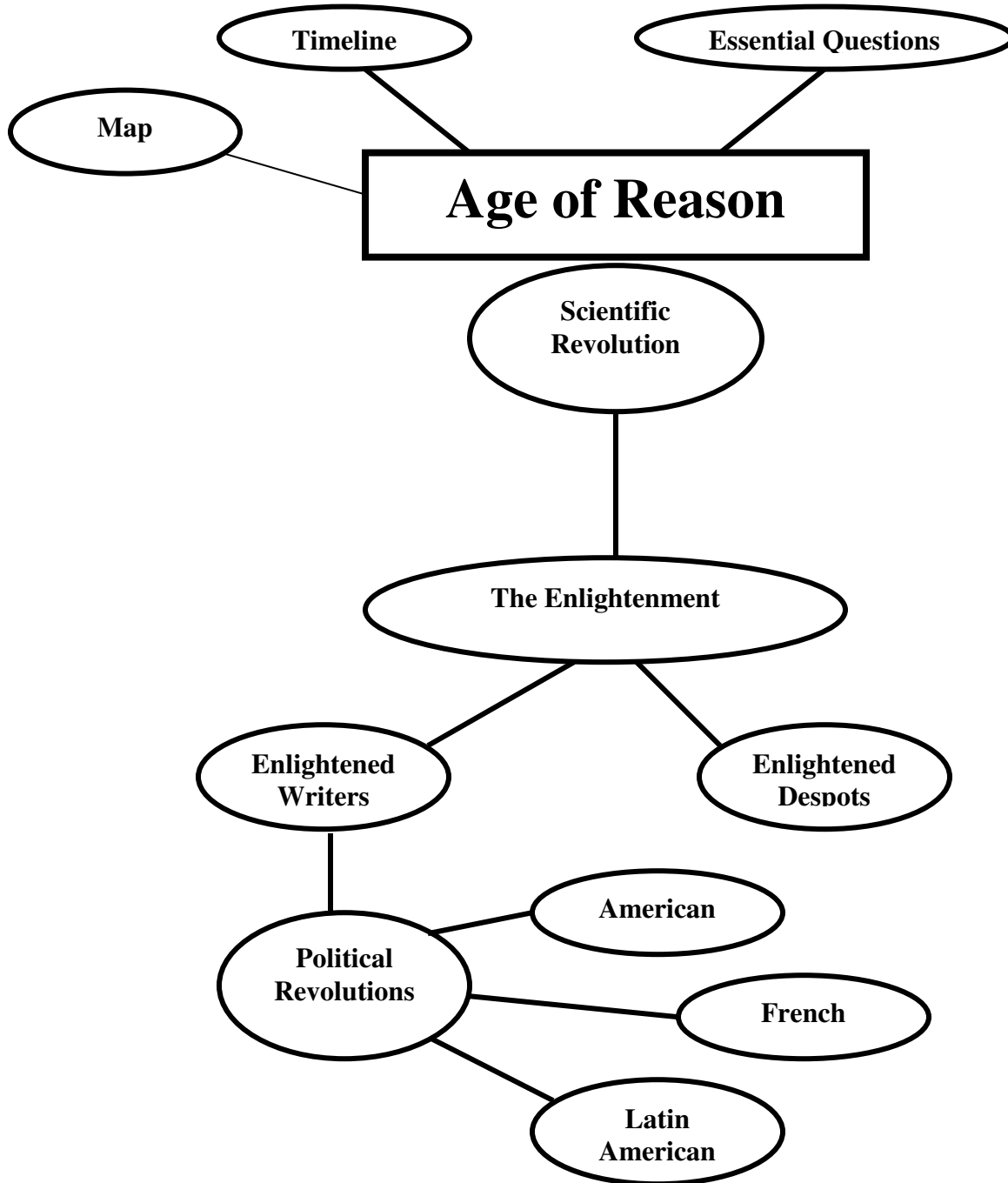


The Age of Revolution



I. Map of Political Revolutions



II. The Scientific Revolution

Scientific Revolution: A change in the way people looked for answers to life's questions

Age of Reason: a time when math and science were used to make decisions (not faith)

- **Scientific Method:** a process of experimentation and observation
- **Geocentric Theory:**
 - “Earth” centered universe
 - Supported by the Church
- **Heliocentric Theory:**
 - “Sun” centered universe
 - Proven with a telescope to be true
 - Went against the Church's teachings

Great Scientists of the Scientific Revolution		
Name	What they did	Effect on Society
Copernicus	<u>Developed</u> the theory that the sun was the center of the universe (heliocentric theory)	His ideas were rejected because he could not <u>prove</u> them
Galileo	<u>Proved</u> the heliocentric theory with a telescope	Proved that the Church was wrong about something
Newton	<u>Explained</u> why the heliocentric theory worked (gravity and laws of motions)	Set up the idea that there were “natural laws” in our world
Descartes	Used math and science reasoning instead of faith to find answers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduced the Age of Reason• Used the scientific method

