

Enlightenment or the Age of Reason

- 18th C, Europe (West)
- Break from the past, new age, onset of modernity
- Questioned centrality of religion and hierarchy
- Scientific temperament against religion and hierarchy
- Dark ages , middle ages and the age of reason
- Knowledge linked to natural sciences
- Technical success or progress for human betterment
- Central idea was happiness, liberty and democracy.

- **What is the cause of the environmental crises?**

- ✓ Overpopulation

- ✓ Technology

- ✓ **MODERNITY**

- **What is modernity?**

Set of values and beliefs :

- ✓ Progress : human development, quality of life, economic growth

- ✓ Domination: Right to control those in lesser position, Over nature, human most important species and their well being primary.

- ✓ Determinism: We can know the rules of the Earth and control it.

- ✓ Rationality: reliance on logic and not traditions and emotions, predictability, efficiency, calculability

- ✓ Reliance on science

- ✓ Industrialisation: mass production, consumerism

Ulrich Beck: Risk Society Thesis

“Hunger is hierarchical, smog is democratic”

- Moved from industrial society (early modernity) to a risk society (late modernity).
- Modern Society as a risk society. Failed promises of modernity.
- Questions Western technological economic development.
- Science and technology: material prosperity to ecological risks
- Shift from logic of goods to logic of bads, how to avoid bads.
- Present day risks are not natural, temporary and local but manufactured
- Concern is not with elimination of production of risk but avoidance and shifting.

- Non renewable resources' self healing and self regenerating power disturbed.
- Changed chemistry of the Earth. Ecosystem changed.
- Environmental Management