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AP European History  
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make (compare/contrast)  
essay

Unit 4 LEO 2 Outline

Comparison

(COT) Account for the reasons why the western peasantry realized societal and economic changes in the 18th c. while the eastern peasantry saw little change in their social and economic status. Address all parts of the question (compares AND contrasts).

I. Intro

- A. **Context:** During the eighteenth century, Europe experienced significant changes. The Agricultural and Industrial Revolutions increased efficiency in agriculture and the production of goods. Great Britain replaced France as the Western European power and Prussia, Austria, and Russia rose in Eastern Europe.
- B. **Restatement:** In the 18th century in Europe, (X) western peasantry realized great societal and economic changes, due to their freedom and use of agricultural advancements, (Y) whereas the eastern peasantry saw little change in their social and economic status, as they remained feudal and technologically unprogressive.

my mistake -  
Comparison essay

If Comparison essay -  
you must compare/contrast

II X

- A. **Topic Sentence:** Western European peasants during the 18th century, were given circumstances that allowed them to attain societal and economic changes.
- B. **Evidence:** A factor that contributed to the western peasantry's socio-economic change was their freedom and ability to own land. **Analysis:** The autonomy that accompanied freedom gave peasants a chance at capitalism. Also, the social mobility that was brought upon in countries like France allowed peasants to move up the social chain through merit and service in either the military or bureaucracy, rather than by birthright.
- C. **Evidence:** Another reason for Western peasantry change was the 18th century's Agricultural Revolution and its innovations in farming. **Analysis:** With more practical and efficient practices and technology, peasants were able to increase productivity of their land, hence improving their economic status. For example,

the practice of crop rotation, introduced by Charles Townsend, allowed peasant farmers to make use of their land longer than they had more. Enclosure introduced a new sense of capitalistic attitude to the countryside.

### III. Y

- A. **Topic Sentence:** Unlike western peasants, during the 18th century, Eastern peasants did not have proper circumstances for socio-economic change.
- B. **Evidence:** The continuity of the western peasantry's status was greatly set by the feudal system, as feudalism itself reduced any aristocratic potential for peasants. **Analysis:** Both before and during the 18th century, serfs in countries such as Russia were meant to be exploited by their landlords to increase his profit in their agrarian economy. As serfs were tied to their land and landlord, social or economic change was not encouraged.
- C. **Evidence:** The status of the western peasantry also remained the same because of its lack of agricultural improvement. **Analysis:** Serfs did not benefit from the innovations of the Agricultural Revolution because, in Prussia, Russia, Austria, and Poland, landlords directed farm management rather than villages in order to squeeze more labor from the serfs. They did not want autonomy to reach the serfdom, so they remained primarily agrarian.

### IV. Conclusion

- A. **Restatement:** Western peasantry were able to experience socio-economic changes due to the freedom and technological advances of the 18th century, while the eastern peasantry were not.
- B. **Synthesis:** The western peasantry's change during the 18th century is comparable to that of the Reformation Era. During the Reformation Era, peasants were inspired by the words of Martin Luther and believed that they were equal to their social superiors. As during the 18th century, the Reformation Era's peasants sought out to improve their living conditions. Although they failed, the Peasant's Revolts show a time when peasants actively tried to improve their rights and lives, similar to the western peasants of the 18th century.