

WEEK 2: Modernity

Definition of Modernity The term "Modern" can denote different historical periods depending on the context:

- General Use: Encompasses the entire post-medieval period of European history. History in 3 epochs: antiquity, medieval and modern.
- Euro-American Culture: Describes the cultural and intellectual developments originating from the Enlightenment, continuing into contemporary Western societies.
- Specific Periods:
 - Late 19th to Early 20th Centuries (1870-1910): Characterized by significant industrial, political, and social changes.
 - 1910-1960: A period marked by rapid technological advancement, world wars, and socio-political upheavals.
- Antiquity (before 5th Century CE)
- > Medieval Era (5th - 15th Centuries CE)
- > Early Modern Period
- Renaissance (15th - 16th Centuries CE)
- Enlightenment (16th - 18th Centuries CE)
- > Modernity (18th - 20th Centuries CE)

Summary of the Early Modern Period

The **Early Modern Period** (mid-15th to late 18th century) was marked by transformative developments that reshaped societies and laid the groundwork for the modern era:

1. **Rise of Nation-States:** Centralized and sovereign states, like modern France and England, emerged with defined territorial boundaries.
2. **Growth of Tolerance:** Influenced by the Reformation and Enlightenment, this period saw increasing acceptance of diverse beliefs and practices.
3. **Industrialization:** Transition from agrarian to industrial economies led to urbanization, technological innovation, and new labor systems.
4. **Economic Systems:** Mercantilism emphasized state-controlled trade, while capitalism promoted private ownership and market-driven economies.
5. **Colonization:** European powers expanded globally, profoundly impacting non-Western societies through exploitation and cultural transformation.
6. **Representative Democracy:** Political systems shifted from monarchies to elected governance, reflecting public interests.

7. **Scientific and Technological Progress**: Key advancements included the steam engine, telegraph, and improvements in medicine and engineering.
 8. **Urbanization**: Cities grew as economic and cultural hubs, fueled by industrialization and rural migration.
 9. **Mass Literacy**: Printing and public education spread literacy, broadening access to information and ideas.
 10. **Democracy and Human Rights**: Democratic principles and human rights expanded, introducing universal suffrage and legal protections for individual freedoms.
-

Renaissance World View vs Enlightenment World View

Renaissance (14th–16th centuries)

- **Cultural Flourishing**: The Renaissance was a period of great artistic and intellectual activity. Innovations in art- music, painting, poetry literature, and architecture flourished. Major figures include Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, and Shakespeare.
- **Finance, politics and technology**
- **Humanism**: Emphasis on human potential and achievements. Valuing humanity
- **Freedom of Thought**: Increased questioning of traditional doctrines and a move towards individualism. The Renaissance encouraged personal exploration and expression.
- Seed of discovery and logic
- **Religious and Intellectual Shifts**: Challenges to the authority of the Church and traditional religious doctrines set the stage for the Reformation and the rise of secularism.

Enlightenment (17th–18th centuries)

- **Focus on Reason and Logic**: Enlightenment thinkers prioritized reason, science, and empirical evidence over tradition and religious dogma.
- **Scientific and Technological Emphasis**: Major advancements in science (e.g., Newton's laws of motion) and technology (e.g., the steam engine) reshaped the understanding of the natural world.
- **Rational Scrutiny**: Application of reason to all aspects of human life, including government, education, and social norms. Encouraged critical thinking and skepticism of established institutions.
- **Social Sciences**: Development of theories and methodologies to understand and improve society. Notable contributions include Adam Smith's economic theories and Montesquieu's ideas on the separation of powers. ‘
- Focused on intellectual side.

Summary:

World view: it's the definite set of ideals or beliefs of people in a specific period of time.

1. Both the Renaissance and Enlightenment contributed to human history
2. Both encouraged the progress of discovery and knowledge. Empowered humans.
3. The Renaissance departure from medieval to modern perspectives, emphasizing individualism and artistic freedom. Renaissance provided changed perspective towards religion and the church. Allowed scrutiny.
4. Enlightenment focused on science reason and logic. Pursuit of discovery.
5. Renaissance prompted movement of discovery and objective. Enlightenment is the culmination of the use of reason, rationality and objectivity.
6. Renaissance influenced growth of interest in science and technology. Enlightenment is still prevalent.
7. ENL Natural world is best understood under close observation and reason.

Thomas Hobbes - *Leviathan* (1651)

1. **Human Nature:**
 - Humans are driven by self-interest and a desire for self-preservation.
 - These tendencies lead to conflict and insecurity in the absence of authority.
2. **State of Nature:**
 - The state of nature is a condition of perpetual conflict and fear, where:
 - "[Lives were] solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short."
 - "[It was] a war of all against all."
 - Without a central authority, survival is uncertain, and life is chaotic.
3. **Need for Government:**
 - Government is necessary to establish peace and security.
 - Individuals enter into a social contract, surrendering some natural rights and freedoms to the Sovereign in exchange for protection.
4. **Role of the Sovereign:**
 - The Sovereign (state) has supreme authority to maintain order and prevent conflict.
 - The state is empowered to create and enforce laws to regulate social interactions and ensure stability.

