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STUDY GUIDE for *Candide* by [Voltaire](https://www.history.com/news/10-things-you-should-know-about-voltaire)

Directions: Please TYPE your answers to the following questions for EACH chapter of the novella. The question you are answering should be clear from your response. Do not re-type the prompt. Please use chapter headings and question numbers to organize your responses.

Your completed study guide is due on:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please submit to [TURNITIN.COM](https://www.turnitin.com/)

Chapter 1

1. In what part of Europe does the novella begin?
2. Of what is the name Baron Thunder-ten-tronckh derisive?In other words, what is this name mocking?
3. What is the significance of the name Candide?
4. What is/are the target(s) of Voltaire’s depiction of the Baron?
5. What three real fields of philosophy are referred to in the hodge-podge word “metaphysico-theologico-cosmoloonigology”? What is ironic about the “-loonigo-” part of the word?

6. What major [philosopher](https://www.webpages.uidaho.edu/engl_258/Lecture%20Notes/leibniz.htm) is the target of Voltaire’s satire focused on “the best of all possible worlds”? Summarize his idea of “sufficient reason.”

1. Note the contrast between the philosophical ideals of what the characters say and the reality of what they do, or of what is happening around them.
2. Chapter 1 begins to set the narrative rhythm. While you read, look for other examples of the pattern being set here: *the bottom falling out of what appears to be a wonderful situation*. What are some examples from later chapters that also use this narrative technique?

Chapter 2

1. As displayed in this chapter, what is Voltaire’s attitude toward the brutality of army life?
2. Specifically the chapter also comments on the [Prussian army of Frederick the Great](https://www.warhistoryonline.com/history/frederick-the-great-leuthen-1757-m.html). What was happening between Frederick and France at the time the novella was written?
3. In what way is Candide blinded by his own honesty and simplicity?
4. Voltaire introduces a new, important theme in this chapter. How is the theme of free will, of man’s ability to choose his own destiny, developed in this chapter?

Chapter 3

1. The setting of the novella changes in this chapter. What part of Europe is now the setting?
2. The character the Anabaptist Jacques is introduced? Who were the [Anabaptists](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Anabaptists)?
3. Two more of the major themes of *Candide* are presented in this chapter. How are the theme of evil, in the form of war, and the theme of religion developed here?
4. The first part of Chapter 3 contains one of the most famous scenes in *Candide*. In two paragraphs, Voltaire exposes the cruelty and savagery of war in a devastating manner. Although Voltaire never uses the word “evil,” how does he make you feel its presence?

Chapter 4

1. What news does Dr. Pangloss reveal of Cunegonde?
2. According to Pangloss, why is he in such a pitiful condition? In truth, what is the cause of his condition?
3. To what city in Europe do Candide, Jacques, and Pangloss now travel?

1. What does Voltaire expose by parodying philosophical reasoning, beginning with an invalid premise and ending with an absurd conclusion?
2. Note that Pangloss always deals in abstractions and ideals. One source of the humor in the chapter is the clash between the real and the ideal. How is this clash evident with the description of love -- what is the ideal and what is the real?

Chapter 5

1. Jacques is drowned at sea, and on shore, Candide, Pangloss, and a sailor are heading for Lisbon when an earthquake, a tidal wave, and fires devastate the city. What actually occurred in [Lisbon in 1755](https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/earthquake-takes-heavy-toll-on-lisbon)?
2. In this chapter, how is the reality of evil portrayed differently than what it was in Chapter 3?
3. How is the sense of the senselessness of fate demonstrated in this chapter?
4. Natural disasters had frequently been justified as punishment for immoral behavior, what is [ironic](http://www.literarydevices.com/irony/) in the first survivor that Pangloss, Candide, and the sailor encounter?
5. To what theme is the presence of an officer of the [Inquisition](https://www.history.com/topics/inquisition) at dinner and his dialogue with Pangloss applicable? Consider the concepts of intolerance and fanaticism in relation to this theme. Notice the interesting contrast between the actions of Pangloss and Candide in similar situations.
6. In Chapter 3, when Pangloss says he is starving, Candide immediately feeds him, even though he is anxious for news of Cunegonde. Here, when the wounded Candide begs for oil and wine, Pangloss, whose name is Greek for “all-tongue,” keeps talking until Candide faints. What does this tell you about Pangloss and his true concerns?

Chapter 6

1. To prevent more earthquakes, the authorities decide to hold an *auto-da-fe*. What is an [*auto-da-fe*](https://www.ranker.com/list/what-was-auto-de-fe/setareh-janda)?

2. Voltaire chooses to have his characters condemned by the Inquisition in order to dramatize his chief quarrel with religion. What is that view of religion?

*3.* For what reasons does Candide question his optimistic beliefs in this chapter?

