

2.10 Global Cultures

Science, Philosophy,



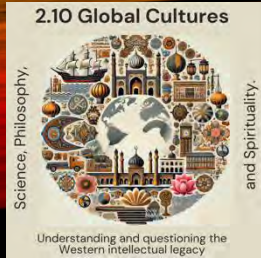
and Spirituality.

Understanding and questioning the Western intellectual legacy

Science, Philosophy & Spirituality

The World Between 1500 and 1780

15th January 2025



AGENDA

The Creation of Global Cultures

- Growing global trade creates wealth for rulers.
- Islamic World and Asia retain their distinctiveness.
- Americas and Oceania increasingly face European pressure.
- Europe adopts and promotes of enlightenment ideals & values as universally applicable

After Break: Discuss

1. Has the current Western emphasis on “the individual” gone too far, in the light of e.g. today’s “me” culture?
2. To what extent is the Enlightenment’s ideal of “progress” in need of adaptation?
3. European Jesuits held very interesting discussions with American Indigenous leaders about whether or not European ideals of “freedom” make people genuinely free. What do you think?

A QUESTION TO KEEP IN MIND

The Enlightenment period is often celebrated for its ideals of reason, progress, and universal human rights. But was this truly the unifying force of the early modern world?

Instead, consider this: could the true glue that bound humanity during this transformative era have been something far more pragmatic—commerce, catalysed by a shared belief in the value of money?

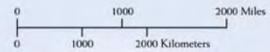
As we explore the cultural history of this time, reflect on this dynamic: the ideals humanity celebrates versus the mechanisms it depends upon to survive and thrive.



Well-established Sea Lanes



 Spanish territory	 Silver flow
 Portuguese territory	 Trade route
 English territory	✕ Battle
 French territory	S Silk Commodity
 Dutch territory	
 Anglo-French contested area	



