

The Enlightenment

Immanuel Kant describes the Enlightenment- “man leaving his self-caused immaturity”.

“Dare to know!”

Use of reason- using the scientific method to understand all aspects of human life.

Themes of the period; Reason, natural law, hope & progress.

Influences...

Bernard de Fontenelle... French Royal Academy

Knew the work of previous scientist and able to communicate it.

Plurality of Worlds a discussion of science between an upper class lady and her lover! He provides the link between science and the philosophes of the enlightenment.

Made science part of literature for the everyday man, downplayed the religion of the earlier scientist's and aimed it at upper classes.

A new skepticism...towards religion, superstition and assumptions.

They began questioning all of religion. Began the secularization of culture.

Pierre Bayle A Protestant while critical of religion. Religion should not force a world view on to people, it is the enemy of progress.

Bayle wanted individual conscience to rule choices and toleration of all religions. Apply the new science to the Bible and all secular

documents. Historical and Critical Dictionary- Revealed a new view of King David as more human and other Bible characters.

Travel literature...

Explorations of the world changed the world view of Europeans. James Cook, Travels. New strange lands of New Zealand, Australia and Pacific Islands.

“The natural man”... natives who were happier than European man. “The noble savage”.

Other cultures like China just as civilized as Europe raised question of superiority of Europe.

Was Confucian morality better than Christian?

Are European realities really just customs? Is there more than one truth?

Realized the Christian perspective was just one of many views of God, troubled many.

LOCKE & NEWTON

The two men that inspired the Enlightenment.

Follow Newton and you will discover the natural laws that govern all aspects of the world.

John Locke- Essay Concerning Human Understanding. Every person was born with a blank mind (Tabula Rasa). Knowledge was gained from the environment, reason and faith.

You could shape a “Brave new world” in which people could do anything.

The Philosophes...

A international movement, French inspired, centered in Paris. Led by the noble elite and middle class.

Their role was to change the world by advancing reason and rationality.

Sought freedom of expression in a time of great censorship.

Many were published under anonymity. Hidden double meaning. Censorship usually made people seek out the book!

Persian Letters- Two Persians writing letters back home critical of French institutions and Church. Use of reason and toleration.

Montesquieu- The Spirit of Laws... Apply scientific method to government and politics. Three types of governments...

Republic for small states.

Monarchy for middle size states.

Despotism for empires.

The importance of Checks and Balances and separation of powers instilled respect for England in his work. Wanted nobility of France to play a role in government.

Founding Fathers of U.S. study him!

Voltaire (French) A playwright by trade and successful.

His wit caused him to flee France for England for 2 years as noblemen didn't appreciate his work.

Philosophic Letters on the English Admired English life, especially freedom of press and religious toleration.

Returned to France and lived in semiseclusion near the Swiss border with his mistress Madame de Chatelet. His wealth allows him to write endless writings.

Strong themes of religious toleration and critical of traditional religion.

The Calas Affair- Jean Calas a protestant was tortured to confess to murder of son who wanted to be Catholic. (He actually died by his own hand). Voltaire had another trial held in which he was found innocent.

Treatise on Toleration- showing how religious tolerance caused no problem in Englan, Holland.

Diesm- A Newton inspired view; There is a God, but he had no direct role in the daily world, it ran by natural law where God is the mechanic of a world machine. Jesus not divine.

Denis Diderot- French...Christianity was the worst...
Encyclopedia.. 28 volumes...to change the general way of thinking. Collecting all the views of many sciences, arts and trades to fight old thinking. To better society. This became available to all people and spread the enlightenment ideas even further.

The Science of Man
The "Social Sciences"

The belief that natural laws effect the behavior of man led to the development of the social sciences.

David Hume- Scottish. Treatise on Human Nature...Observation, reflection with common sense made it possible to study man.

Adam Smith a Phsiocrat...Discover the natural laws of economics. Land was the only source of wealth and value increased by agricultural activity.

Rejected the mercantilist view of money and should only tax land.

Supply and Demand is the natural law, not mercantilism or state controlled economy. Laissez-Faire- non govt. interference.

Smith's work Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations. No tariffs for nations. Labor is the source of wealth. No govt. role in economics only protection from invasion, defend injustice, public works that benefit all.

Baron Paul d'Holbach a German... System of Nature... an atheist, Humans are only machines, God a product of mind, morality comes from reasoning, not God.

