

CHAPTER 20

The Changing Life of the People

CHAPTER OUTLINE

- I0. Marriage and the Family0
 - A0. Extended and Nuclear Families0
 - 10. The nuclear family was the most common in preindustrial Europe, unlike in traditional Africa and Asia.
 - 20. Common people married late (mostly in their late twenties) in this period.
 - B0. Work Away from Home
 - 10. Girls and boys both learned independence by working away from home as servants, apprentices, and laborers.
 - 20. Service in another family's home was the most common job for single girls.
 - 30. Servant girls worked hard, had little independence, and were in constant danger of sexual exploitation.
 - C0. Premarital Sex and Community Controls
 - 10. The evidence suggests a low rate of illegitimate births.
 - 20. In rural villages there were tight community controls over premarital sex and adultery.
 - 30. Once married, couples generally had several children.
 - D0. New Patterns of Marriage and Illegitimacy0
 - 10. Cottage industry enabled young men and women to become independent earlier.
 - 20. Young villagers who moved to the city entered into new sexual relationships free of community control.
 - 30. Rates of illegitimacy rose sharply between 1750 and 1850.
- II0. Children and Education0
 - A0. Child Care and Nursing0
 - 10. Women of the lower classes generally breast-fed their children for a longer period of time than is customary today.
 - 20. The well-off generally hired poor wet nurses to breast-feed their children.
 - B0. Foundlings and Infanticide
 - 10. Rates of infant mortality were high.
 - 20. Many children were abandoned soon after birth and foundling homes existed to care for some of these children.
 - 30. There is some evidence that infanticide remained common.
 - C0. Attitudes Toward Children
 - 10. Parents and other adults tended to be emotionally detached from children.
 - 20. The medical establishment was seldom interested in the care of children.
 - 30. Emotional detachment often shaded into abuse.
 - 40. From the middle of the eighteenth century, this pattern came under increasing attack.
 - D0. Schools and Popular Literature0
 - 10. Protestants and Catholics encouraged common people to read the Bible.

- 20. Some European governments encouraged primary school education for children of the common people (Prussia, other Protestant principalities in Germany, Scotland, England, the Austrian Empire).
 - 30. Basic literacy rose rapidly between 1600 and 1800.
- III0. Food and Medical Practice0
- A0. Diets and Nutrition
 - 10. The poor ate whole grain bread, beans, peas, vegetables—a healthy diet except for shortage of vitamins A and C in late winter.
 - 20. The rich gorged on meat, sweets, and liquor and suffered from gout and shortages of vitamins A and C.
 - B0. The Impact of Diet on Health
 - 10. The diet of the poor in normal times was adequate, but seasonal shortages and famines undermined health.
 - 20. The diet of the rich caused other health problems.
 - 30. As the century progressed, food consumption became more varied.
 - 40. New foods introduced from the Americas (corn, squash, tomatoes, potatoes) improved calorie per acre production and nutrition.
 - C0. Medical Practitioners0
 - 10. Medical practitioners in the 1700s included faith healers, pharmacists, physicians, surgeons, and midwives.
 - 20. Over time women were increasingly excluded from medical practice outside midwifery.
 - 30. Few treatments by any of these practitioners were effective.
 - D0. Hospitals and Medical Experiments0
 - 10. In France, Diderot’s critique of hospital conditions led to some improvements in cleanliness and ventilation.
 - 20. In mental hospitals patients were restrained with chains and kept under control with bleeding and cold water.
 - 30. Experimentation with inoculation against smallpox led eventually to vaccination with cowpox, which was effective in preventing the disease (Edward Jenner, 1798).
- IV0. Religion and Popular Culture0
- A0. The Institutional Church0
 - 10. Protestants quickly created bureaucratized churches controlled by the secular powers.
 - 20. Catholic rulers increasingly took control of the Catholic Church in their domains (as in Spain).
 - B0. Protestant Revival0
 - 10. Pietism sought to revive the emotional fervor of early Protestantism.
 - 20. Influenced by Pietism, John Wesley (1703–1791) propagandized Methodism among the English populace.
 - C0. Catholic Piety0
 - 10. Catholic authorities tended to compromise with the pagan elements and festivity of popular Catholicism.
 - 20. Inspired by the Counter-Reformation, Catholic clergy sought increasingly to “purify” popular religious practices.
 - 30. Such efforts created tension between the attitudes of educated elites and the common people.
 - D0. Leisure and Recreation
 - 10. Carnival illustrates the combination of religious celebration and popular recreation.
 - 20. Towns and cities offered a wide range of amusements.
 - 30. Blood sports were popular with the masses.

40. Within Europe there was a growing division between “high culture” and popular culture, with elite reformers tending to see the latter as sin, superstition, disorder, and vulgarity.

0INTERNET RESOURCES0

10. William Hogarth and Eighteenth-Century Print Culture (www.library.northwestern.edu/spec/hogarth/main.html)
20. Everyday Life: Primary Sources (www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbook04.html)
30. From Popular to Mass Culture: Primary Sources (www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbook04.html)
40. The History of Literacy (www.historyliteracy.org)
50. Thomas Gainsborough (cgfa.sunsite.dk/gainsbor/index.html)
60. Sir Joshua Reynolds (cgfa.sunsite.dk/reynolds/index.html)