Line of Tordesillas 1494

From North America
Tobacco
Rice
Furs
Indigo
Meat
Timber
Grain
Taxes

From South America
Sugar
Gold
Hides
Coffee
Diamonds
Calico
Taxes

Iron
Copper
Textiles
Cutlery
Firearms

Enslaved people
Tobacco
Sugar

From India
Silk
Pepper
Calico
Indigo
Coffee
Drugs

From China and Southeast Asia
Silk
Calico
Coffee
Pepper
Spices
Drugs

Silk Spices

Silk Spices

Enslaved people

Enslaved people

Enslaved people

Enslaved people

Enslaved people

GREENLAND

ALASKA

RUPERT'S LAND

NEW FRANCE

LOUISIANA

VICEROYALTY OF NEW SPAIN

MEXICO

PACIFIC OCEAN

VICEROYALTY OF PERU

VICEROYALTY OF GRANADA

VICEROYALTY OF BRAZIL

VICEROYALTY OF SURINAM

DUTCH BRAZIL

DUTCH BRAZIL

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DUTCH BRAZIL

DUTCH BRAZIL

NETHERLANDS

ENGLAND

FRANCE

PORTUGAL

SPAIN

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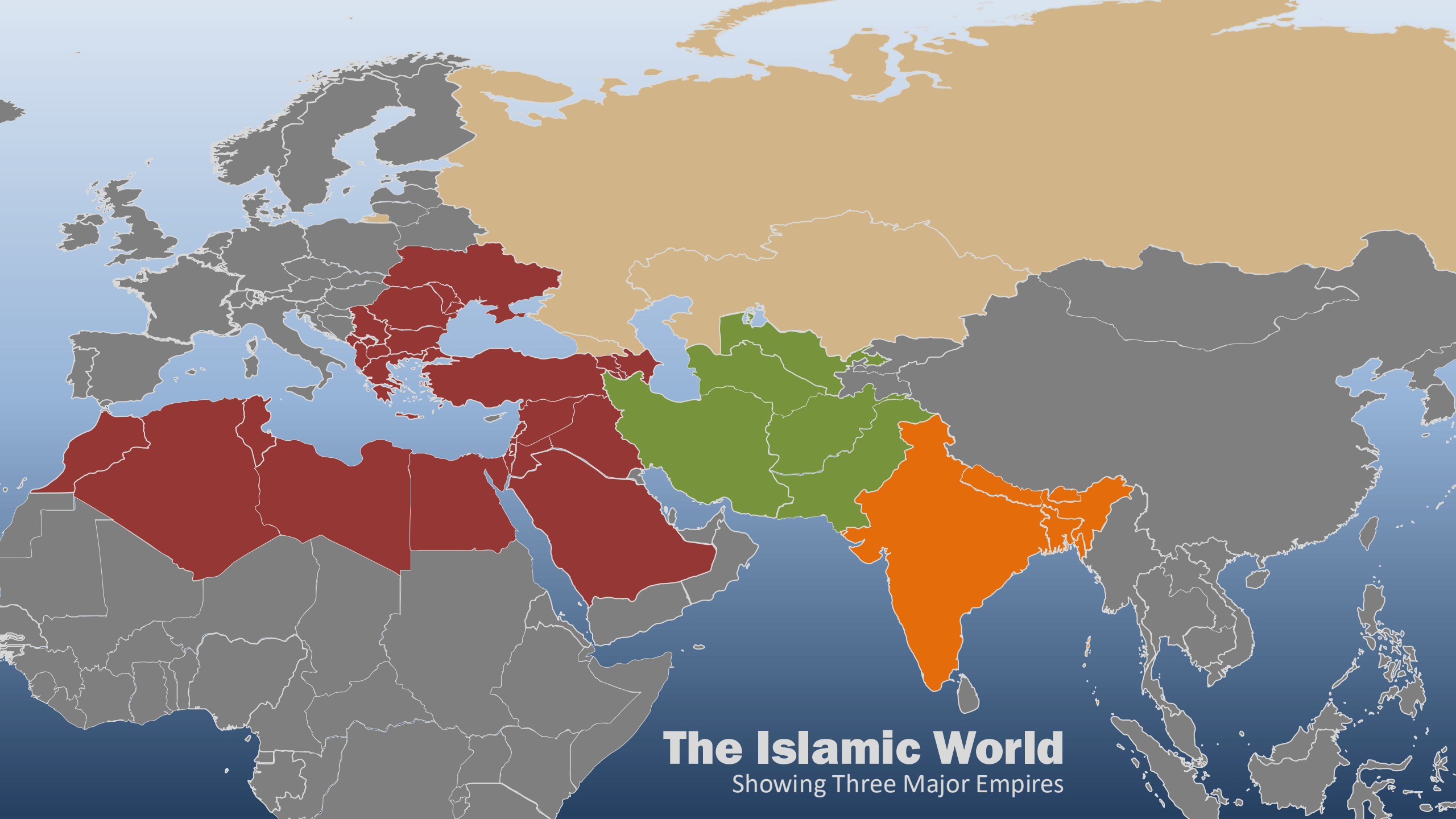
FRANCE

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The Islamic World
Showing Three Major Empires



OTTOMAN EMPIRE

- Diversity:
 - Mystical Sufis
 - Ulama (Islamic scholars),
 - Military elites.
- Cultural achievements:
 - Architecture
 - Literature & Arts
 - Administrative innovation
- Istanbul as cultural hub:
 - Strategic location
 - Religious and artistic life
 - Intellectual activity

SAFAVID EMPIRE

- Triumph of Shiism
 - Shiism as State Religion
 - Religious transformation
 - Conflict & identity
- Isfahan:
 - Architecture
 - Gardens
 - Persian art
- Role of Persian traditions in shaping regional identity



Handout
Available

MUGHAL INDIA

- Integration of art and learning in court culture
 - Fusion of Artistic traditions
 - Centres of learning
 - Literature and historiography
- Welcoming non-Muslim contributions
 - Religious tolerance
 - Multicultural governance
 - Synthesis in culture & society
- Key figures:
 - Akbar the Great
 - Jahangir and Shah Jahan
 - Taj Mahal: an icon of Mughal Art.





