

# *The French Café*



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# History

- Discovery of coffee – spread to Europe
- In France development of café culture – late 17<sup>th</sup> century
- Café Le Procope: Guess how old?
  - 320 years old: established in 1686
- Places for communication – exchanging of ideas



# Historical Events in Cafés

■ 18<sup>th</sup> century French Enlightenment: intellectuals like Voltaire, Rousseau and Diderot

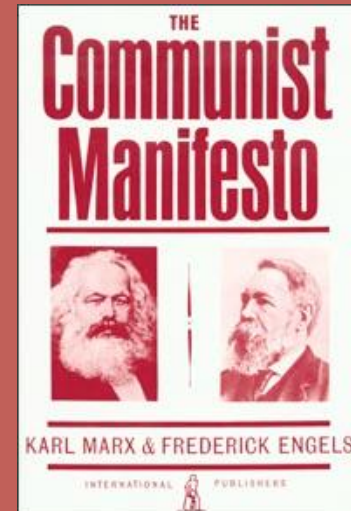
■ Creation of the Encyclopédie in Le Procope



■ 1840s – Karl Marx first met Friedrich Engels in the Café de la Régence

■ Historical significance?

■ Authors of the Communist Manifesto



# Historical Events in Cafés

- Lumière Brothers – first commercial film screened in...which café? What year?
  - Grand Café on the Boulevard des Capucines
  - December 28, 1895
- 1920's: Lost Generation – who were they?
  - Group of American expatriates
  - Includes Hemingway, Fitzgerald, T.S. Eliot, Gertrude Stein
  - Met at numerous cafés to discuss matters of the day, write
  - Hemingway – wrote his draft of *The Sun Also Rises* in La Closerie des Lilas

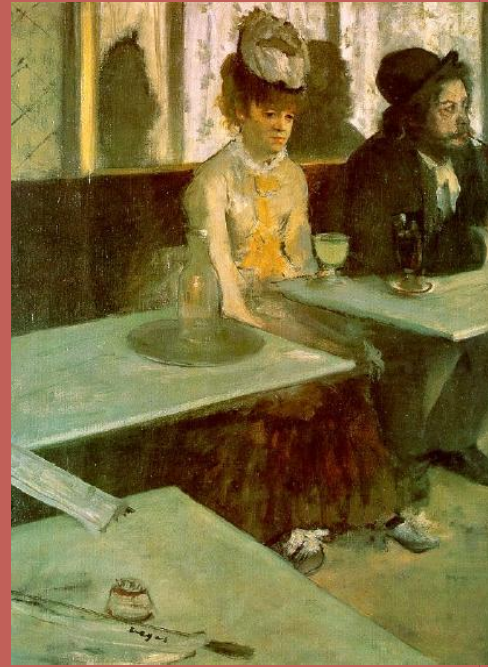


# Cafés in Art

## Impressionism: Café as subject matter

- Artists would paint people in cafés
  - Try to capture emotions, to convey feeling
  - Popularized term “people-watching”
- Van Gogh – *Café Terrace at Night*
- Degas – *In a Café (The Absinthe Drinker)*
- Manet – *Au Café*





# *Café – what purpose?*

- Social aspect is very important in France
- Place for information to travel amongst the people
- The French not only go into a café to drink coffee, but also to:
  - Make a telephone call
  - Work
  - Eat
  - Read
  - Wait for a friend
  - Go to the bathroom
  - Shelter from the weather
  - Seek out peers or escape from them
  - Kill time
  - Meditate, ponder
- Places of freedom and privilege



# *Cafés aplenty*

- Thousands of cafés in Paris
- Range of cafés: ornate and renown to more humble and quaint
- Café from many periods of France's history
  - End of 17<sup>th</sup> century – elegant, marble tables, gilding, painted glass – Les Deux Garçons (visited by Churchill, Cézanne)
  - Late 18th century to early 19th century – end of the Revolution – stucco, chandeliers – Grand Café in Moulins
  - Art Nouveau, Art Deco – 19th – 20th centuries
  - Modern cafés: internet capabilities





# Some Famous French Cafés

■ Le Procope (1686)

■ <http://www.procope.com/>



■ Café de Flore (1887)

■ <http://www.cafe-de-flore.com/>



■ Les Deux Magots (1831)

■ Meaning of name?

■ <http://www.lesdeuxmagots.fr/>



# Contd.

## ☞ Café des Deux Moulins

- ☞ Café from the movie *Le Fabuleux Destin d'Amélie Poulain*
- ☞ The crème brûlée is named after Amélie



# Quiz!!

- In which cafe was the Encyclopédie drafted?
  - Le Procope
- Where did Hemingway write his draft of *The Sun Also Rises*?
  - La Closerie des Lilas
- Name an Impressionist artist who painted scenes from a café.
  - Van Gogh, Manet, Degas, many more
- True/False? There are only ornate, fancy cafés in Paris
  - False: numerous cafés for any type of person/occasion/time

