

World Civ Film and Response Week 5

The Enlightenment was a period of great intellectual and social change in Europe in the 18th century. This movement emphasized reason and empirical evidence as the means to understand and improve the world. As I watched the Crash Course film on the Enlightenment, I identified three important take-aways from this movement: the emphasis on reason and scientific inquiry, the importance of individual rights and freedoms, and the critique of traditional sources of authority.

The first take-away from the Enlightenment is the emphasis on reason and scientific inquiry. Enlightenment thinkers believed that through the use of reason and empirical evidence, people could come to a more accurate and rational understanding of the world, and use that understanding to create a more just and prosperous society. This emphasis on reason helped to fuel the scientific revolution, as well as to challenge many of the traditional assumptions of society.

The second take-away from the Enlightenment is the importance of individual rights and freedoms. Enlightenment thinkers argued that all individuals are entitled to certain inalienable rights, such as the right to life, liberty, and property, and that governments should be established to protect these rights. This emphasis on individualism helped to fuel the American and French Revolutions, and has been an important factor in the development of modern democracy and human rights.

The third take-away from the Enlightenment is the critique of traditional sources of authority. Enlightenment thinkers challenged the idea that authority should be based solely on tradition, religion, or divine right, and instead advocated for a more secular, rational, and democratic society. This critique of traditional sources of authority helped to pave the way for the development of modern political and social institutions, including constitutional democracy, the rule of law, and civil society.

Together, these three take-aways illustrate the changing tenets of the Enlightenment. The movement represented a shift towards reason, individualism, and democracy, as well as a rejection of authority based solely on tradition or divine right. This movement helped to lay the foundation for many of the political, social, and intellectual developments of the modern era, and continues to influence our thinking and values today.

In conclusion, the Enlightenment was a transformative period of intellectual and social change in Europe in the 18th century. The three most important take-aways from this movement were the emphasis on reason and scientific inquiry, the importance of individual rights and freedoms, and the critique of traditional sources of authority. Together, these take-aways illustrate the changing tenets of the Enlightenment and the ways in which this movement challenged traditional assumptions and structures of society. The ideas of the Enlightenment continue to

influence our thinking and values today, and remain an important source of inspiration for those seeking to create a more just and equitable world.