Tha Far East
China and Japan

CHINA'S CULTURAL FLOURISHING

- Broad circulation of traditional Confucian ideas
 - Confucian revival
 - Imperial examination system
 - Influence on society
- Achievements in mapmaking and publishing
 - Detailed maps
 - Publishing boom
 - Literary achievements
- The role of the Ming dynasty in maintaining cultural continuity
 - Restoration of Chinese rule
 - Support for Arts and Scholarship
 - International engagement

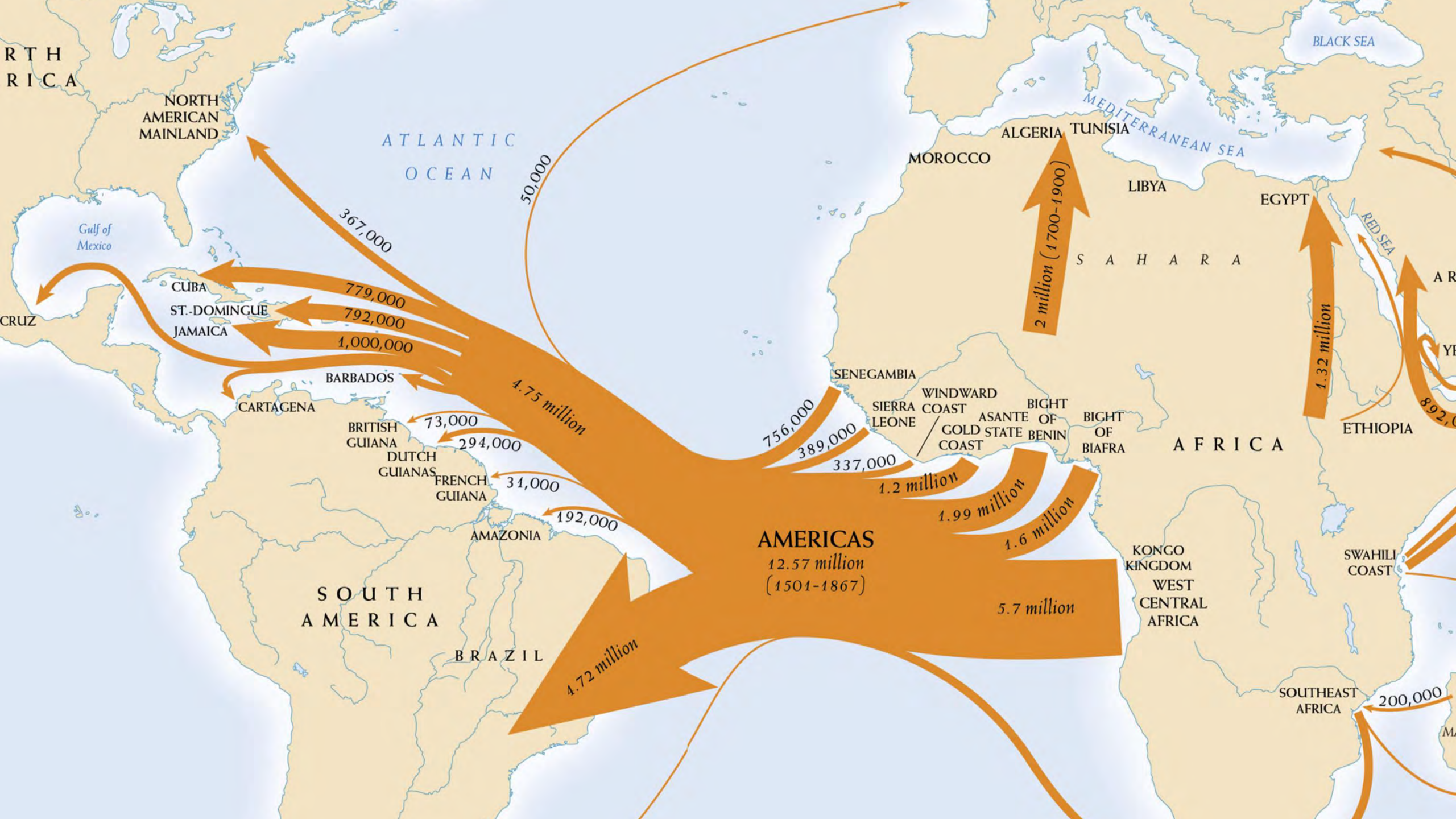




Handout
Available

JAPAN

- Kyoto's Elite Cultural Practices
 - Theatre and Performing Arts
 - Painting and Visual Arts
 - Tea Ceremonies
- Samurai and Shogunate
 - Samurai as Patrons of the Arts
 - Cultural stability under the Shogunate
 - Cultural Practices as Social Identity
- Isolationism reinforces Japanese identity
 - Sakoku policy restricts foreign access
 - Cultural purity and development
 - Resilience of Japanese identity



