“In the minutest particle of matter... there is a world of created things... a perpetual living mirror of the universe”

--- Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz [1646-1716]

“The Baroque”: 1600-1750
Age of Absolutism

The world of
Leibniz, Newton, and Bach:
A universe of complete
interrelatedness, all under the
Provident and absolute
control of God.

Note hybrid of Reformation
+ Scientific Revolution =
“Absolute /arbitrary freedom
of God” + perfectly rational
cosmic order”
Read the meaning of “tolerance” from perspective of V’s skepticism: an “epistemological modesty” a recognition that human reason is limited/fallible.

We do not have absolute [mathematical] certainty about religious truths hence, it is in accordance with natural law that we should be tolerant of what we do not know. And human law should follow natural law.

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“VOLTAIRE
Treatise on Toleration
1763

“In the minutest particle of matter . . . there is a world of created things . . . a perpetual living mirror of the universe”

— Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz [1646-1716]

15th-16th cc. Italian Renaissance Humanism: “Man is the measure…”

St. Peter’s Basilica, Rome

Renaissance? Baroque?

Baroque:
first grows out of Italian
Renaissance:
i.e., neo-classical
• HOWEVER: Architecture of absolutism
• Crushing weight --- but the weight of earthly power
• Begins with the “New Rome” of late-Renaissance popes
• An aesthetic of excess

ABSOLUTISM:
Crushing weight: is divine + human
“The king is the lieutenant of God.” - Loyseau
Pope = absolutist monarch

Bernini:
St. Peter’s Throne
{Pope as “St. Peter”}

KEY: PERPETUAL MOTION / THEATRE / DRAMA
Perpetual motion / undulation:
THEATER / DRAMA / EMOTION
El Greco

View of Toledo

Christ Driving the Traders from the Temple

Portrait of a Cardinal
Beyond Rome / Spain / Latin America

Latin American Baroque: Bogota

Whitehall Castle: built by James I
(“No bishop, no king.”; Very not-Puritan!!!)

Castle Howard, 1699
Still belongs to the Howard family
NB: NOT nobility / aristocrats – “new money”

Prussian Baroque
Zwinger Palace
(Dresden)
What does Baroque architecture / art do for these patrons???

Even if not "monarchs," gives "courtly" power, authority — legitimation

French difference: Louix XIV and “Classicism”

Louvre: Bernini Proposal [“Italian Baroque”]

Bernini
Louis XIV’s “classical” age: Vying for the center of the Baroque 17th c. [Paris, not Rome!]

Henri Matisse, 1947

Jackson Pollock, 1946

“Abstract Expressionism”: Who will be the center of the Cold War world [post-1945]? Paris [Matisse] or New York [Pollock]?
Interiors and Portraits: Democratizing the bourgeois Individual

Pieter de Hooch, *Interior*

What’s so big about an *interior*???

Invention of bourgeois life

Calvin: “vocation”

Rembrandt van Rijn

"Self-Portrait as a Young Man"

• Portraits / portraits
• What was once reserved to kings, queens, popes, saints, lords... *now available to middle class*: an image of oneself --- a *self-image*....
• See Dutch gallery at MFA: PORTRAITS
  – Legitimate families
  – A turn to the subject: each individual has their own unique vocation
Georg Friedrich Handel:
“All We Like Sheep Have Gone Astray”

Third Estate: “upward mobility” —
All we have gone each to his own way like sheep....

MUSIC

Georg Friedrich Handel:
“All We Like Sheep Have Gone Astray”

Third Estate: “upward mobility” —
All we have gone each to his own way like sheep....

MUSIC

Georg Friedrich Handel:
“All We Like Sheep Have Gone Astray”

Third Estate: “upward mobility” —
All we have gone each to his own way like sheep....
A turn to the “Third Estate” --- not just Popes and Kings [First and Second Estates] powerful: Third Estate: accumulation of wealth and power through commerce as merchants

• “All we like sheep have gone astray,
  everyone to his own way…
• We have turned / Everyone to his own way…”

Musical joke
• Happy part is the “sin” part!
• Slow / sad: “And the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.”
  i.e., “But then the Lord came and saved us…” [sob, sob --- and we wish he hadn’t!!!]

