Matteo Guerrini

02 / 06 / 2022

Prof. **LYNDELL O'HARA**

Class: Word Civ 2

The Crash Course film this week is on the Enlightenment, one of the most important movements of the 1700s. The ideals of Enlightenment led to the American, French & Haitian Revolutions and greatly influenced the manner in which people viewed themselves and their world. As you watch the film, first write what you consider to be the three most important "take-aways" of the Enlightenment and then, second, explain how you believe they illustrate the changing tenets of this time.

Three important takeaways of the Enlightenment are:

1. The importance of reason and scientific inquiry: The Enlightenment was characterized by a focus on reason and empirical evidence, as opposed to traditional authority or dogma. This emphasis on rationality and science laid the groundwork for many of the technological and scientific advances of the Industrial Revolution.

2. The value of individual liberty and rights: The Enlightenment also emphasized the inherent value and dignity of the individual, and the importance of individual liberty and rights. This idea led to political and social revolutions, including the American and French Revolutions, as people demanded greater control over their own lives and governments.

3. The pursuit of progress and social change: Finally, the Enlightenment was characterized by a belief in progress and the possibility of social change. This optimism led to a variety of social and political movements, including abolitionism, feminism, and various forms of social and economic reform.

These three takeaways illustrate the changing tenets of the time by emphasizing a shift away from traditional authority and towards rationality, individualism, and progress. The Enlightenment challenged the notion that authority and tradition were sufficient sources of knowledge and morality, and instead emphasized the importance of reason, science, and individual rights. This new emphasis on rationality and individualism led to significant changes in politics, culture, and society, as people began to demand greater autonomy and control over their own lives. Additionally, the idea of progress and social change led to the emergence of various social and political movements that sought to challenge the existing order and create a more just and equitable society. Ultimately, the Enlightenment laid the foundation for many of the values and ideas that continue to shape the modern world.