AFRICAN WEALTH & ART

- Wealth & power from trading slaves
 - Asante
 - Oyo
 - Benin



AFRICAN WEALTH & ART

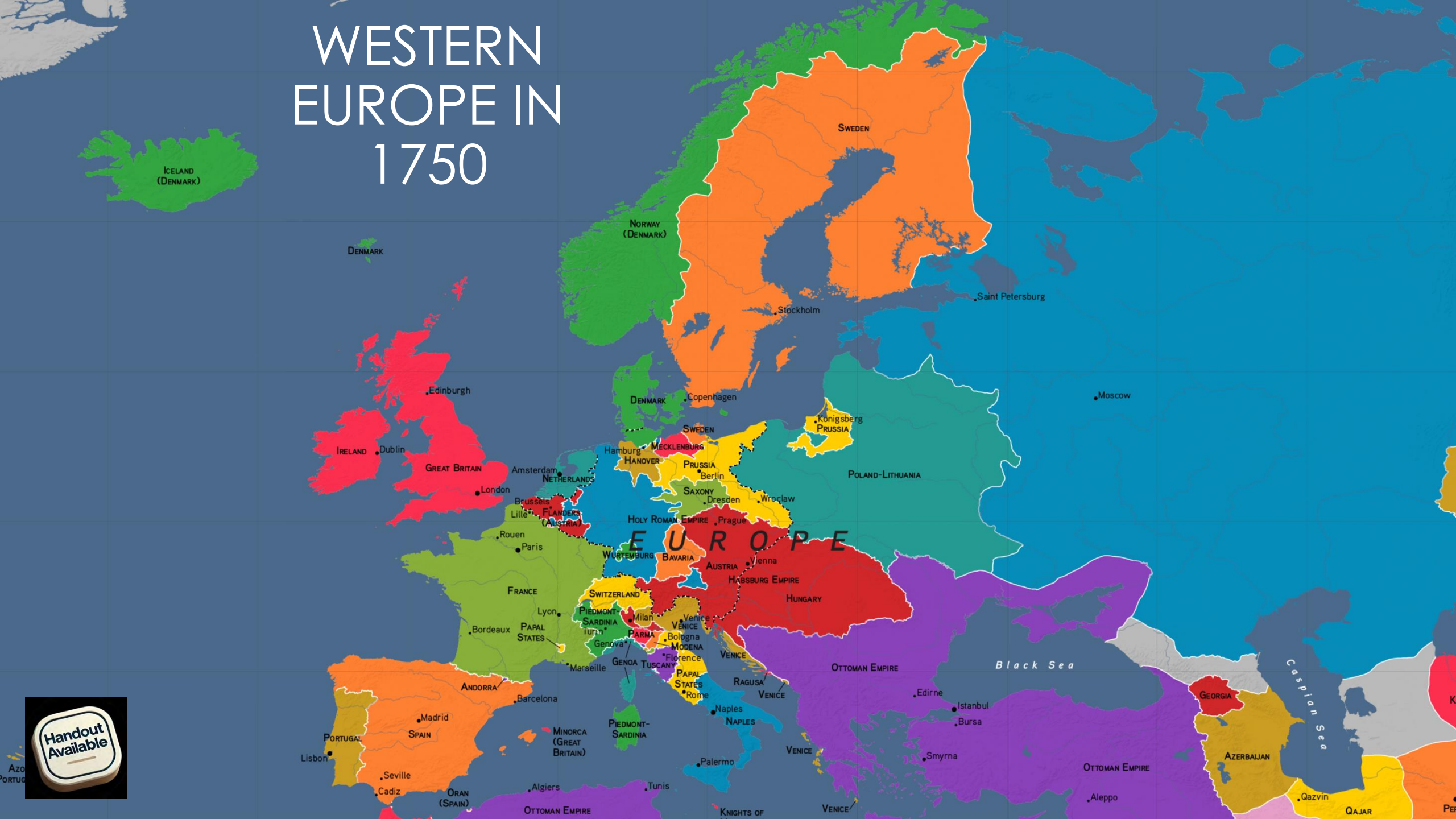
- Wealth & power from trading slaves
 - Asante
 - Oyo
 - Benin
- Royal Art and its celebration of power
- Trade with Europe and the Americas influencing local cultures





