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Film Response: Enlightenment

Through observation of viewing the film, enlightenment's three most important takeaways are acknowledgment, reason, and individualism. Starting with acknowledgement. When one is acknowledged for something of themselves or the world, one will become enlightened with the will to look for change. For instance, with slavery, many eventually acknowledged how it was inhuman and cruel and how enslaved people were mainly those with different skin colors. Being enlightened allowed many to push for the abolishment of slavery so that enslaved people could live as free people. It played a significant role in the enlightenment by making one seek proper reasoning. For example, it was a common belief that earthquakes were an act of God's judgment. However, an idea developed was that earthquakes were always here and were just done by natural causes, not explicitly driven by God. A more specific example backing this ideal is when an earthquake strikes down more Christians than people in brothels. Ideas like this also led to deists who believed that God was real. However, it may be possible that he had abandoned the world. Furthermore, with individualism, one can see it playing a role in enlightenment when people opposed agreeing with the general will of a ruling government. German philosopher Immanuel Kant for instance, progressed enlightenment with this topic as he thought of the idea that the human mind and the ability of every person to think for themselves should be in place rather than being brainlessness and simply obeying old commands and concepts, the human mind he argued housed categories of understanding with which information interacted to produce purely rational judgments. Overall, enlightenment is a way of attempting to understand one's self and the world around them. If the attempt at understanding fails, one may

have a change of mind and pursue an answer that makes sense, whether it is regarding morality, religious views, politics, etc.