I. The Great Transformation

A. From feudal society to modern society

B. Importance

1. Western society transformed

a. social institutions

b. world view

2. “New world” : modernity

3. emergence of sociology

a. product of transformation

b. response to

c. classical social theory: explain

II. Feudal society

1. World view

1. Sacred Canopy (divinely ordered world)

a. life experience: “religious drama”

i. written by God

ii. Holy Bible

iii. subtitle: “from sin to salvation”

Original Sin

Salvation in Heaven

b. place and role: Great Chain of Being

c. social institutions: ordained by God

d. values, beliefs, rituals, norms: religiously sanctioned

e. knowledge: Revealed

f. Reason

i. subordinate

ii. role: demonstrate truth of revelation

iii. inquiry: impious

2. Catholic Church

a. God on earth: “the body of Christ”

i. interpreter of the “drama”

ii. guardian of Revelatory truth

iii. mediator between God and person: Sacraments

b. most powerful institution

i. legitimated political authority

ii. legitimated economic arrangements

c. Inquisitions

i. Church trials

ii. identify: heresies, witches, scientists

iii. investigate/torture

iii. try

iv. punish

B. Feudal Institutions

1. political

a. decentralized estates

b. nobles rule

c. authority: divine right

d. constraints: few

i. noblesse oblige

ii. Great Writ

e. no concept of

i. autonomous self-directing individual

ii. individual rights

iii. freedom

iv. equality

f. resistance to political authority

i. religious crime

ii. sacrilege

2. economy

a. agricultural

i. produce for own consumption

ii. little trade domestically or foreign

b. division of labor

i. nobility (ownership, hereditary)

ii. serfs (rent: “customary”)

iii. absence of middle class

iv. skilled labor: guilds

c. technology: human and animal power

d. natural world

i. commons

ii. enspirited: “filled with restless dread”

iii. degraded

e. no concept of:

i. upward mobility

ii. private ownership of property

iii. pursuit of profit

3. population: rural

4. marriages: arranged

5. Time

II. Transformation: Social forces

A. Protestant Reformation (16th Century)

1. Martin Luther

a. justification by faith vs good works

b. direct relationship: person and God

2. Challenged

a. function of church/role of priest

b. political arrangements: divine right

B. Natural science

1. physical world follows laws

a. cause and effect

b. universal

2. physical laws could be discovered

a. empiricism

i. observation

ii. explanation

b. cause and effect

c. expressed as formulas

3. goal: predict and control natural world

4. Newton (Late Seventeenth Century)

a. gravity

b. laws of motion: creation is a machine

c. Laws of Nature

5. challenged

a. church authority of knowledge

b. knowledge from observation, not revelation

6. example: Trial of Galileo: 1633

a. invented telescope

i. empirical observation

ii. Copernicus is right

b. evidence to Roman Inquisition 1613

c. 1616 Cardinal Bellarmine: “dangerous”

d. 1632 Dialogue Concerning the Two Chief World Systems

e. guilty: taught, defended, believed in Copernican theory

7. Darwin and evolution

a. challenged Biblical story of creation

b. idea of evolution and human society

c. idea of superior and inferior societies and peoples

d. idea of society as an organism

C. Enlightenment (Eighteenth century)

1. Philosophes: Diderot, Rousseau, Condillac

1. Natural Law or laws of nature

i. order to the world

ii. structured according to laws of cause and effect

iii. order to human world

iv. human nature: universal

b. human nature and reason

i. essence of human nature

ii. capacity of each individual

iii. allows individual to be autonomous

iv. self-direct

v. pursue interests

vi. make judgments about ends and determine means

to achieve ends

c. reason as cultural practice: science

d. Scientific method needs to be applied to human social life

i. society and its institutions

ii. history

iii. comparative studies

e. Goal

i. discover natural laws of society

ii. discover human nature

iii. apply discoveries to social institutions

iv. progress

2. conclusion

a. human nature

i. man is not fallen (original sin)

ii. endowed with reason

b. salvation: good life on earth (utopia)

c. reason

i. leads to good life

ii. leads to freedom from ignorance and oppression

d. natural rights: freedom and equality of individuals

e. institutions need to be organized to reflect a thru e

3. Challenged

a. Catholic Church’ s authority and Church doctrine: Original Sin/fallen

b. Political institutions: monarchy

c. Knowledge as subordinate to revelation

D. political revolutions

1. French 1789

a. challenged monarchy

b. challenged Church

c. new ideas: Declaration of the Rights of Man

2. American 1776

E. technology

1. printing press

2. machine power: steam, electricity.

3. “the clock”

F. capitalism

1. Adam Smith: “Wealth of Nations”

2. free market and economic laws

3. private property

4. economic individualism

G. nation-states

1. large

2. centralized

3. national interests: resources, markets, cheap labor

H. colonialism

1. “discovering” other cultures

2. new values, beliefs, ideas, practices

IV. Reactionary forces

1. Catholic Church: “Witch Hunts
   1. manifest goal: protect people from witches
   2. latent goal

a. create fear

b. re-empower Church

* 1. Means

a. create mass hysteria

b. propaganda: “Witches Hammer”

c. trials

d. trials/punishment

B. The Reign of Terror

1. Robespierre and the Committee of Public Safety

2. democracy = virtue + terror

3. dissent = crime = guillotine

4. conclusion: people can’t rule themselves

5. consequence: Napoleon

C. Counter-Enlightenment (de Maistre, Bonald)

1. Man is fallen: by nature evil and self-destructive

2. Society

a. main problem: social order

b. solution: authoritarian elite

c. Church, hereditary monarchies, and aristocracies

3. Rule: power

a. force: “awe-inspiring/ no appeal

b. tradition: superstition and myths and hallowed institutions

c. little education and few freedoms

d. elite: can’t waver (Louis XVI)

e. reason: socially disintegrating

i. repression

ii. censorship

f. racial purity

g. social order: father, mother, children and God

4. The enemy: scientists, journalists, democrats, Jews, atheists

5. The “Terror” was a good thing

a. God’s punishment

b. Robespierre: preserved France

D. Luddites (early 19th Century)

1. reaction against industrialization

2. tactics: sabotage, destroy machines

V. Summary

A. Breakdown

1. Sacred Canopy

2. Great Chain of Being

3. Feudal economic, political and social arrangements

B. Emergence

1. new world view: secular

a. new religion(s): science and capitalism

b. new doctrine: progress and free market

c. new priests: scientists and capitalists

d. life experience: open script

e. place and role: achieved

f. institutional arrangements: natural law

g. knowledge: discovered

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

i. new ideology: Reason, science, individual

2. new political arrangements

a. mass democracy

b. citizen

c. new ideas

i. citizen

ii. individual rights

iii. rational legal authority

3. new economic arrangements

a. new forms of ownership: bourgeoisie

b. new forms of production: industrial/factory

c. new division of labor

d. national and global markets

4. population urbanization

5. other non-Euro culture/other people

C. emergence of social theory

1. changing world needs to be:

a. explained

b. legitimated

2. can be explained: Reason/science

3. instrumental value in explaining it

a. solve the problems

b. shape society

4. need to apply scientific method

a. society

b. history

c. other cultures

5. social theory=knowledge=freedom