QUESTIONS AND BUZZ GROUPS

WESTERN EUROPE IN 1750



THE ENLIGHTENMENT IN EUROPE (C. 1637 – 1780)

- Faith in reason and human ability to understand nature
- **Major Figures**
 - René Descartes (1596 -1650)
 - John Locke (1632 - 1704)
 - Voltaire (1694 – 1778)
 - Montesquieu (1689 – 1755)
 - Denis Diderot (1713 – 1784)
 - Emmanuel Kant (1724 – 1804)
- Enlightenment ideals shaping governance and society





CENTRAL ENLIGHTENMENT IDEALS

- ❖ Reason over tradition
- ❖ Individual Liberty
- ❖ Progress
- ❖ Scepticism and Secularism
- ❖ Equality and Justice
- ❖ Empiricism and Science
- ❖ Democracy and Popular Sovereignty

THE ENLIGHTENMENT IDEAL OF PROGRESS?

- Technical and Economic Progress → a Flourishing Society
- Francis Bacon (1561-1626) and Adam Smith (1723-1790)
- Massive improvements in living standards, but at what cost?





THE DUTCH EXAMPLE

- Intellectual Hub
 - Philosophical freedom
 - Printing & knowledge dissemination
- Economic Innovation
 - Amsterdam Stock Exchange (1602)
 - Dutch East India Company
 - Sophisticated Banking
- Art and Science

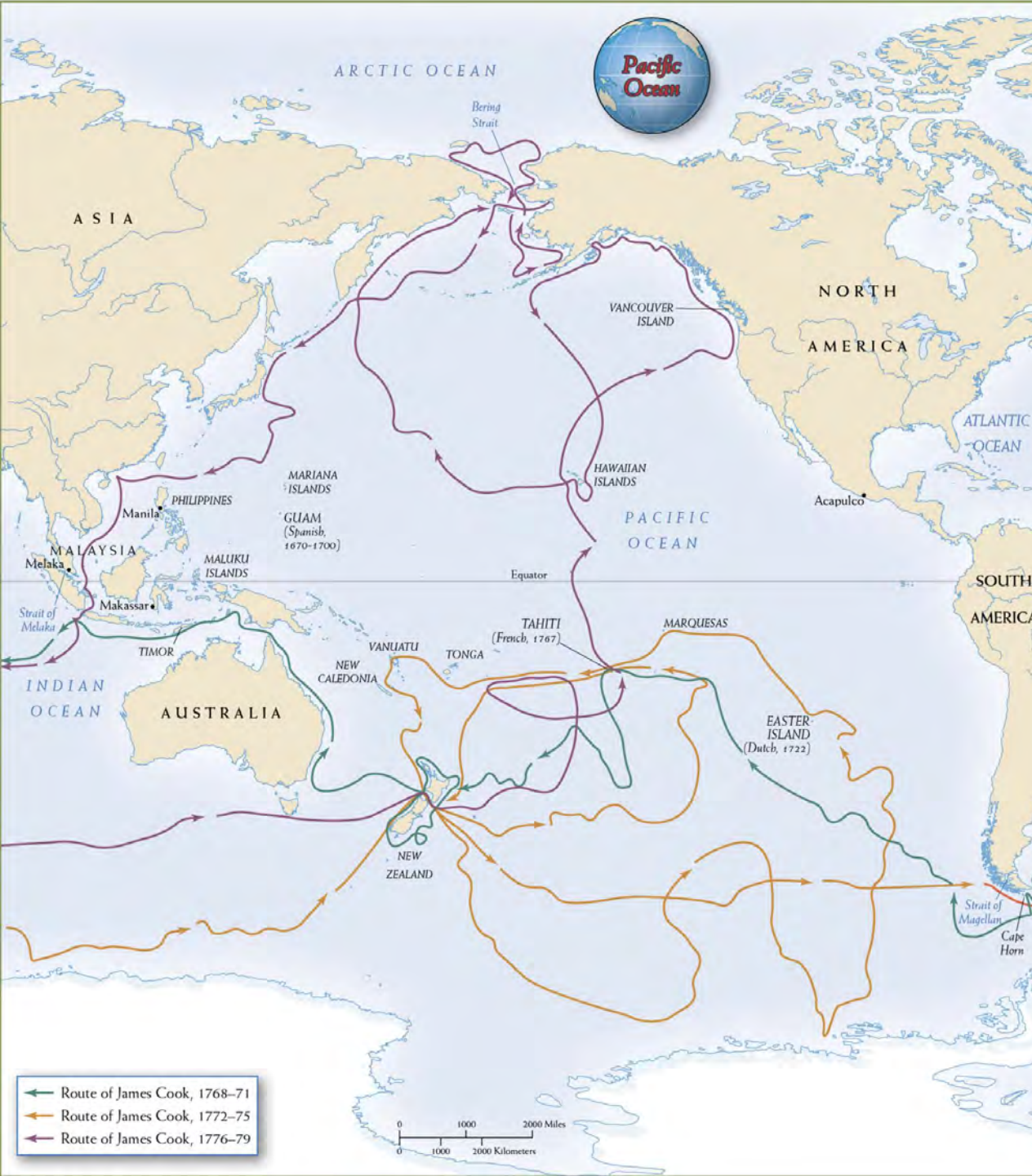
THE “GLORIOUS REVOLUTION”

