

## 5-3-1 Assignment Chapter 4

### Questions

1. Why did the modern world begin in the seventeenth century?
2. What is at the heart of the modern world's intellectual agenda?
3. According to modernity, how is reliable knowledge attained?
4. Why was the Industrial Revolution a catalyst for the modern age?
5. Why did modernity bring some of the greatest evils in human history?

### Answers

1. The 17<sup>th</sup> century saw the dawn of new scientific and philosophical understandings about the world and the human ability to control and shape the world.
2. The heart of the intellectual agenda is the pursuit of truth (with an anticipation of certainty).
3. Reliable knowledge could be attained by beginning with undeniable rational certainties and then building from them arguments that had the same clarity and certainty.
4. Humans became increasingly capable of subduing nature for their own purposes and ends.
5. Being absorbed by modernity's false consciousness, modernists failed to see how modernity insidiously affected morality because it revealed humanity as being capable of creation but failed to recognize the necessity of a Creator.

### Terms

1. rationalism – the belief that reason alone was sufficient to knowing all there is to discern about the world and life
2. empiricism – the view that all knowledge was based on experience and the senses
3. secularization – a process occurring within societies and cultures whereby religion no longer plays the dominant role in shaping major social institutions

### Summary

In this chapter, Hollinger introduces and expounds on how modernity emerged out of the Industrial Revolution and has continued to play a major role in humankind's understanding and interaction with the world around them. With the desire to assess truth with certitude, modernity relies heavily on rationalism and empiricism; however, this leads to the secularization of the modern world. In removing God from the way humans thought and engaged the world, ethics in the modern age were constructed outside of a Christian worldview. Thus, modernity presents a dilemma for those who seek to live in accordance with a Christian worldview.