Marie-Jean de Condorcet... French... The Progress of the Human Mind. We have progressed thru 9 stages of history and were entering stage 10. A state of perfection that is limitless. Arrested and died in a French jail during the revolution.

Rousseau and the Social Contract.

Discourse on the Origins of the Inequality of Mankind- Man started out happy, but what had happened? To protect property man created government but were now in chains. Battle over property has led to inequality, resulting in crime. Government a necessary evil.

The Social Contract- The balance between individual liberty and government power. Follow what was best for society for its best of the individual.

Freedom from following laws one imposed on oneself.

Participatory Democracy should follow the "general will" of its citizens.

Emile- a novel about education. Education should foster rather than restrict "tame" a child. Heart and sentiment, a precursor of the Romantic movement.

Didn't really include women in his view, educate for the "Home life".

Little impact of these philosophies to ordinary man. An elite movement.

Salons- Wealthy invited them into fancy drawing rooms in their home to discuss and hammer out ideas.

Women were the hostess of the salon. (had influence)

Ex; Marie-Therese de Geoffrin, Marquise Deffan.

Women viewed as too influential and this practice died out under pressure during the French Revolution.

Mary Astell- English A serious proposal to the Ladies... to become better educated. Equal status in marriage.

Mary Wollstonecraft- English. Vindication of the Rights of Woman. Equal rights since woman can reason just as men. Didn't anti-women sentiment go against the new thinking of the enlightenment?

Social Environment

Montesquieu-aristocratic Diderot & Rousseau lower middle class.
The middle and lower classes will not yet be effected by the enlightenment (although you are effected by it now).

Salons- a new fashion in Europe, elegant drawing rooms in urban houses of wealthy where guest gathered in conversation (Yeah, this

is what you did before tv, but in a way the internet serves this function now and its available to all classes!)

Women were the hostess and where in a position to influence conversation.

Could talk about controversial subjects in science and politics away from royalty or church.

Marie-Therese de Geoffrin welcomed Diderot into home when France banned his Encyclopedia.

Marquise du Deffand attracted many men to her salon...Voltaire, Hume, Montesquieu.

Bad note... the fear of women's influence led to the decline of the salon in France!

Other means of meeting... Coffeehouses, cafes, libraries thus became literary societies in the making like the American Philisophical Society.

The Freemasons...in London and later America who studied the ideas of the enlightenment.

Culture and Society

Art... Rococo: a style in art and architecture of grace and gentle action.

Curves replaced strict geometric shape and the natural shape of objects in nature like seashells, flowers, plants water...

Reflected the pursuit of happiness, pleasure and love as a new goal of society.

Antoine Watteau...Paintings of upper class joy and life in Rococo style.

Vierzehnheiligen... Pilgrimage church (the 14 saints), and the Bishop's Palace designed by Balthasar Neumann; lavish, light and bright colors and detailed gives the best example of Rocco art.

Neoclassical art was still strong with its emphasis on the dignity and classical styles of Greece and Rome. Much do to discovery of Pompeii.

Jacques-Louis David of France... Oath of Horatii... Roman history... became a fav in French Revolution.

Music

Rise of classical music forms: opera, symphony, sonata... Italians first, but spread quickly.

Musicians still relied on patrons... Royal or Clergy.

The Baroque music style continued... JS Bach... German Mass in B minor... music was to worship God and honor him. He wrote cantatas and motets.

Handel... German... Started in opera in Italy and England. Secular in style, pleased audiences and willing to do the unusual. Fireworks Music. Known best for Messiah.

Classical..Haydn and Mozart.

Haydn left Italy, worked for the Esterhazy brothers of Hungary. Upon visit to England, began writing for the people: The Creation, The Seasons.

Mozart wrote in Austria after leaving Italy, for the archbishop of Salzburg but moved onto Vienna but unable to fins a patron and died in debt. Marriage of Figaro a comedy opera, Don Giovanni and The Magic Flute greatest operas. A genius from age six.

The novel

English wrote the modern novel and was chief tool for fiction writing.

Sam Richardson... Pamela: or Virtue Rewarded...

The novel expressed the new notion of sentiment, emotion and attack cultural hypocrisy.

Henry Fielding... The History of Tom Jones, a Foundling.

Tales of scoundrels in English society. Attacked the hypocrisy of the age.

History

Historians began writing history free from religious influences. Added politics into the mix and economic and social/cultural developments. Wanted to instruct and entertain.

History was to help civilize their age.

The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire by Edward Gibbon... portrayed Christianity as a reason for Rome's fall.