Chapter 7

1. How does this chapter parody the [romantic adventure](https://www.romancewiki.com/Adventure_Romance) story?
2. What does Cunegonde’s straightforward answer to Candide’s question about her fate at the hands of the [Bulgars](http://hunnobulgars.blogspot.com/2016/04/origin-huns-bulgarians.html) reveal about her character, especially in contrast with Candide and Pangloss?

Chapter 8

1. What insight into the character of Cunegonde does this chapter provide?

Chapter 9

1. What were the [Holy Brotherhood](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santa_Hermandad)?
2. What elements of this chapter continue the parody of the romantic adventure story?
3. What is significant about the contrast between the treatment of the Inquisitor and the Jew?

Chapter 10

1. What European city is now the setting for the novella?
2. How did many Europeans of Voltaire’s day view the New World, as expressed by Candide in this chapter?

 3. This chapter further develops the theme of religion. How are the three religious orders, the [Franciscans](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Franciscans), the [Benedictines](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Benedictines), and the [Jesuits](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Jesuits), presented?

4. The object of religious satire changes from fanaticism and intolerance to what in this chapter

5. The second major theme treated in this chapter is, again, philosophical optimism. What is the difference in attitude between Cunegonde and Candide as they set sail?

6. Note that before Chapter 10 ends, Cunegonde announces a new theme -- the theme of human misery and self-pity.

Chapter 11

1. The old woman’s commentary serves various purposes. How does it:

a. highlight the worldly-wise, unflappable character of the old woman?

b. illustrate the universality of evil and emphasize the author’s sarcasm?

c. bring you down to earth.

1. Parodies of literary forms and styles are frequent *in Candide*. In this chapter, how does Voltaire make fun of [Renaissance Italian love poetry](https://www.britannica.com/art/Italian-literature/The-Renaissance)?

Chapter 12

1. What counterbalances the old woman’s consistent ill fortune?
2. What challenge to Cunegonde does the old woman issue at the end of the chapter?

Chapter 13

1. What continent and what city is now the setting for the novella?
2. What does the governor’s lengthy name satirize?
3. The old woman continues to play an important role in this chapter. She guides the action of both Cunegonde and Candide. Is her advice to Cunegonde purely cynical or does she have Cunegonde’s best interest at heart?

Chapter 14

1. What country is the next stop on Candide’s journey?

2. What surprise character reappears in this chapter?

3. In what ways is Cacambo similar to the old woman?

1. What are Cacambo’s chief characteristics which will frequently come in handy on his travels with Candide?
2. In Chapter 13, Candide was beginning to show signs of independent judgment. What evidence does Chapter 14 provide of the beginnings of his disenchantment with Pangloss’s views?
3. Voltaire continues jabbing away at religion. What is his chief target in this chapter?
4. Contrast the behavior of the Jesuits in Europe with their behavior in America.

Chapter 15

1. How is the satire of the Jesuits continued in this chapter?

Chapter 16

1. Explain the concept of the “[noble savage](https://theconversation.com/explainer-the-myth-of-the-noble-savage-55316)” as held by Europeans of the 17th and 18th centuries.

2. In the Biglugs’/Oreillons’ too-ready acceptance of Cacambo’s elaborate reasoning, what may Voltaire be suggesting about the innate difference between primitive and modern societies?

3. How does the episode of the Biglugs/Oreillons continue the satirical portrait of the Jesuits?

4. Candide’s attitudes and spirits fluctuate in this chapter. How is the fluctuation typified by his reaction to the state of nature?

Chapter 17

1. Voltaire repeatedly emphasizes that the worldly-wise Cacambo is astounded by what he sees in Eldorado? Why?
2. Is Voltaire saying, through the realistic voice of Cacambo, that Eldorado is an impossible ideal for human beings?

Chapter 18

1. What are the chief characteristics of Eldorado?
2. What elements of society are missing in Eldorado?

3. The Eldoradans are contented people who have vowed never to leave their homeland. What had happened in their history that led them to take that vow?

4. The meaning of Candide and Cacambo’s decision to leave Eldorado can be seen as a rejection

by Voltaire of the very idea of “utopia,” or a “perfect” state. Is Voltaire saying that utopias are worthwhile to think about, but impossible to achieve? Is he saying that maybe utopias are even undesirable?

5. The old man relates a story about his ancestors. His message complements the king’s view. What is the message of the old man and the king?

Chapter 19

1. What city of South America is now the setting for the novella?

1. What encounter horrifies and convinces Candide to abandon Pangloss’s optimism?

3. Identify the three reversals of Candide’s good fortune in Eldorado which he suffers in this chapter.

4. In Chapter 19, two new characters enter the story: Martin the scholar and the Dutch merchant Vanderdendur. Contrast Vanderdendur with the other Dutch merchant of the novella, the Anabaptist Jacques.

5. The scholar Martin is the third of Candide’s companion advisers. What is ironic about Candide’s choice of Martin as his companion?