- 1688 – William of Orange invited to replace James II on throne of Great Britain.
- Imported Banking and Financial innovation to England (B of E founded in 1694)
- Democracy and Representative Government.
- BUT unintended consequences in Scotland and Ireland.



EUROPEAN EXPANSION INTO AUSTRALASIA

- Mapping the Pacific
 - Captain James Cook's Voyages (1768 – 1779)
 - Scientific exploration
 - Preceded by Abel Tasman and Ferdinand Magellan
- Colonization & its impacts
 - Settlement of Australia
 - Disruption of Pacific Societies
 - Cultural exchange and conflict
- Integration into Global Trade Networks
 - Economic significance
 - Strategic importance
 - Migration and labour



THE AMERICAS

- Cultural Synthesis
 - European influence
 - Native American contribution
 - African legacy
- Americas as Microcosm
 - Trade and exchange
 - Cultural hybridism
 - Labour and migration





NATIVE AMERICAN INFLUENCES

- Agriculture and Knowledge
 - Agricultural Innovation
 - Knowledge systems
- Syncretic Art & Religious Practices
 - Artistic fusion
 - Religious syncretism
- Influence on Democratic Practices
 - Indigenous governance systems
 - Caucuses and indigenous traditions
 - Broader influence e.g. Great Law of Peace,

AFRICAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE AMERICAS

- Role of enslaved Africans in shaping culture
 - Labour and skills
 - Cultural transmission
- Music, Dance, and Religious Syncretism
 - Music and dance
 - Religious syncretism
- Creation of Afro-American Identities
 - Cultural fusion
 - Social movements



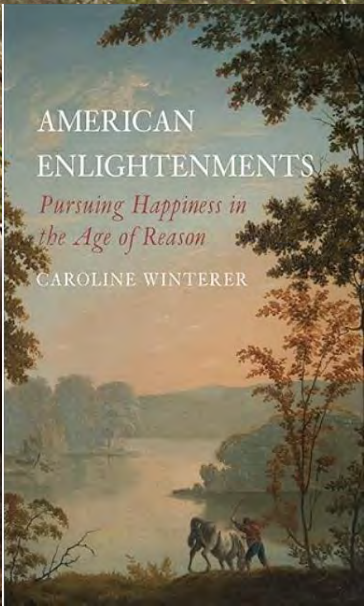


EURO-AMERICAN ENLIGHTENMENT CULTURE

- Enlightenment ideals
 - Democracy and governance
 - Social progress
- Hybridization of Traditions
 - Cultural blending
 - Practical applications
- Revolutionary Ideas
 - Political transformations
 - Challenges and contradictions

