isaac Newton demonstrated rational thought in science.
Christopher Wren addressed the Great Fire of London as an opportunity to redesign the city. 200 year later, Chicago had a great fire also.
Wren redesigned and built St. Paul’s from 1675-1710.

It contains all the various architectural features of the past: Classical, Gothic, Renaissance, and Baroque.
St. Paul’s survived WWII and the Nazis’ bombing of London.
Francis Bacon used inductive reasoning and created the empirical method.

He rejected the notion of using our senses.

He dissed the “superstition, and the blind and immoderate zeal of religion.”
Bacon’s *Novum Organum Scientiarum* questions four sets of mistakes or *Idols*.

1. Idols of the Tribe—we put trust in our senses
2. Idols of the Cave—we put trust in our background
3. Idols of the Market—miscommunications with words
4. Idols of the Theater—buying into philosophical mistakes.
René Descartes and the Deductive Method

Descartes had an opposite opinion on reasoning, which starts with the general picture and reduces it to particular beliefs or truths.

Descartes believed that “I think, therefore I am.”
Descartes and deism are linked. He didn’t buy the notion that God was just a larger version of us.

God was “the mathematical order of nature.”
Kepler advanced Copernicus’ heliocentric theory over the geocentric cosmos theory held by much of the rest of the world and replaced the notion of the spherical orbits of the planets with the elliptical orbits.

Galileo believed that light traveled at a particular speed, all objects fall at the same rate of acceleration, and saw much of our solar system via the telescope, etc.

Urban VIII demanded Galileo recant his beliefs.
Robert Hooke used a compound microscopic to look at nature and coined the word, *cell*. This is what he saw—a flea.
Isaac Newton understood physics and figured the gravitational pull of the sun and of planets.

His idea of order in the universe remained until Einstein first challenged that notion.
Pritchard’s Iron Bridge
1779
Thomas Hobbes paralleled Galileo’s idea that planets rotated around the sun...in that people rotate around their ruler.

Hobbes pushed for the notion that people fear getting killed and want power. For Hobbes, government stops both.
Leviathan lays out Hobbes’ social contract theory...the need for a strong central government to avoid things like the civil war in England.

Without the Leviathan controlling humans, there would be a “war of all against all” or bellum omnium contra omnes.
John Locke dealt the concern of Hobbes from a totally different position. Locke’s contention was that we enter the world with a *tabula rosa*...and life will write upon it, and that humans have the right to revolt against unfair governments.
John Milton’s
Paradise Lost
Milton’s *Paradise Lost* attempts to deal with the absolutism and liberty.
Hogarth, Swift, and Pope were political satirists of English Enlightenment.

William Hogarth etched all sorts of social concerns: alcoholism, womanizing, poverty, etc.
Hogarth *Cruelty*
Jonathan Swift in *Gulliver’s Travels* and *A Modest Proposal* addressed social issues within England and the problems in Ireland with the British.
Alexander Pope said of the two George kings, “Dunce the second rules like Dunce the first.”

Pope saw failure lurking in society, but along with that he also saw the possibility of success.
Daniel Defoe wrote several novels. The best known were *Robinson Crusoe* and *Moll Flanders*.
THE LIFE
AND
STRANGE SURPRIZING
ADVENTURES
OF
ROBINSON CRUSOE,
of York, Mariner:
Who lived Eight and Twenty Years,
all alone in an uninhabited Island on the
Coast of America, near the Mouth of
the Great River of Oroonoque;
Having been cast on Shore by Shipwreck, whereby
all the Men perished but himself.
WITH
An Account how he was at last as strangely deliver’d by Pyrates.
Written by Himself.
LONDON:
Printed for W. Taylor at the Ship in Pater-Noster Row. MDCCXIX.
Defoe based Robinson Crusoe on a Scottish castaway by the name of Alexander Selkirk. He was on Juan Fernandez Island for a handful of years before being rescued.

The actual title of Robinson Crusoe was…

*The Life and Strange Surprizing Adventures of Robinson Crusoe, of York, Mariner: Who lived Eight and Twenty Years, all alone in an uninhabited Island on the Coast of America, near the Mouth of the Great River of Oroonoque; Having been cast on Shore by Shipwreck, wherein all the Men perished but himself. With An Account how he was at last as strangely delivered by Pirates.*
This is Selkirk’s statue in his hometown of Lower Largo, Scotland.
The Enlightenment in France

The salon of the *philosophes* gathering places for thinkers and artists of the time to meet.
Enlightenment and Rococo

- Enlightenment/Rococo started in France in 1715 with the death of Louis 14th and continued for 100 years. It was characterized by dealing and/or not dealing with social issues. Rococo was a developing style during the time since the Late Renaissance and Michelangelo to 18th century.

- Revolutions often occur when things are getting better.

- Technological advancements characterized the period—especially the steam engine, metallurgy, and tools for measurement both here and astronomy.
Enlightenment and Rococo (cont.)

- Philosophy—Kant, Diderot, Voltaire, Rousseau, and deists

- Economics—laissez-faire, Adam Smith

- Rococo was art over the top with frolicsome art often tied to sex and related pleasures.
Enlightenment and Rococo Visual Arts

- After-thought of the Baroque
- Often superficial in theme and style
- Aristocracy driven art...graceful, fluffy, pursuit of pleasure, overstated, and out of touch with reality and the world that was about to explode....
Enlightenment and Rococo Visual Arts

(cont.)

• In England, it was not so fluffy.

• Neo-Classicism was a response to the excavation of Herculaneum and Pompeii. In addition, the ideals of the Roman Republic underpinned the philosophy of Neo-Classicism.
Watteau  *A Embarkation for Cythera*  1717
Fragonard
*The Swing*
Fragonard

*Love Letters*

1173
Boucher
The Toilet of Venus
1751
Boucher Diana Leaving the Bath 1742
Of Boucher, Diderot wrote: “I don’t know what to say about this man. Degradation of taste, color, composition, character, expression, and drawing have kept pace with moral depravity. What can we expect this artist to throw onto canvas? What he has in his imagination. And what can be in the imagination of a man who spends his life with prostitutes of the basest kind?”
Diderot liked Chardin’s paintings.

Jean-Baptiste-Siméon Chardin’s self-portrait
Chardin Woman Cleaning Turnips 1738
Chardin

Still Life with a Pan, Pepper Pot, Leek and Three Eggs
Chardin
The Water Tank
Diderot and the rest of the Philosophes were desists.

He said, “Man will never be free until the last king is strangled with the entrails of the last priest.”
Jean-Jacques Rousseau wrote *The Social Contract* and the concept of the *noble savage*.

His understanding of slavery was that monarchs enslave his/her people.

“Man is born free, and everywhere he is in chains.”
Voltaire pushed the notion of an enlightened monarch, but he also satirized many monarchs, which wound him up in prison several times.
Captain Cook and others explored the world unknown to the Europeans...China, South Pacific islands, etc. This also included India and their interest in the West.