

## COURSE OUTLINE

### MONARCHY AND REVOLUTION

#### Britain and Europe 1625 - 1815

The seventeenth and eighteenth centuries witnessed a varied and exciting series of developments in Europe which would all, in their different ways, help shape the world in which we now live. The great majority of Europeans were ruled by monarchs throughout this period, yet in two of the most powerful states, Britain and France, subjects rose up against their kings, executed them, and introduced, for a time at least, systems of republican government. The course examines the new ideas which challenged the existing order and the arguments of those who defended it, including the contrasting theories of limited and absolute monarchy. The contribution of great thinkers such as Hobbes, Locke, Burke, Hume and Rousseau is assessed, and related to developments in political relations within and between the European states.

These years saw a massive expansion in commerce, as Europeans rapidly developed trading opportunities with the wider world, in the East and West Indies for example. Governments found significant sources of revenue in the growth of trade, and relations between states were inevitably profoundly affected by their commercial rivalries, which frequently escalated into wars. Banking and insurance services nurtured the expanding markets, and careers in all these areas offered new avenues of progress to young men of ability. The significance of these developments is related to other contemporary advances in the methods of scientific enquiry, and, towards the end of the period, in agriculture and industry.

A fascinating cast of characters will be encountered, and specific attention will be focused on the policies and personalities of some of the most interesting and influential of them; we shall see how events were shaped both by the prevailing ideas of the times, and also by key individuals. Amongst the rulers, Charles I, Oliver Cromwell, Louis XIV, Catherine the Great and Napoleon will be singled out for special attention. In illuminating these characters, contemporary artistic images will be examined, contrasting for instance the magnificently regal portraits of King Charles by Van Dyck on the one hand with the very different representation of Cromwell by Lely, showing him "warts and all".

The scope of this unit, then, is considerable, but students will be able to explore in some depth the particular themes and individuals that especially interest them in their individual tutorials, and also in the directed research they will do under the tutor's guidance in their private study time. By the end of the course they will produce at least two papers, of approximately 2,000 words each, on questions of their choice to be agreed with their tutor.

## Recommended Reading

For introductory reading, students who are not familiar with the period should consult the relevant chapters of a textbook on European History at AP or similar level. Those who have taken an AP course may like to read from the Morgan and Lee volumes below. Please note that students are neither expected nor required to read all the material listed below. Additional reading will be recommended in Oxford according to students' particular areas of interest.

Kenneth Morgan (ed)	<i>The Oxford Illustrated History of Britain</i>	ISBN: 0192893262
E N Williams	<i>The Ancien Régime in Europe: Government and Society in the Major States, 1648-1789</i> (various editions; all are acceptable)	ISBN: 0140212914
Tim Blanning and David Cannadine	<i>The Pursuit of Glory: Europe 1648-1815</i>	ISBN: 014016667X
Derek McKay and H M Scott	<i>The Rise of the Great Powers, 1648-1815</i>	ISBN: 0582485541
Stephen J Lee	<i>Aspects of European History 1494-1789</i>	ISBN: 0415027845
Robin W. Winks, Thomas E. Kaiser	<i>Europe, 1648-1815: From the Old Regime to the Age of Revolution</i>	ISBN 0195154460

If you are unable to obtain books locally, they may be ordered from

<http://bookshop.blackwell.co.uk>

or

[www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk)