I. Feudalism

1. World View

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

2. The creation is divinely ordered, even if humans have

a hard time seeing it (see Job)-a “sacred canopy.”

3. A person’s place in the creation is determined by God-the “Great Chain of Being”

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

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

6. Knowledge is revealed and mediated to humans through the Catholic Church

7. Humans have fallen into sin and life is a movement from sin to salvation in a transcendent realm.

8. Reason is subordinate to faith

a. demonstrates truth of revelation

b. reconciles the contradictions between experience and faith.

c. death, suffering, natural disasters are explained as god’s will and beyond human understanding.

9. Natural world

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

salvation

b. natural world is without eternal value and a place of evil and temptation to sin

10. Criticizing and challenging institutions is sacrilege.

B. Institutions

1. Catholic Church

a. God on earth: “the body of Christ”

i. intermediary between God and humans

ii. guardian of Revelatory truth

iii. Sacraments: rituals necessary for salvation

b. most powerful institution

i. legitimates political authority

ii. legitimates economic arrangements

iii. legitimates social arrangements

c. Inquisitions

i. Church trials

ii. identify: heresies, witches, scientists

iii. investigate/torture

iii. try

iv. punish

2. political

a. decentralized estates, later centralized monarchies

b. authority: divine right

c. social arrangements

i. noblesse oblige

ii. obedience

iii. tradition

e. no concept of

i. autonomous self-directing individual

ii. individual rights

iii. freedom

iv. equality

3. economy

a. economy was agricultural

b. but not a market system, nor a proto-market system

c. 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

v. local markets

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

vii. commons

b. division of labor

i. agriculture

ii. serfs

iii. administrators

iv. skilled labor: guilds

v. mercenaries

c. technology: human and animal power

e. 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

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: Kantian (intentionality)

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 humans from superstition and allow us to create utopia

c. basis of ethics: utilitarian (consequences)

d. 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. unique and privileged identity:

d. colonial empires

4. science and technology

5. marriage and family

6. city

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