

The Enlightenment as the Second Europe 1650 - 1789

Introduction

- *“Enlightenment” Immanuel Kant 1784 “What is Enlightenment?”*
 - *Drew from Renaissance humanism, Reformation emphasis on individual, and Rise of Modern Science*
 - *We look first at Enlightenment as a culture*
 - *Then the Enlightenment in Action: Erase the Infamous.*
 - *Followed by the Counter-Enlightenment*
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The Enlightenment as the Second Europe, 1650 - 1789

The Second Europe as the Ideas and Ideals of the Enlightenment

- *Europe as a culture again.*
 - *Questions:*
 - *1. Your reaction to any of these basic elements of the culture "Europe"?*
 - *2. Would you state any of them differently? Add to them?*
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The Second Europe as the Ideas and Ideals of the Enlightenment

- *Enlightenment version: a summary in two words*

Reason and Nature.

- *1. Actually there was debate about the self-regulating nature of the world. Isaac Newton himself believed God continued to be involved in the order of things. Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz believed Newton's work proved the opposite. Your reaction?*
 - *2. In the 20th century a physicist named Werner Heisenberg formulated the famous (Heisenberg) Uncertainty Principle which essentially says that one can not know objective truth about the physical world. We've come a long way since the Enlightenment, haven't we?*
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The Second Europe as the Ideas and Ideals of the Enlightenment

- *The Enlightenment view of man. Basically good, man needed freedom, not salvation.*
 - *Questions:*
 - *1. What we have here is an essential statement about human nature and human purpose. Is man basically flawed from the beginning or just the victim of his environment? Your reaction?*
 - *2. Enlightenment or Salvation? Which? Both? Neither?*
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The Second Europe as the Ideas and Ideals of the Enlightenment

- *The Enlightenment view of the universe.*
 - *Based on advances in astronomy by Nicholas Copernicus (1473-1543), Galileo Galilei (1564-1642), and Isaac Newton (1642-1727)*
 - *Science as a vogue with extensive applications*
 - *Question:*
 - *1. What are the limits of scientific knowledge?*
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Enlightenment

The Second Europe Continued

- *The Enlightenment view of God. God is “Nature’s God.”*
 - *Thomas Jefferson’s Life and Morals of Jesus (His letter to William Short)*
 - *Question:*
 - *1. Your reaction to Deism?*
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Enlightenment

The Second Europe Continued

- *The Enlightenment view of society. Based on the laws of Nature and Nature's God. Natural Rights and the right to alter or abolish government.*
 - *1. Can one believe in natural rights without believing in objective truth? If "truth" is what the person using the word means by it, (and nothing more) what happens to such ideas as natural rights?*
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Enlightenment

The Second Europe Continued

- *The Enlightenment view of the future*
 - *Denis Diderot (1713-1784) and the Encyclopedia (1751-1772)*
 - *Marie Caritat, marquis de Condorcet (1743-1794) and the Sketch for Progress of the Human Mind (1794).*
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Enlightenment

The Second Europe Continued

- *The Encyclopedia had three objects:*
 - *Reference work*
 - *Educate and instruct*
 - *Clearinghouse and forum*
 - *“To change the common way of thinking”*
 - *What were the common ideas of the philosophes?*
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Enlightenment

The Second Europe Continued

- (1) War in its aggression and destruction is repulsive; military glory is loathsome.*
 - (2) Religion is a matter of private belief.*
 - (3) Speech and the press should be free.*
 - (4) Individual liberties should be protected.*
 - (5) Tyranny is abhorrent.*
 - (6) Everyone should enjoy equal protection before the law.*
 - (7) Torture is abominable.*
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Enlightenment

The Second Europe Continued

(8) Punishment of crime should fit the offense and be a rational deterrent.

(9) National borders should be open for commerce and travel.

(10) It is not necessary to threaten men with eternal damnation to insure moral behavior; for most, natural goodness will do.

Questions:

1. What made Diderot and the philosophes so committed to their cause?

Enlightenment

The Second Europe Continued

2. As you look over the list of beliefs above, do you see their abiding quality? Are not these principles still essential in our own discussions of human rights?

■ *Condorcet's Future Progress of the Human Mind*

■ *The theme is unending progress based on the advance of science and the growth of knowledge.*

■ *Question:*

■ *1. Have we given up the hope for progress based on science?*

Enlightenment

Crush the Infamous Thing (Superstition)

- *Voltaire - Francois Marie Arouet (1694-1778) made the statement about religion but it is a far-reaching theme of Enlightenment interests.*
 - *Reform of Education (Pestalozzi)*
 - *Penal Reform (Beccaria)*
 - *New aesthetic ideals (Lessing and Goethe)*
 - *A new History (Herder and Voltaire)*
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Enlightenment

Crush the Infamous Thing (Superstition)

- *More in detail: Deism and Laissez-faire economics.*
 - *Question:*
 - *1. Your reaction to Franklin's statement?*
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Enlightenment

Crush the Infamous Thing (Superstition)

- *Voltaire popularized Deism in Europe drawing from Matthew Tindall, Christianity as Old as Creation (1730)*
 - *Other Figures not so easily convinced of Deism. David Hume and Baron Holbach*
 - *Question:*
 - *1. Is thoroughgoing skepticism pointless? Why bother indeed?*
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Enlightenment

Crush the Infamous Thing (Superstition)

- *Laissez-faire Economic Theory.*
 - *The Physiocrats - Dr. Francis Quesnay (1694- 1774), Economic Table (1756)*
 - *Adam Smith (1723-1790) and the Wealth of Nations (1776) Smith like the Physiocrats argued for the “invisible hand” producing an end “agreeable to the interest of the whole society.”*
 - *Questions:*
 - *1. An "invisible hand" directing private interests to the general good?*
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Enlightenment

Crush the Infamous Thing (Superstition)

- *2. How much freedom should people have to choose what they think best? Large families? Large automobiles? Fattening food? Smoking?*
 - *3. The question is whether undeveloped nations can achieve economic parity with developed nations without wrecking the environment. The Greens say no. The economist Deepak Lal, however, calls the Greens "doomsters" who have no scientific evidence to back up their prediction of environmental disaster. What do you think?*
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Enlightenment

Not Everyone Agreed: Counter-Enlightenment

- *Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778)*
 - *Shared optimism; Valued Reason; Societies can be remade for better*
 - *But preferred feeling and sentiment; his social contract is sinister-the general will*
 - *The Romantic hero before Romanticism existed.*
 - *Discourse on Arts and Sciences; On Origin of Inequality; Social Contract; Emile.*
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Enlightenment

Not Everyone Agreed: Counter-Enlightenment

- *Rousseau attacked all the Enlightenment's cherished ideas: reason; individualism; private property and free markets; science and technology; even progress itself.*
- *Reason led to science and technology which led to inequality and strife. Reason even turned men against each other.*
- *What is the answer? Clear the ground with revolution. Establish a new society on the basis of a social contract. Based on man's passion, emotion, and will.*

Enlightenment

Not Everyone Agreed: Counter-Enlightenment

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- *Religion is at the foundation. And religion is not a matter of conscience. If you don't believe, you should be put to death.*
 - *This society exists not for the individual but the common good: the general will.*
 - *You may be forced to be free if you don't willingly obey.*
 - *Constitution for Corsica: "granting to her the full ownership of me"*
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Enlightenment

Conclusion

- *What would Jefferson have said?*
 - *What have we done in this session?*
 - *Next we take up four major figures of the Enlightenment: Rene Descartes, Isaac Newton, Alexander Pope, and John Locke.*
 - *But before ending today, let's listen to some music.*
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