II. Great Transformation: Modernity and Secular World Vie

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. two types of freedom: “freedom from” and “freedom to”

b. collectively: freedom from means:

i. free from myth and superstition and allow him to see the world

as it really is.

ii. freedom from arbitrary and unjust authority of monarchies/church

ii. shape institutions and goals of society through democracy

c. collectively: freedom to:

i. freedom to shape the world according to reason

ii. and as a citizen in democracy

d. **emergence of the concept of the “individual”**

i. reason allows individuals to shape their own lives as citizens in a democracy

ii. within a economic system without feudal constraints

iii. as workers in a new e

2. Science/Technology

1. Scientific method is means to knowledge about the world

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