III. The Enlightenment

The Enlightenment: when society became “enlightened” to the way the world really works (natural laws of science and not divine belief) Especially as applied to “political” ideas

Enlightenment Writers and Thinkers:

Name	Ideas
John Locke	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All people have certain rights• The government is supposed to protect everyone’s rights• If the government <u>fails</u> to protect people’s rights →people can <u>overthrow</u> the government
Baron de Montesquieu	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Separate the powers of government:
Jean Jacques Rousseau	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Social Contract” People should create their own government and laws – but agree to follow them too!• Majority rule
Voltaire	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wrote plays, essays, poems → criticized the monarchies, Church, and nobility• Wrote <u>Candide</u>• Inspired people to accept new enlightenment ideas

Enlightened Despots

Enlightened Despot: an absolute monarch that used their power for the good of the people

- Maria Theresa: (Austria) - Everyone should pay taxes → Nobles and Clergy too!
- Education for all children
- Joseph II: (Austria – Maria’s son) Choose govt. officials on their talent – not who they were or who they knew
- Catherine the Great: (Russia) expanded Russia’s borders → got a warm water port

IV. Impact of the Enlightenment

- Common people became aware of new rights they had
- People began to consider revolution as an option to change their government

Political Revolutions:

The 3 Political Revolutions we will study about here:

- American
- French
- Latin American

V. American Revolution

When: Late 1770's **Where:** British colonies in America **Goal:** to break away from British control

How the Enlightenment influenced the American Patriots:

Americans were VERY influenced by the European Enlightenment writers

- The Declaration of Independence:

LOCKE: - all humans have political rights
- the people have the right to overthrow a bad government

- The U.S. Constitution:

MONTESQUIEU: separation of powers

ROUSSEAU: - "Social contract" between people and government
- "majority rule"

Impact the American Revolution had on other cultures:

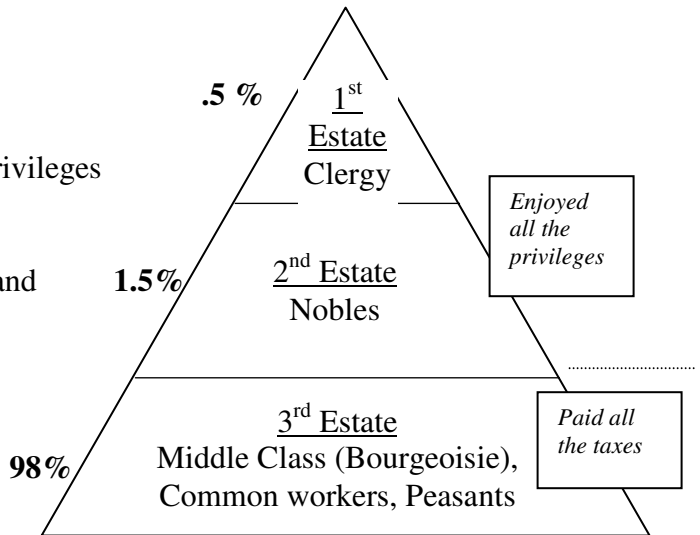
- It inspired other people to have their own revolutions
- The U.S. Constitution became a model for other nations to follow and use

VI. French Revolution

When: 1780's and '90's **Where:** France **Goal:** Wanted a new government to protect them

Causes

- Unfair Social Class System
 - poorest people paid all the taxes
 - wealthiest people enjoyed all the privileges
- Economic Problems – poor govt. decisions and bad harvests caused starvation for the poor
- Enlightenment Ideas – they let common people realize that they had choices about their govt.
- American Revolution – showed that it was possible to win a revolution and change govt.



Important concepts of the French Revolution

- Bastille: - French prison – stormed by French citizens
 - this event began the French Revolution (July, 14th, 1789 – Bastille Day!)
- Estates-General: legislative body of France (like Parliament or Congress)
 - (they make the laws)
- Declaration of the Rights of Man:
 - similar to the American Declaration of Independence
 - stopped the privileges of the 1st and 2nd Estates
- Radicals: - wanted great amounts of change – often used violence (Jacobins) - led by Robespierre
- Reign of Terror: - began with the execution of Louis XVI
 - tens of thousands of nobles killed
- The Directory:
 - 5 man committee of “moderates” (not “radicals”)
 - ran France after the Reign of Terror
 - was weak and inefficient

VII. Revolutions in Latin America

When: Early 1800's **Where:** Spanish colonies in America **Goal:** to break away from Spanish control

Causes

- Spanish control – Spanish govt. controlled too much Latin American life
- American and French Revolutions – showed that it was possible to defeat a European monarchy

Simone Bolivar: great revolutionary leader against the Spanish in Latin America

Results of the Revolutions in Latin America

- Spain gave up its colonies in Latin America
- New nations were created