6. Martin is persecuted for being thought a [Socinian](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Socinians). How does Voltaire use Martin to further satirize religion?

Chapter 20

1. Martin claims to be a [Manichean](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Manichaeism) who believes that the world, with the exception of Eldorado, is dominated by evil. Explain Manicheanism.

2. While at sea, Candide experiences a resurging belief in optimism. What factors have caused his revived optimism?

3. Martin’s pessimistic view of human behavior is outlined in this chapter. Although he is, in a sense, an anti-Pangloss, Voltaire does not make Martin’s views appear as ridiculous as those of Pangloss. Is this evidence that Voltaire prefers reasonable pessimism or, at least, skepticism to excessive optimism?

Chapter 21

1. What part of France is now the setting for the novella?

2. Compare Martin to Candide’s previous companion, Cacambo.

3. Why did Voltaire replace Cacambo with Martin?

4. Note that Voltaire’s satire of Parisian and French ways is introduced in this chapter.

Chapter 22

1. What French city is now the setting for the novella?

2. Candide’s stay in France, though brief, is treated in detail by Voltaire. Most of the chapter is devoted to a satire of the over-sophisticated society of Paris as witnessed by the simple foreigner, Candide. What are the chief characteristics of Parisian society as portrayed by Voltaire?

Chapter 23

1. Chapter 23 is a detour in a literal and figurative sense. How and why?
2. How does the execution of a British admiral, a similar [execution actually took place in 1757](https://www.historytoday.com/richard-cavendish/execution-admiral-byng), allow Voltaire to comment on the futility of war?
3. Over what are the French and the English fighting?
4. Candide is horrified at the admiral’s execution and refuses to set foot on shore; he heads directly for Venice. At the end of this chapter, Candide’s optimism is renewed. On what is that optimism based?

Chapter 24

1. In what way are Brother Giroflee and Paquette both victims.
2. Identify the similarities between Paquette’s story and that of the old woman.
3. Candide’s hopeful mood at the end of Chapter 23 is waning. How does Martin contribute to Candide’s fading optimism?
4. Is Martin’s view of the world accurate? Or is Voltaire just emphasizing how strong Candide’s belief in optimism still is?
5. What two predictions does Martin make in this chapter?

Chapter 25

1. Chapter 25 is, in a sense, a digression. Here, Voltaire, through his characters’ discussion of literature and the arts, allows himself to voice some of his own opinions about literature. What are those opinions?
2. Lord Pococurante, a Venetian nobleman, is a man of taste and independent judgment. Why does Martin admire him and why is Candide shocked by him?
3. What is the significance of the name Pococurante? (Time to look up some [Latin](https://www.omniglot.com/writing/latin2.htm)!)

Chapter 26

1. Candide and Martin now encounter Cacambo, now slave of a Turkish sultan. What news does Cacambo have of Cunegonde?
2. The main focus of this chapter is the encounter with the six dethroned kings, all of whom are real historical figures. Each of them tells his story of realms lost. What is the image created by their narratives?

Chapter 27

1. What further news of Cunegonde does Cacambo relate to Candide?
2. Candide, Martin, and Cacambo set sail for the shores of [Propontis](http://www.emersonkent.com/map_archive/propontis.htm). What two familiar faces do they encounter among the slaves on the galley?
3. At this point in *Candide*, the momentum begins to build toward the conclusion. The major characters of the novel reassemble. What important themes of the novel are referred to?

Chapter 28

1. Identify the difference between Pangloss and Candide in how each one views optimism.

Chapter 29

1. Compare Cunegonde as she now is presented with the old woman.
2. How does Candide’s reaction to the baron’s arrogance demonstrate the change he has undergone?

Chapter 30

1. At the beginning of Chapter 30, all the loose ends of the story are tied together, but the group is still unhappy. What new element of torment has entered their lives?
2. What two important encounters take place in the course of Chapter 30 which influence Candide’s decision to farm?
3. The [dervish](https://www.britannica.com/topic/dervish), a devout member of a Muslim religious order, advises, “Hold your tongue.” He refuses to answer directly Candide’s questions about evil, thus appearing to deny man’s ability to find the answers to certain age-old questions. Is Voltaire, through the dervish, denying the validity of all philosophy, of any attempt to systematize reality?
4. What cultivating one’s garden implies is the great question in *Candide*. Is the garden a retreat from the world, a symbolic turning of one’s back on corruption and evil? Such retreat appears to be a mark of pessimism — the world is evil and there is nothing you can do about it. Does it signify that by concentrating contentedly on one’s own domain, one can hope to improve at least a corner of the world? Is it a rejection of philosophy’s effectiveness and a call to action, to do?
5. What is meliorism and how does that relate to the message of *Candide*?
6. What changes have taken place in Candide by the end of the novella?

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