Other...

High culture... educated and wealthy classes. An expansion of reading and publishing. Publishing houses made writing profitable.

Magazines... The Spectator in England, by Addison and Steele. To share learning and wit with all. Appeal to women and the Female Spectator by Eliza Haywood.

Newspapers starting in London. From 1 to 37 in 78 years.

Libraries became public.

Education

Still, education was for the higher classes and designed to keep class stratification. Curriculum was still classical, little math or science.

New schools emerged for a "practical education" The Realschule in Germany.. for boys in business. Math and physics introduced to middle classes.

Reforms would only begin late in the 1700's in universities. New discoveries were not being made in universities yet.

Crime

Other than England, European attained evidence via torture. Public execution for most serious crimes. Weak police and prison systems at time required people to use this as a means of deterrence. Many used prisoners as forced labor.

Cesare Beccaria... Italian... On Crimes and punishments.. end brutality...Imprisonment better and more lasting than execution. Prison began to replace deaths by the late 1700's.

By the end of the 18th century, capital punishment was on the wane in Europe.

Medicine

Most doctors from universities not educated in the new discoveries, using Galen. Licensing of doctor in England began before they could see patients.

Surgeons were below the doctor...mainly bled patients surgery was crude, no painkillers, infection no anesthesia. Were part of the barber guilds and only in the 1740's separated themselves!

Still, faith healing and uses of herbs, potions were used by lay people and even doctors. Hospitals were present but normally made you sicker than when you went in!

Popular Culture

Festival...and celebration for a feast day

Carnival...More spectacular festival.

Celebrated for weeks...up to Lent (often starting at Christmas) A time where rules on sex and violence were suspended!

Drinking to drunk common... Gin in England, Vodka in Russia
Taverns became chief gathering places.

A separation began between the upper classes and common folk as the upper class view of philosophies began to make them look down on the common folk.

Some upper class took the role to educate the lower classes.

Religion in the Enlightenment

Art & Music was religious, but the thinking was becoming secular.

Most enlightenment thinkers accepted that society needed religion.

The Catholic and organized Protestant religions were conservative, supporting the class hierarchy of the day and its traditions.

The Church still maintained local records, schools, charity work.

Protestant state run churches flourished...Lutheranism in Scandinavia and N. German. Anglicanism in England. Calvinism in Scotland, Netherlands, some Swiss cantons and some German states.

Catholic: Spain, Portugal, France, Italy, Poland, S. Germany and Habsburg Empire. Very wealthy.

Church officials part of the upper class. Parish priest had much less class standing.

An effort to "nationalize" the Catholic Church. The Jesuits had considerable influence and had separate conclaves in each nation and New World. Aroused enemies! Portugal expelled them from colony and nation. Kicked out of France and Spain. Pope Clement pressured to dissolve the society. Papal power very weak, left out of diplomacy and lost power to appoint and control local high officials.

Toleration of religion a new view, though heretics burned into the 1780's.

Joseph II of Austria... The Toleration Patent of 1781...all non-Catholics now equal (Calvanist, Orthodox).

Jews...Despised... the Ashkenazic Jews of East Europe largest Jewish group. Poland tolerant of Jews.

Jews restricted to amount of travel, pay special taxes, and Pogroms...Looting and massacre of local Jews in Europe erupted from time to time.

Sephardic Jews... Removed from Spain, settled in major cities of London, Amsterdam, Venice and Frankfurt. Highly successful, they were often employed by royalty for their services. (court Jews). Resentment from populace.

While tolerated, resented and only solution was to have them convert to Christianity. Joseph II allowed them more freedom if they assimilated into Austrian life.

Religion devotion very strong at this time...

Catholic parishes remained center of local life. Devotion to Saints, Mary and relics remained strong as did witch hunts.

Protestants became bureaucratized. The move to formality caused many to move to dynamic religious movements for satisfaction.

Pietism...Germany...desire to get closer to God and personal. Spread by Count Nikolaus Von Zinzendorf...the Moravian Brethren movement. A mystical experience with God, unlike the rationalism ruling the day.

England... John Wesley ... An Anglican minister who after a crisis, sought a mystical experience of salvation and became a missionary to the English people. The church responded with criticism calling him superstitious.

Preached to the lower classes in open fields. Caused a violent conversion experience. Became the Methodist church, to aid each other in doing good works.

The religious experience had not been removed despite the Age of Reason of the Enlightenment.