

Abigail Cesar

Professor O'Hara

History 114

16 February 2023

Week 4 Film & Response

The “Crash Course” film was expounding on the enlightenment and some key aspects that promoted change across European culture at that time. Here are the three most important takeaways that I found illustrated in the film.

The first of these takeaways would be that multiple authors published papers that slowly changed the ways of life because they ridiculed the outdated ways of life in different ways. Montesquieu and Voltaire helped by using humor and satire. They made fun of how the Europeans lived (in different areas of culture) which subconsciously promoted change.

Second, religious persecution was running rampant throughout the enlightenment, however, some people had problems and considered it to be brutal. For example: Jean Calas was accused of murder so he was killed via extreme torture. This led Voltaire to become an activist fighting against this “cruel fanaticism.”

Last but not least, Slavery was still thriving during the enlightenment period. Simultaneously, as was a cultural, growing knowledge and distaste for the cruel reality of this inhumane treatment. Authors like Guillaume Raynal and Olaudah Equiano wrote about the treatment of Africans which helped spread awareness and promote change.

These key points illustrated the changing beliefs of this time period. Even though only three examples were provided, they show how the enlightenment was molding the minds of Europeans at this time. People were slowly starting to shift from their old belief systems and trade tradition for rational thought.