J. S. Bach:
“Toccata and Fugue in d minor”

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Right “fact”;
Wrong “significance”!!!
Toccata: *toccare = “touch”*

**“Fugue” VOCABULARY:**
- 1) “Theme” or “subject” = the main “tune” of the piece

- 2) Notes of the scale:
  - (1) Doh
  - (4) fah
  - (5) sol,
  - (8) doh [octave]

The “Fugue” as absolutist musical form

- Bach --- the most **mathematical** of all musicians.
- “Fugue”: a theme is repeated several times in a piece according to a fixed order and without any variation
  - “Absolutism”: the imposing of a theme without any accommodation to its surroundings
**Sum: Fugue as Absolutist music**

- “The Fugue”: the repetition of a single subject
  - in a prescribed way
  - in different contexts
  - but without ever changing the subject
- “Fugue”: popular throughout 17th-c. Europe
  [Italy, Germany, France]…
- **Cultural meaning?**
  - *Invariance; timelessness; change-lessness*

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**J.S. Bach, “Coffee Cantata”**

*Cantata* = “Song”

Bach wrote both “sacred” and “secular” cantatas

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**J.S. Bach, “Coffee Cantata”**

- RECITATIVE (Father)
- Du böses Kind, du loses Mädchen,
- *Wicked child! Willful girl,
- ach! Wenn erlang ich meinen Zweck:
- *ah! When will you listen to me:
- tu mir den Coffee weg!
- *Cut out the coffee!*

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Coffee: symbol of mercantilist world of empire and luxury items [sugar, tobacco]

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**J.S. Bach, “Coffee Cantata”**

- (Liesgen)
- Herr Vater, seid doch nicht so scharf!
- *Father, stop being so hard!
- Wenn ich des Tages nicht dreimal
- *If, three times a day,
- mein Schälchen Coffee trinken darf,
- *I don’t drink my bowls of coffee,
- so werd ich ja zu meiner Qual
- *Then, in agony, I’ll wither away
- wie ein verdorrtes Ziegenbrätchen.
- *Like a dried-out chunk of roasted goat!*
• ARIA (Liesgen)

  - Ei! Wie schmeckt der Coffee süße,
  - Yum! So sweet is the taste of coffee
  - lieblicher als tausend Küsse,
  - more beloved than a thousand kisses,
  - milder als Muskatenwein.
  - smoother than muscatel wine.

• RECITATIVE (Father)

  - Wenn du mir nicht den Coffee läßt,
  - If you don’t stop this coffee-drinking
  - so sollst du auf kein Hochzeitfest,
  - You can’t go to the wedding celebration
  - auch nicht spazieren gehn.
  - Or go out strolling.

• (Daughter)

  - Ich kann mich leicht dazu verstehn.
  - I can stand that.

• (Father)

  - Du sollst nicht an das Fenster treten
  - And you can’t stand at the window
  - und keinen seh’n vorübergeh’n!
  - Looking at the passersby.

• Coffee, Coffee muß ich haben,

  - Coffee, Coffee, I must have coffee
  - und wenn jemand mich will laben,
  - And someone who wants to please me
  - ach, so schenkt mir Coffee ein!
  - Ah, he will just give me the gift of coffee!

• (Daughter)

  - Auch dieses; doch seid nur gebeten
  - Also that — but I bessech you
  - und lass’ mir den Coffee steh’n!
  - Just let me keep my coffee!
• (Father)
  • Du sollst auch nicht von meiner Hand
  • From my hand you shall not receive
  • ein silbern oder goldnes Band
  • any silver or gold trimmings.
  • auf deine Haube kriegen!
  • For your cap!
• (Daughter)
  • Ja, ja! Nur laßt mir mein Vergnügen!
  • Yes, yes! Just let me have my only pleasure!

• (Father)
  • Du loses Liesgen du,
  • You willful Liesgen, you,
  • so gibst du mir denn alles zu?
  • So you accept it, do you!
  • Nun folge, was dein Vater spricht!
  • Now, listen to your father!
• (Daughter)
  • In allem, nur den Coffee nicht.
  • In all things, just not concerning coffee!

• (Father)
  • Wohlan! So mußt du dich bequemen,
  • Then you must accept
  • auch niemals einen Mann zu nehmen.
  • Never having a husband.

• (Daughter)
  • Ach ja! Herr Vater, einen Mann!
  • Oh, yes! My father, a husband!
  • (Father)
  • Ich schwöre, daß es nicht geschicht.
  • I swear that it will never happen.
  • (Daughter)
  • Bis ich den Coffee lassen kann? . . .
  • Until I give up coffee? . . .

. . . Nun! Coffee, bleib nur immer liegen!
• . . . Okay! From now on I swear off coffee!
• Herr Vater, hört, ich trinke keinen nicht.
• Listen, Father, I don’t drink it any more.

• (Father)
  • So sollst du endlich einen kriegen!
  • So then, you will finally get a husband!
  • {The father goes off to find a husband.}

• But Liesgen puts out the word that there is a “prenuptial agreement” before marrying her:
  • “No suitor will be admitted to this house
    unless he declares to me
    and puts it in our marriage vows
    that I shall be allowed
    whenever I want,
    to prepare coffee for myself.”