Roots of European Civilisation

Age of Discovery

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How it started

- Europe imported oriental exclusive products – spices, silk or china
- Ottoman Turks partially blocked traditional trade routes
- Development of cities leads to increased demand for imported goods
- Portuguese and Spaniards wanted to gain profits from trade
Portugal and beginnings of voyages

- At the beginning of the XV c. Portugal was one of poorer countries in Europe.
- Prince Henry the Navigator financed and organized sea voyages.
- At the beginning expeditions travelled to Africa for gold, slaves and ivory
- 1427 - Diogo de Silves discovered Azores
- 1482 - Diogo Cão discovered Congo
- 1488 - Bartolomeu Dias discovered Cape of Good Hope
Cristopher Columbus

- Was financed by Spain
- Tried to reach China and India going westwards.
- In 1492 he discovered America's islands (Bahamas, Cuba, Hispaniola)
- In next voyages he reached continental America
Vasco da Gama

- Portuguese sailor
- In 1498 he managed to arrive to India (Calicut)
- Although his first voyage was not very profitable, it was crucial for building Portugese Empire.
Ferdinand Magellan

- 1519 – 1522
Ferdinand Magellan made voyage around the world
World Map c. 1700
Economical effects of Discoveries

- New plants and home animal (potato, tomato, turkey, tea, coffee)
- Better ships (galleons)
- Raise of number of merchants
- New markets
- Exploitation of new lands – new source of profit
- Influx of gold into Europe – inflation
- Beginnings of industry - manufactures.
Social Effects of Discoveries

- Better education
- Change of mentality in Europe
- Earth bigger than expected
- Beginnings of racism
- Decline of feudal world
Political Effects of Discoveries

- Rise of political power of Spain and Portugal
- Development of industry and power in Northern Europe
- Destruction of native cultures in America and partially in different continents
European civilization dominates Americas.
Enlightenment
Enlightenment

- Since about middle XVII w. mone can observe changes in culture and philosophy which are described as „enlightenment”
- The most important feature of the period was belief in the power of human reason.
Art of Enlightenment

- Enlightenment as a philosophical period is more or less contemporary with later Baroque and Classicism in Art.
- The peak of enlightenment is combined with XVIIIc. Classicism.
Enlightenment and Baroque

- Eras of Baroque in Art and Enlightenment in philosophy are partially, but not fully contemporary.
- Sometimes XVIIc. Is considered a separate era in philosophy – Age of Reason.
- Baroque is an Art Style visible since c. 1580 till c. 1730.
- Enlightenment is philosophy active since mid. XVII c. till the end of XVIII c.
Baroque Art

- Attempts to impress visitor by splendid form
- Elaborate form and profound symbolism
- Religion and Mythology are main subjects
- Very dynamic
- Playing with forms, words and symbols

Ecstasy of St Theresa by Bernini
Wilanów
Royal Palace of Madrid
Madrycie
Krzyżtopór in Ujazd
St Peter and St Paul in Vilnus
St Peter and St Paul in Vilnus
Interiors of Baroque churches: Poznań and Catania
Aeneas' Flight from Troy
(Perossi)
Venus at a Mirror (Rubens)
The Surrender of Breda
(Velazquez)
Polish Rider (Rembrandt)
Thank you for attention