

Age of Enlightenment

The **Enlightenment** generally refers to the 18th century intellectual and philosophical developments in Europe. This movement advocated rationality as the sole criteria for establishing an authoritative system of ethics, aesthetics, and knowledge. The intellectual leaders of this movement regarded themselves as courageous and elite, and viewed their purpose as leading the world towards progress and out of a long period of doubtful tradition, full of irrationality, superstition, and tyranny (which they saw resulting from the "Dark Ages").

Epistemology

During the Enlightenment, people came to assume that through a judicious use of reason, an unending progress would be possible — progress in knowledge, in technical achievement, and even in moral values. Following the philosophy of Locke, the 18th-century writers believed that knowledge is not innate, but comes only from experience and observation guided by reason. Through proper education, humanity itself could be altered, its nature changed for the better.^[1]

Theology

Although they saw the church — especially the Roman Catholic Church — as the principal force that had enslaved the human mind in the past, most Enlightenment thinkers did not renounce religion altogether. They opted rather for a form of Deism, accepting the existence of God and of a hereafter, but rejecting the intricacies of Christian theology. Human aspirations, they believed, should not be centered on the next life, but rather on the means of improving this life. Worldly happiness was placed before religious salvation. Nothing was attacked with more intensity and ferocity than the church, with all its wealth, political power, and suppression of the free exercise of reason.^[2]

Terminology

Bernard Ramm writes that "the approved concepts were reason, freedom, nature, utility, happiness, rights, tolerance, deism, rational Christianity, natural religion, social contract, science, autonomy, harmony, and optimism. The disapproved concepts were authority, antiquity, tradition, church, revelation, the supernatural, and theological explanations."^[3]

Result of Enlightenment thinking

The Enlightenment produced a revolution in the way humans thought about God, the Bible, and themselves. Since theology deals with something no one can weigh, measure, experiment upon, test, or prove, it must be thrown back into the inner self. Subjective experience becomes the source of "God thought." As one writer put it, "Man, in the condition of his soul, not God in his work becomes the center." Christian doctrine makes no statement about God; it only speaks of man's feelings about God.^[4]

Enlightenment

Geography

America

Briton

France

Germany

Russia

Scotland

Moravia

Culture

Puritanism

Nederland

Pietism

Pilgrims

Deism

Deicide

Theism

Atheism

Ideology

Missions

Commerce

Nature

Reason

"Truth"

(Equality)

Life Liberty Happiness (its pursuit)

Justice

Egalite Liberte

Fraternite (community)

Natural Rights of Man

Government

Religion

Patriotism

"FREEDOM"

"Education"

Optimism

Optimism

Hubris (pride)

Hubris (pride)

"PROGRESS"

People

<u>America</u>	<u>Briton</u>	<u>France</u>	<u>Germany</u>
Jefferson	Locke	Voltaire	Leibniz
Franklin	Smith	Rousseau	Kant
Hamilton	Hume	Montesquieu	
Adams	Newton (Isaac)	Diderot	
Paine			
Washington			

Chronology

	1640-1815
The English Civil (Puritan) War	1640-49
Interregnum	1649-1660
The Restoration	1660-85
Early (Low) Enlightenment	1640- 1687 Newton publishes <i>Principia Mathematica</i>
Middle Enlightenment	1688- The Glorious Revolution (Briton) 1749 Montesquieu <i>Spirit of the Laws</i>
Late (Upper) Enlightenment	1776-1789-1798 American and French Revolutions
Age of Revolution	1779 <i>Dialogue Concerning Natural Religion</i> 1781 <i>Critique of pure Reason</i>
End Enlightenment	1815 Napoleon defeated at Waterloo
Begin the "Modern Age"	1815-1965

Counter-Culture

America

Briton

France

Germany

Holland Switzerland

Whitefield

MISSIONS

Huguenauts

Moravian Pietism

(Ben Franklin)

Wesley

1726/27

Zinzendorf

Methodists

Global-Local

Baptists

RADICAL REFORM

Anabaptists

Edwards

REVIVALISM

Awakenings

First Great Awakening— British/American Phenomenon

1734/5-1741/2

Finney

Second Great Awakening—British/ American Phenomenon

1790-1840

Third Great Awakening—British/American Phenomenon

1850-1900

Fourth Great Awakening—American Phenomenon

1960-1980

WAR

As A Corrective

“Revival and War are Running Mates”

"Bring Him Home" lyrics

LES MISERABLES CAST LYRICS**"Bring Him Home"**
(performed by Hugh Jackman)

God on high
Hear my prayer
In my need
You have always been there

He is young
He's afraid
Let him rest
Heaven blessed.
Bring him home
Bring him home
Bring him home.

He's like the son I might have known
If God had granted me a son.
The summers die
One by one
How soon they fly
On and on
And I am old
And will be gone.

Bring him peace
Bring him joy
He is young
He is only a boy

You can take
You can give
Let him be
Let him live
If I die, let me die
Let him live
Bring him home
Bring him home
Bring him home.

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