I. The Great Transformation

A. From feudal society to modern society

B. Feudal society

1. world view: religious

a. Sacred Canopy (divinely ordered world)

b. institutions: ordained by God

c. everyday life: religiously sanctioned Great Chain of Being

d. knowledge: Revealed

2. Dominant institution: Catholic Church

a. God on earth: “the body of Christ”

i. guardian of Revelatory truth

ii. mediator between God and person: Sacraments

b. legitimated political authority

c. legitimated economic arrangements

d. coercive power: Inquisitions

3. political system

a. estates

b. nobles rule

c. authority: divine right

d. no concept of individual or individual rights

e. resistance to political authority

4. economy

a. agricultural

i. production: subsistence +surplus

ii. trade

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. no concept of:

i. upward mobility

ii. private ownership of property

iii. pursuit of profit

iv. private property

5. population: rural, uneducated, illiterate, poor

6. marriages: arranged

7. 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: physics and biology

1. physical world follows laws: Newton

a. cause and effect

b. universal

2. physical laws could be discovered

a. empiricism

i. observation

ii. experimentation

b. expressed as mathematical formulas

c. Truth

3. instruments of power

a. predict and control natural world

b. new technologies

4. challenged

a. church authority of knowledge

b. knowledge from observation, not revelation

5. evolution: Darwin

a. origin of “all” species

b. natural selection

6 challenged

a. Biblical story of creation

b. Great Chain of Being, Sacred Canopy

c. society as religiously sanctioned

C. Enlightenment (Eighteenth century)

1. English and French philosophers

a. answer questions raised by transformation

b. “What is Enlightenment”?

i. freedom from superstition, blind faith, and irrationality

ii. freedom from illegitimate political authority

iii. freedom to use reason, personally and collectively

to shape social world

iv. freedom equals progress

2. 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 (French 1789, American 1776)

1. French

a. challenged monarchy

b. challenged Church

c. new ideas: Declaration of the Rights of Man (

2. American

a. function of the state

b. individual rights

c. Declaration of Independence

E. industrial revolution and rise of capitalism

1. technologies of productions

2. new division of labor

3. new ideas

a. private property

b. individual pursuit of profit

c. free market

F. nation-states, nationalism

1. national interests: resources, markets, cheap labor

2. competition

3. nationalism as an ideology

4. empires: colonialism

II. New World

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(Truth) and capitalism(freedom from)

b. new doctrine: progress and free market

c. new priests: scientists and capitalists

d. life experience: open script

e. place and role: achieved

f. knowledge: discovered

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

2. new political arrangements

a. liberal democracy

b. authority

c. citizenry

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: urban, public education

C. Emergence of \social theory

1. changing world needs to be:

a. explained

b. legitimated

2. how: apply method of science to human world

3. result will be theory of society

4. instrumental value in explaining it

a. solve the problems

b. shape society

5. social theory=knowledge=progress=utopia

III. Assumptions of classical social theory

A. Social Evolutionism

1. society evolving through stages

2. sequential and progressive leading to utopia

3. Western society is model

4. Social Darwinism

B. Science and technology are progressive

1. scientific method applied to human social world will reveal laws

of society: society, history, psychology.

2. once laws are discovered human beings can arrange society according to discoveries

3. technology allows human beings to produce enough so that scarcity is

no longer a problem

C. Human nature is universal so discoveries apply to all people and all societies.

D. Nature is a force that needs to be subdued and used for human good.

1. nature threatens human beings

2. inanimate world governed by mechanistic laws of cause and effect

3. needs to be subjugated and transformed for human use

E. Inferior peoples and inferior societies which are the “white man’s burden”