**Neoclassical Period** was the first half of the Age of Revolution in England

**Age of Revolution** - 1688-1832

- Neoclassical Period - 1688-1789
  - From the Glorious Revolution of 1688 (beginning of the reign of William & Mary)
  - To the end of the American Revolution
- Romantic Period - 1789-1832

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**Features of Neoclassicism**

- **Reason & Rationalism & Realism** – counter-emphasis on feeling
- **Qualities of Clarity, Simplicity, Smoothness, & Polish**
- **Poetic Decorum** – stay within bounds of what was Conventional and expected
- **Didacticism** - teaching & instruction within a work of literature
- **Satire** - a work of literature designed to correct an evil by means of ridicule
- **Heroic Couplet** – a pair of rhymed lines in iambic pentameter

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**England’s Historic Timeline of Neoclassical Era**

**King William III and Mary II** ruled England 1688-1702

- Mary II was Protestant daughter of Catholic James II
- The Glorious Revolution brought them to the throne!
- Protestantism restored under William & Mary

**Queen Anne** ruled England 1702-1714

- Protestant sister of Mary II and daughter of Catholic James II
- Continued Protestantism in England
- "The Church of Rome is wicked and dangerous", she wrote to her sister, "their ceremonies – most of them – plain downright idolatry."
- 5 children: 4 died before age 2 and 1 died at age 11
- Throne went to cousin George from Germany
- “Queen Anne” now refers to a particular architectural style and furniture style!

**George I** ruled England 1714-1727

- Grew up in Germany
- Jacobite Rebellion sought to put an alternate (Catholic) heir on the throne
- Not popular – the British perceived him as too German – only used English in written documents

**George II** ruled England 1727-1760

- Also grew up in Germany – came to England upon father’s accession
- Loved England! Loved public attention! Became popular with the people
- Happily married to Catherine – he was allowed to choose his wife
- Did not get along well with his dad King George I
- Another Jacobite Rebellion attempted by Bonnie Prince Charlie - defeated at Battle of Culloden
- Died at age 77 - not survived by any of his sons – throne went to his grandson
George III ruled England 1760-1820
- Grandson of George II – son of Frederick
- Became king at age 22 – rushed to find a wife & marry before coronation
- Happily married even though he met his wife on their wedding day  15 children!
- Very devout – spent hours in prayer each day
- The English king during the American Revolution! :-(
- Ruled during the conflicts with France after French Revolution (1789) and Napoleonic Wars (1803-1815)
- Oft remembered as “The Mad King”
- Suffered from a mysterious mental illness
- Samples of his hair studied in 2005 revealed high levels of arsenic, possible trigger for the disease
- Bad bout of the disease from 1788-1789 / Afflicted again in 1804 for several months
- By end of 1811, George III had become permanently insane - lived in seclusion at Windsor Castle until his death.
- Son George IV ruled as regent from 1811 due to George III’s mental illness
- George was succeeded by two of his sons George IV and William IV - both died without children, leaving the throne to niece Victoria - last monarch of the House of Hanover! :-(
- George III lived for 81 years and 239 days and reigned for 59 years and 96 days - Only Queen Victoria and Elizabeth II lived and reigned longer.
- The Declaration of Independence’s wording has contributed to the American public’s perception of George as a tyrant.

This Chapter’s Authors

**JOHN DRYDEN**
*To My Honored Friend, Dr. Charleton On Milton (an epigram)*
- The” first of the moderns”
- Established heroic couplets as dominant verse form
- Wrote allegorical satire

**DANIEL DEFOE**
*Robinson Crusoe*
- Began career as Daniel Foe, a hoosier
- Ironic pamphlet landed him in the pillory, but he was applauded by crowds!
- *Robinson Crusoe* – 1719 – an allegory of his life
- Fathered genre of fictional travelogue using style of journalistic realism

**JONATHAN SWIFT**
*Gulliver’s Travels*
- His cause – the advancement of reason
- Worked as parish priest in Ireland
- Dean of St. Patrick’s Cathedral in Dublin
- Offended Queen Anne with coarseness of his satire
- Wrote bitingly IRONIC Pamphlets such as *A Modest Proposal for Preventing the Children of Poor People from Being a Burden to Their Parents or Country*

**ALEXANDER POPE**
*Essay on Man*
*Essay on Criticism*
- Poet
- Master of Heroic Couplet
- Master of Didacticism

**ISAAC WATTS**
*Heavenly Joy on Earth*
*The Christian Race*
*Breathing After the Holy Spirit*
*Against Idleness and Mischief*
*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*
*O God, Our Help in Ages Past*
*Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed*
*Joy to the World*
- Wrote Sacred Poetry & HYMNS!!!!

**JOHN AND CHARLES WESLEY**
*Journal of John Wesley*
*For the Anniversary Day of One’s Conversion Behold the Man!*
*After Preaching to the Newcastle Colliers Hark, the Herald Angels Sing*
*Christ the Lord is Risen Today*
- Started “the Holy Club” while students at Oxford which became the Methodist denomination in America
- Became missionaries to American Indians
- Found true conversion with “Moravians” in Germany & Holland
- Took up task of bringing true conversion to England!
- Outdoor preaching (Charles 17 yrs/John 50 yrs)
This Chapter’s Authors continued

Samuel Johnson
*The Rambler*
*Lives of the English Poets*
*A Letter to a Young Clergyman*
*Dictionary of the English Language*
- Attended Oxford but did not get a degree
- Aimless until married a widow who set him up to run a school
- Co-Founded The Literary Club (group of thinkers and writers)
- John Wesley visited him a great deal in his later years

James Boswell
*The Life of Samuel Johnson, LL.D*
- Scottish lord
- Lawyer
- Friend of Samuel Johnson—wrote his biography with eye for detail

Robert Burns
*To a Mouse*
*To a Louse*
*A Red, Red Rose*
*Auld Lang Syne*
- Scottish
- Poet who helped usher in the new Romantic poetic style with greater emphasis on personal feelings
- Reflected new cultural interest in folk art and folk poetry
- A “Natural Poet” / Rustic
- Wrote in Scottish dialect

Adam Smith
*Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations*

John Locke
*Essay on Human Understanding*
*Two Treatises on Government*

Thomas Gray
*Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard*
- Educated at Eton & Cambridge
- Poems of somber reflection
- Regarded best of mid-century poets

Oliver Goldsmith
*She Stoops to Conquer*
*The Vicar of Wakefield*
*The Deserted Village*
- Literary protégé of Samuel Johnson
- Achieved excellence in four genres: Essay, Novel, Drama (satirical comedy), formal poem of serious reflection
- *Vicar of Wakefield* satirizes English social behavior of the day
- *She Stoops to Conquer* — a comedy of manners
- *She Stoops* was staged by David Garrick at the Drury Lane Theatre in London

William Cowper
*Olney Hymns*
*The Castaway*
*Sonnet to William Wilberforce, Esq.*
- Foremost English poet during two decades after Gray & Goldsmith
- Studied law
- Struggled with depression & even attempted suicide
- Mentored by John Newton – converted writer of Amazing Grace
- Despite his bouts of insanity, he was still a success

Edward Gibbon
*The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*