

Overview of Unit 4: The Scientific and Political Enlightenment

Chapter 6 and Parts of Chapter 8

The Renaissance, Reformation, and formation of Nations were all “revolutionary” developments in that they represented great change, which occurred rather quickly, which influenced many people for a long time. All of these developments were a function of the phrase “hey, wait a minute...” and led to a whole new conception of WHAT to think (humans, their world, and their place in that world)

Unit 4 is also “revolutionary” in the sense that there is a whole new way of HOW to think, which is also a function of the phrase “hey, wait a minute...”

This unit traces the development of questions -> doubts -> challenges to old ideas and explanations = **SOMETHING NEW!** (progress is impossible unless there is deviation from the norm)

1. new focus on rational, reasonable, and logical thought processes so as to yield
2. rational, reasonable, and logical results
3. in other words, the methods of inquiry shape the results of inquiry (if -> then -> if -> then, etc) *Progress*
4. logic processes based on the discovery and understanding of NATURAL LAWS which can be applied to all human experiences
5. Underlying premise was optimism, confidence and belief in human capacity to discover, understand, and apply the natural laws of *EVERYTHING* to improve life
6. What could be more logical than operating under the assumption that “necessity is the mother of invention”?

- 7. All of these processes would be based on observation, experimentation, and experience (empiricism) and would ultimately challenge the old notions of traditions, superstitions, dogma, and irrationality. In that sense, Unit 4 fits into the overall trend as we saw during the Renaissance, reformation, and formation of nations. Humans thinking for themselves using evidence, logic, and imagination.**
- 8. Eventually, all of this will lead to perspectives based on toleration, open mindedness, and an abandonment of pre-conceived and prejudiced (pre-judged) notions.**
- 9. Transition from deductive thinking to inductive thinking**
- 10. Eventually, all of this applied to**
 - a. Science- micro and macro**
 - b. Politics, government, and social organization**
 - c. Human nature and human relations**
 - d. Economics**
 - e. Crime and punishment**
 - f. Anthropology**
 - g. Diplomacy**
 - h. Military science**
 - i. Philosophy**
 - j. Art**
 - k. Culture**
 - l. Sociology, Psychology**