

**UNIT 4: The Scientific and Political Enlightenment**  
**Chapter 6 and Parts of Chapter 8**

**Section A: Prophets of a Scientific Civilization: Bacon and Descartes**

Reading Text: Chapter 6, Pages 225-231

Discourse on Method- Descartes  
Why was Science Backward in the Middle Ages- Postan  
Early Modern Europe: Motives for the Scientific Revolution- Clark

Topics Science Before the Seventeenth Century  
Bacon and Descartes

**Section B: The Road to Newton: The Law of Universal Gravitation**

Reading Text: Chapter 6, Pages 231-240

Topics Scientific Advances  
The Scientific Revolution: Copernicus to Galileo  
The Achievement of Newton: The Promise of Science  
The Scientific Revolution and the World of Thought

**Section C: New Knowledge of Human Beings and Society**

Reading Text: Chapter 6, Pages 240-249

Scientific The Scientific Intellectual: A Psychological Interpretation of the  
Revolution- Feuer

Topics The Current of Skepticism  
The New Sense of Evidence  
History and Historical Scholarship  
The Questioning of Traditional Beliefs

**Section D: Political Theory: The School of Natural Law**

Reading Text: Chapter 249-255

Second Treatise of Government: Legislative Power- Locke  
The Inalienable Rights of Man- Locke  
Excerpt from Thomas Hobbes

Topics Natural Rights and Natural Law  
Hobbes and Locke

### **Section E: The Enlightened Philosophers and Others**

Reading Text: Chapter 8, Pages 297-311

What is Enlightenment?- Kant  
The System of Nature- d'Holbach  
The Social Contract- Rousseau

Topics The Spirit of Progress and Improvement  
The Philosophes  
Montesquieu, Voltaire, and Rousseau  
Political Economists  
Main Currents of Enlightenment Thought

### **Section F: Enlightened Despotism: France, Austria, Prussia, and Russia**

Reading Text: Chapter 8, Pages 311-329

Eighteenth Century Europe: Enlightened Absolutism- Anderson

Topics The Meaning of Enlightened Despotism  
The Failure of Enlightened Despotism in France  
Austria: The Reforms of Maria Theresa and Joseph II  
Prussia Under Frederick the Great  
Russia After Peter the Great  
Catherine the Great: Domestic Program  
Catherine the Great: Foreign Affairs  
The Limitations of Enlightened Despotism

### **Section G: Age of Democratic Revolution; Significance of the American Revolution**

Reading Text: Chapter 8, Pages 329 - 335 and 341 - 348

Topics Onset of the Age of Democratic Revolution  
The English-Speaking Countries: Parliament and Reform  
The War of American Independence  
Significance of the Revolution