

ENLIGHTENMENT

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When

What was it? Where did it start? How did it start? At what place? Who started it? What did it do/mean? What was its impact?

→ could be variously said as Cultural, Intellectual, philosophical movement. Started in 17th-18th century in Europe.

How? E. had roots in Renaissance → which was an intellectual and scholarly movement. 1637 when Rene Descartes published his 'Discourses on the Method' which featured his famous quote 'I think therefore I am'. Some date it to Newton's 'Principia Mathematica'. Others b/w Louis XIV and start of FR.

E. means true knowledge. E. philosophers/writers were Rene Descartes, John Locke, Rousseau, Montesquieu, Voltaire, Kant etc. who somewhat carried R. to Religious, Socio-cultural and political life of the people.

Why did it emerge/Reasons for its emergence?

1. E. was Against Catholic Counter Reformation: CCR was against Protestant Reformation. ML in Germany and John Calvin in Geneva led against Roman Catholicism through their critique of the church wanting little interference of church in people's lives.

This led to a counter reformation from the church.

This conflict b/w them ended with Treaty of Westphalia: 1648

Confirmed the Peace of Augsburg that wanted religious tolerance among Catholics and Reformists i.e. Lutherans and Calvinists.

Treaty gave a liberty of conscience and right of emigration to all religious minority. Also settled dispute of land ownership among Catholics and Protestants, it also allowed secular ownership of land. → Ended Domination of Church and allowed E. to flourish.

2. Renaissance was another reason for its emergence.

Explain whether E. had roots in Renaissance?

→ Renaissance was a cultural movement that focused on Humanism i.e. human actions, morals etc. It was also linked with purifying Christianity since most of them were Christians. It took place in places of Europe such as Florence, Naples, Genoa, during the 14th-15th century. Scholars undertook the study of classical antiquity (8th cent. BC - 6th cent. AD) i.e. their cultural legacy, literary legacy and moral philosophy. They brought about a significant change in society. Ex. the various artists during the Renaissance period Ex. Michelangelo, Da Vinci, Raphael, Donatello etc. R. poets such as Dante, Giovanni Boccaccio, writers like Shakespeare put their thoughts into verse and literary prose → enriching it.

Such ideas helped create a new gentry among the European society who took pride in their classical history. The artists, poets, writers, many philosophers of the Enlightenment period. This is why it is said that E. had roots in the Renaissance.

Scientific discovery and thinking
led by scientists such as
Galileo and Johannes Kepler.

