The Age of Enlightenment:
Steam engines, Encyclopedias, & Revolutions

Aims of the lecture:
- Introducing the Age of Enlightenment
- Highlighting some of the Age’s central ideas
- Presenting textual illustrations to the Age of Enlightenment

I. Introduction

- Eighteenth century Europe - key inventions and events:
  - Ice cream – steam engines – Bank of England – public opinion
- Some illustrations from the French Revolution
  - Reshuffling the cards
    - The Queen of Spades now is ‘Liberty of the Press’
    - The King of Diamonds now is ________________________________
    - The Knave of Diamonds now is ________________________________
  - Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen, August 1789
    - Article one: Men are born and remain_________________________________________________
      ___________________________________________________________________________________
  - Women and/ in the Age of Enlightenment:
    - Mademoiselle de Lespinasse - Madame Geoffrin - ________________________________

II. Encountering enlightenment thought

- Lady Mary Wortley Montagu – work entitled: _____________________________________________
  - Arguments from reason, science, and even theology to vindicate the rights of women
- The ‘encyclopédistes’:
  - D’Alembert: “As an Encyclopedia, it is to set forth as well as possible _______________________
    ___________________________________________________________________________________
  - Diderot: “In truth, the aim of an encyclopedia is to ________________________________
    ___________________________________________________________________________________
Raising the question: Enlightenment? What is that?

- Immanuel Kant responds: “Enlightenment is man’s emergence ________________
  __________________________________________________________________________

- The centrality of freedom for public enlightenment – but how much civil freedom?

III. Conclusive remarks -- -- Need we dare think for ourselves?

Some central quotations:

- Article IV of the 1789 Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen: “Liberty consists in the freedom to do everything which injures no one else; hence the exercise of the natural rights of each man has no limits except those which assure to the other members of the society the enjoyment of the same rights. These limits can only be determined by law.”

- Article one of de Gouges’ Declaration of the Rights of Woman and the Female Citizen: “Woman is born free and remains equal to man in rights. Social distinctions may only be based on common utility.”

- From Chapter II of Montagu’s Woman not Inferior to Man: “In a peaceful, orderly state, the major part of Men are useless in their office, with all their authority. But Women will never cease to be useful, while there are Men, and those Men have children.”

- From the conclusion to Montagu’s Woman not Inferior to Man: “Our right is the same with theirs to all public employments; we are endow’d, by nature, with geniuses at least as capable of filling them as theirs can be; and our hearts are as susceptible of virtue as our heads are of the sciences. We neither want spirit, strength, nor courage, to defend a country, nor prudence to rule it.”

- “What is enlightenment? This question, which is almost as important as what is truth, should indeed be answered before one begins enlightening! And still I have never found it answered!” (J. F. Zollner, cited in Schmidt’s What is Enlightenment: Eighteenth Century Answers and Twentieth Century Questions, Introduction, page 2)

- From Kant’s closing paragraph in his article on enlightenment: “A greater degree of civil freedom seems advantageous to a people’s spiritual freedom; yet the former established impassable boundaries for the latter; conversely, a lesser degree of civil freedom provides enough room for all fully to expand their abilities.”