I. Feudalism

1. World View

1. God, who is both omniscient and omnipotent, created the world.

2. The creation is divinely ordered (Great Chain of Being)

3. Life and death, suffering, natural disasters are God’s will and beyond human understanding.

4. A person’s place in the creation is determined by God

5. Social institutions ordained by God, which makes obedience to secular authority a primary obligation.

6. Norms, social roles, status, hierarchy, and values are all religiously sanctioned.

7. Truth is Revealed and mediated to humans through the Catholic Church and the Holy Scriptures

8. Humans have fallen into Original Sin and life is a movement from sin to salvation mediated by the Catholic Church.

9. Reason is subordinate to faith and limited to demonstrating Truth as it is Revealed.

10. Natural world

a. animals are without reason and souls and do not exist in terms of

salvation

b. natural world is without inherent value and a place of evil and temptation.

B. Institutions

1. Catholic Church: the dominant institution in Feudal society

a. God on earth: “the body of Christ”

i. intermediary between God and humans

ii. guardian of Revelatory truth

iii. Sacraments: holy rituals mediated by priest necessary for salvation (Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation, Matrimony, Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders)

b. most powerful institution

i. legitimates political authority

ii. legitimates economic arrangements

iii. legitimates social arrangements

c. Inquisitions

i. Church trials (Church courts in England)

ii. identify: heresies, witches, scientists

iii. “investigates”/torture

iii. trials

iv. punish

2. political

a. nobility

b. authority: divine right

c. no concept of:

i.individual rights

ii. freedom

iii. equality

d. Great Writ

3. economy

a. economy was subsistence agricultural

b. self-sustaining estates

c. local markets, not governed by economic rules but by tradition

d. economy was embedded in social relations

i. land was neither bought nor sold nor rented

ii. land was inherited

iii. serfs occupied land as “copyholders”

iv. paid a ‘customary” in goods or labor service, not established by market but by tradition

vi. exchange was a minor element and governed by social relations established by tradition

vii. commons: not owned, or controlled, but shared use, governed by tradition

e. division of labor

i. serfs

ii. administrators: estates

iii. skilled labor: guilds

iv. small merchants

v..mercenaries

e. technology: human and animal power

f. no concept of

i. upward mobility

ii. private ownership of property

iii. pursuit of profit

iv. “self-interested economic individual”

v. no wage labor defined by market

4. Villages

5. Marriage and Family

6. Time

1. cyclical
2. no idea of Progress

7. Individual

II. Great Transformation: Modernity

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

B. Transformation: radical break from world view and institutions

C. World View: Secular (Reason, Science and Progress)

1. Reason

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

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

c. allows individuals to shape and direct own lives

d. allows 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 everything: creating a new, utopian society

2. Science

1. institutionalization of reason in the empirical method.
2. Assumptions

i. knowledge is categorically different from faith, opinion

ii. reality out there which is discoverable and exists independently of humans (**not socially constructed**)

iii. reality is matter in motion and governed by laws of cause and effect

iv. scientist is neutral and through observation and experimentation gain knowledge (**facts**) about reality

v. scientific knowledge/laws can be expressed in mathematical formulas

vi.facts and mathematics are neutral

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

**the human world (which is not socially constructed)**

1. truth would free humans from superstition and allow them to create utopia
2. basis of ethics: utilitarian (consequences)
3. Sociology: Social Physics and Positivism

3. Progress (Practical and Moral)

1. Social evolution: society is evolving, getting better, (Western society, of course)

b. Science not just Knowledge but Power

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

ii. technology allows humans to dominate nature

iii. and overcome scarcity, free us from the realm of necessity

iv. instrumental theory of technology

c. Reason, science and technology are going to allow humans to shape the social world according to universal values, freedom, equality, dignity

D. Institutions

1. Economy

a. industrial (agriculture and manufacturing) production for exchange in the market

b.ideas of private property, pursuit of profit, economic individual

c. Adam Smith and the laws of the market place

d. elimination of traditional and customary relationship

e. national and international markets

d. division of labor

i. bourgeoisie

ii. proletariat

iii. labor power

f. merging of science, technology and the economy and the development of new forces of production

2. Nation-State

a. sovereign political-legal entity

b. geographical boundaries

c. unique and privileged identity: “nationalism”

d. national markets

e. colonial empires

3.Politics: liberal democracy

1. citizen
2. public sphere
3. universal suffrage!!

d. “the People”

4. science and technology

a. communication, transportation

b. train, telegraph

5. cities

6. marriage and family

E. new world =new ideas and even new words: factory, industry, industrialist, middle class, scientist, engineer, nationality, statistics, sociology, strike.

Thesis: Modernity is not the result of progress or evolution. It is a socially constructed phenomenon, the result of powerful individual and collective actors being able to shape society and its institutions in their interests and to their advantage.