

Humanities 4: Enlightenment, Romanticism, Revolution (1660-1848)

Introduction

What is the Enlightenment?

1. General Worldview

- a) Progress, based on Reason and scientific method
- b) Secularization: focus on human beings, not God
- c) Critique of traditions and “superstition”
- d) law and order

2. Specific Developments

- a) In natural science (Newton)
 - from two realms to one unified cosmos
- b) In political authority & social organization (Locke)
 - from God’s will to natural rights of man
- c) In religion (Voltaire, Hume, Kant)
 - rise in authority of natural rel., decline in revel.
- d) In conceptions of history (Kant)
 - from biblical to more secular chronology

What is Romanticism?

1. General Worldview

- a) Individuality (rather than universality)
- b) Sentiment (rather than reason)
- c) Organic structures (rather than mechanical)

2. Specific Developments

a) In natural science

- introspection, individual feelings, vitalism

b) In political authority & social organization (Rousseau)

- from individual rights to life of community

c) In religion (Schleiermacher)

- immediate experience

d) In conceptions of history (Schiller)

- attempt to imitate ancient ideal now fragmented

Goals of Course

1. Understand these developments in historical context
 - a) On particular topics
 - science, politics, history, religion, art, music
 - b) As a whole
 - conception of human beings and their place in world
2. Contemporary Relevance
 - a) for understanding how we came to be the way we are
 - justifications and conditions
 - b) for understanding different possible frameworks
 - alternative world views, with appreciation of attendant advantages and disadvantages