John Locke - *Two Treatises of Government* (1690)

1. **State of Nature:**
 - The state of nature was governed by the Law of God and Nature, which emphasized reason and morality.
 - It included the rights to Life, Liberty, and Property, which Locke viewed as inalienable.
 - However, in the state of nature, people lacked a neutral authority to protect these rights, leading to insecurity and fear.
2. **Criticism of Divine Right:**
 - Locke explicitly rejected the idea of the divine right of kings, arguing instead that legitimate authority must derive from the consent of the governed.
3. **Social Contract:**

- People formed governments through a **social contract** to protect their natural rights.
- Rulers derived their authority from the **consent of the governed**, not from divine right or hereditary rule.
- 4. **Role of the State:**
 - The government acts as a **neutral judge** to resolve disputes and enforce laws.
 - It is granted a **monopoly on violence** to maintain order, except individuals retain the **right to self-defense**.
- 5. **Right to Rebellion:**
 - If the government becomes tyrannical or fails to protect natural rights, people have the **right to overthrow** it and establish a new government.
- 6. **Influence on the American Revolution:**
 - Locke's ideas inspired the **American Declaration of Independence** and the broader philosophy behind the revolution against British rule. **Thomas Jefferson** inspired. **Locke's idea in constitution bill of rights**.

Summary of Key Points

- **Jean-Jacques Rousseau's Social Contract (1743):**
 - Agreed with Locke that government should act for the common good.
 - Believed that, in nature, people would struggle to survive, leading unfulfilled lives focused only on survival and protection.
 - Argued that **living in society** provides security and freedom, enabling people to develop new skills, strengthening society, and fostering growth.
- **Rousseau on Democracy:**
 - Advocated for **social responsibility**: People must participate in society to benefit from it.
 - Civic duty is necessary for democracy to thrive.
 - General will supreme authority
 - State carryout and reflect general will
- **Impact of Rousseau's Ideas:**
 - In the United States:
 - Evident in **citizens' advisory boards, school boards**, and organizations like the Peace Corps and Red Cross.
 - Key contributions:
 - Separation of church and state.
 - **Influenced democratic principles in the U.S.**

> Adam Smith:

Free Market (Laissez Faire) Capitalism

Invisible Hand of the Market

> **Montesquieu:** (Separation of Powers / Checks & Balances)

Representative Governments are Vulnerable run for their own interest

Solution: Each branch of Govt. would hold powers over the others

“Ambition counteracts ambition”

US c & b system

Summary of Modernity and Its Evolution

Modernity signifies the transition from traditional to contemporary societal structures, marked by cultural, social, and intellectual shifts. It is defined by **rationalization** (systematic thinking), **individualism** (emphasis on personal rights), **progress and innovation** (continuous improvement), **globalization** (societal interconnectedness), and **cultural change** (shifts in norms and roles).

Concept and Emergence

Modernity evolved through historical milestones like the **Enlightenment (reason and individualism)**, the **Industrial Revolution (technological advancements)**, and revolutionary movements promoting liberty and democracy. These developments spurred transformations in governance, societal norms, and cultural values.

Modernization Process

Modernization describes how societies adapt to modernity, involving:

- **Economic Development:** Industrialization and market economies.
- **Urbanization:** Migration to cities.
- **Institutional Change:** Reformed governance and education.
- **Social Change:** Shifts in family roles and hierarchies.
- **Cultural Adaptation:** Transition from traditional practices.
- **Education and Knowledge:** Expansion of scientific and academic institutions.

History

The enlightenment... figure locke

The industrial revo ... growth

The French and American revo.. modern democratic societies
Colonialism and globalization... European colonial expansion.... Cultural exchange
Social movements.... Labor movements.... social justice

It spans several years

Evolution and Foundations

The evolution of modern society encompasses:

- **Medieval Europe: Agrarian Societies**, feudal systems, theocracy(church central role).
- **Enlightenment**: rational thoughts thinkers..., human rights, scientific advancements(newton)
- **Industrial and Urban Growth**: Mechanization and urban migration. Capitalism
- **Age of revo**: French and American. Labor rights
- **Technological Advancements**: Innovations from steam engines to digital technology. Globalization, social movements (feminism)
- **Postmodernity: Pluralism, internet. Cultural change(trad norms questioned)**

Foundational elements include **industrialization, urbanization, capitalism, democratic governance, scientific progress, and social mobility.**

Key Evolutionary Factors

1. **Economic Changes**: From agrarian to industrial economies.
2. **Political Developments**: Rise of democratic governance.
3. **Social Transformations**: Movements for equality and justice.
4. **Technological Advancements**: Reshaping societal structures.
5. **Cultural Shifts**: Emphasis on individualism and critique of traditions.