AMERICAN ENLIGHTENMENTS

- **Caroline Winterer**
 - Plurality of enlightenments
 - Pursuit of happiness
 - Cultural synthesis
 - Material and practical focus
 - Global and local connections
- **Impact on Americas**
 - Revolutionary thought
 - Democratization of Knowledge
 - Moral and ethical dilemmas



Handout Available





QUESTIONS AND BUZZ GROUPS

REFRESHMENT BREAK





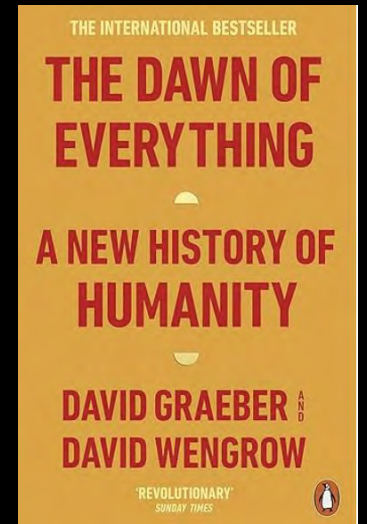
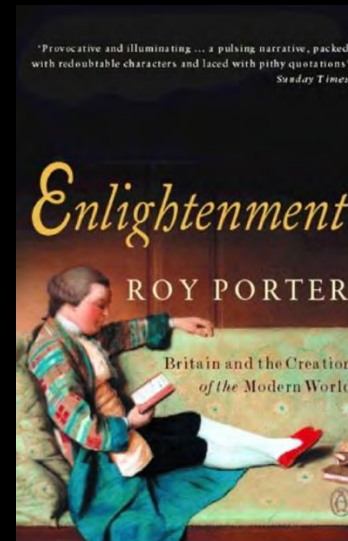
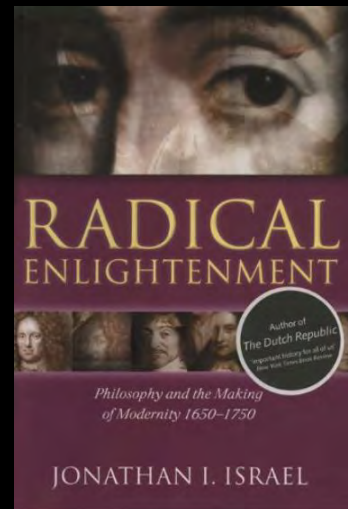
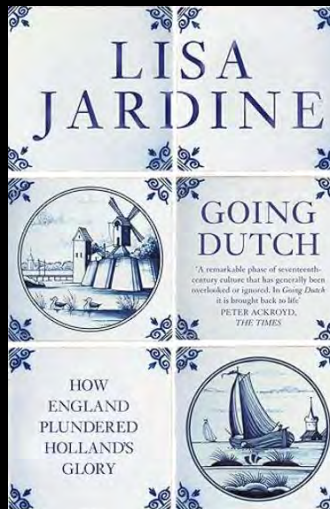
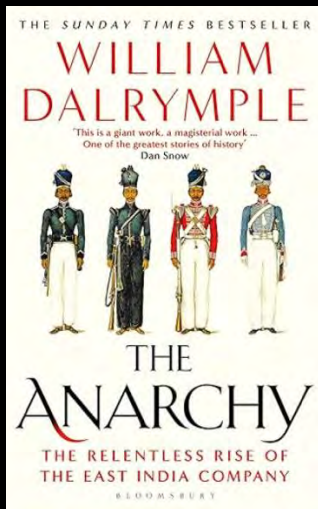
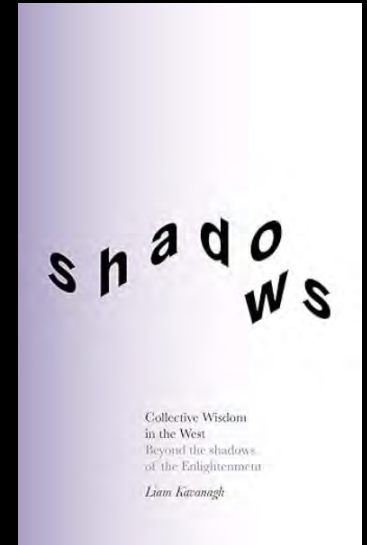
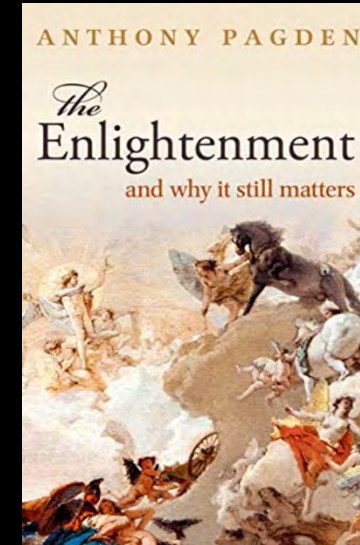
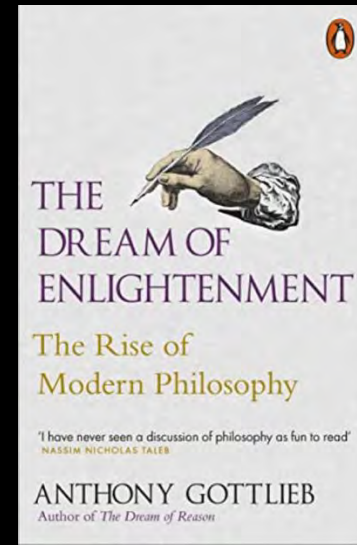
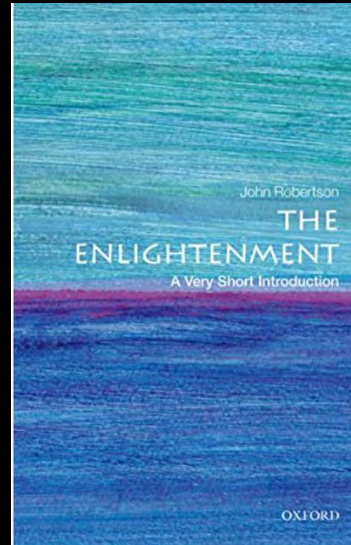
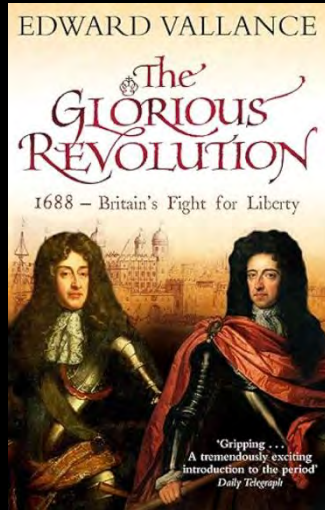
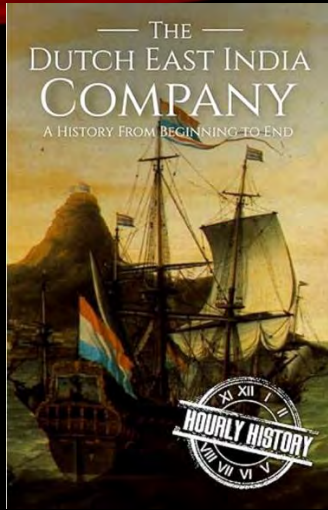
DISCUSSION

Three questions raised by today's discussions:

1. Has the current Western emphasis on "the individual" gone too far, in the light of e.g. today's "me" culture?
2. To what extent is the Enlightenment's ideal of "progress" in need of adaptation?
3. European Jesuits held very interesting discussions with American Indigenous leaders about whether or not European ideals of "freedom" make people genuinely free. What do you think?

Please appoint a spokesperson. The last 15 minutes of the session will be dedicated to hearing from groups.

USEFUL SOURCES



2.11 Revolutions

Science, Philosophy,



and Spirituality.

Understanding and questioning the
Western intellectual legacy

u3a learn,
laugh,
live

*Thank you for your
attendance. See you
next month.*

Wednesday

19th February 2025