II. Great Transformation: Feudalism to Modernity

A. Transformation: early 16th century to late 19th century.

B. Transformation: radical break from world view and institutions

C. World View (secular)

1. Reason

a. allow “man” to see through superstition and myth (aka religion)

b. “man” could become enlightened, hence the Age of Enlightenment

c. allow individuals to shape and direct own lives

d. allow people to collectively shape their social lives

e. tied to new idea of freedom “freedom from oppression and freedom to”

f. emergence of the concept of the “individual”

g. basis for ethics

h. basis of “rights”

2. Knowledge

a. gained through scientific or empirical method.

b. would allow “man” to discover the truth about the natural world and

the human world

c. truth would free us from superstition and allow us to create utopia

c. basis of ethics

e. assumptions

reality out there which is discoverable and exists independently of humans

reality is governed by laws of cause and effect

observation and experimentation allow us to gain knowledge about

reality

knowledge is categorically different from opinion and belief

3. Progress (Practical and Moral)

a. Through reason and science the world is evolving.

b. Science not just “Truth” but instrumental

i. knowledge gained through scientific method allows us to develop technologies

ii. technology is allows humans to dominate nature

ii. and overcome scarcity, elevate us from the realm of necessity

c. Reason is going to allow us to shape the social world according to universal values, freedom, equality, dignity

d. Kant called this a Kingdom of Ends

B. Institutions

1. Free market system aka capitalism

2. liberal democracy

3. Nation-State

a. sovereign political-legal entity

b. geographical boundaries

c. colonial empires

4. science and technology

5. marriage and family

6. city

D. new words: factory, industry, industrialist, middle class, scientist, engineer, nationality, statistics, sociology, strike.