

The Enlightenment 1700-1815

What was the Enlightenment?



What was the Enlightenment?

Goal:

- Promote Reason and Science
- Focus on Individualism

Key Ideas:

- The quest for truth through logic and reason, rather than through faith
- "If we cannot know things through our senses, then we cannot know anything unless we use reason."

Who was the Enlightenment?

- 1687 - Newton's Philosophiæ Naturalis Principia Mathematica
- 1717 - Locke's Essay Concerning Human Understanding
- 1726 - Berkeley's Essay Towards a New Theory of Vision
- 1739 - Hume's Treatise of Human Nature
- 1751 - Diderot's Encyclopédie
- 1759 - Kant's Critique of Pure Reason
- 1776 - Rousseau's The Social Contract
- 1789 - Voltaire's Dictionnaire Philosophique
- 1793 - Condorcet's Sketch for a Law of Education

Enlightenment

- "The Age of Reason"
- A period of intellectual and artistic production in the 17th and 18th centuries
- Emphasis on individualism, scientific inquiry, and skepticism for all
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Social Reform

- The Enlightenment was responsible for many ideas
- A focus on Individualism and Liberty
- Liberty
- Reason, Religion and Nature
- Education for practical and not science for all
- Education for wealthy, middle class
- "If we cannot know things through our senses, then we cannot know anything unless we use reason."

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- Reform society
 - Societal views set up by religion.

Implications

- Began to question traditional religious ideas of morality.
- Arguments arose over what 'human nature' is.

If we cannot know anything with certainty, then we cannot know right from wrong with certainty.

Where were the effects of the Enlightenment felt?

Britain

- Originated in Britain with John Locke.
- Philosophers did not directly reject religious beliefs.

America

- Enlightened thinking was influential in the creation of a new government.
 - Constitution and Declaration of Independence.
- Created an individualistic culture.
- Receptive to psychology.

France

- Pursued more radically than in Britain.
 - French Revolution.

Social Reform

- Tradespeople were responsible for invention.
 - Societal values changed

The Scientific Revolution

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The Industrial Enlightenment

- Ideas of the time that helped shape the Industrial Revolution.
- Influenced by scientific thought brought forward during the Scientific Revolution.
 - Francis Bacon.
 - The point of examining nature is to control it.
 - Emphasized experimentation.
- Scientific discoveries led to creation of new technologies.

Who created the new technology?

Social Reform

- Tradespeople were responsible for invention.
 - Societal values changed.
 - Collapse of noble *arête*/Greek aristocratic values.
 - Rise of Bourgeois self-control.
- Remove social hierarchy.
 - Education in practical arts and science for all.
- Changed the societal question:
 - “How to be good?”(*arête*) to “How to be happy?”

The Skeptics: Is Knowledge Attainable?

Overview:

- John Locke (1632–1704)
- Bishop George Berkeley (1685–1753)
- David Hume (1711–1776)

Following Newton's teachings these individuals believed that human opinion could be flawed with errors, and therefore, our knowledge about human nature, may be flawed as well.

John Locke (1632-1704)

- An Essay Concerning Human Understanding (1690).
- Conceptualization of the 'mind' is very similar to Descartes.
- Father of empiricism – Stated that all knowledge and Ideas comes from experience and stem from two 'Fountains of Knowledge'.
 - Sensation – Responsible for ideas about objects that cause sensations (eg. pleasure & pain).
 - Reflection – observation of our own mental processes (something not explored by Descartes).

John Locke (1632-1704)

- Thought of the mind as “a complex, information-processing device” used to organize our experiences into knowledge.
- Do we have free will?
 - Locke proposed that this is the wrong question. Instead he stated that, “We are free when we are able to do what we want, but we do not consciously will our desires.”
 - Freedom of Action is the key; Freedom of Will is only an issue when we are unhappy and not achieving or getting what we want.

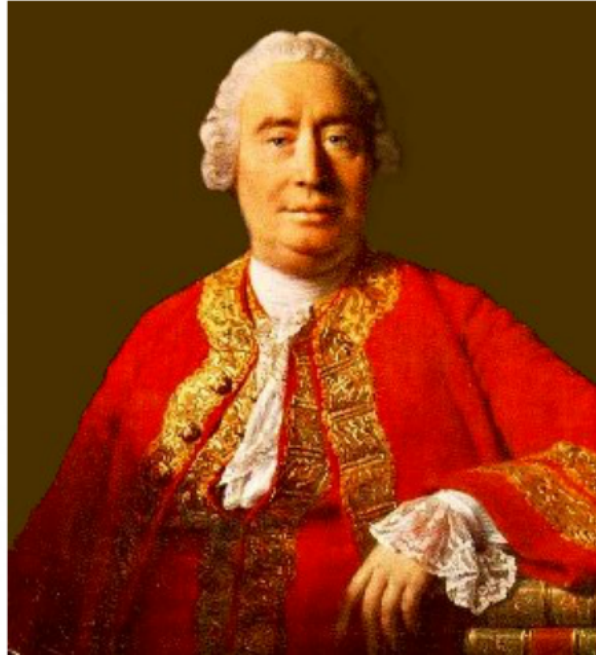
Bishop George Berkeley (1685–1753)

- Wanted philosophy to take on more scientific methods.
 - Still a religious, God-fearing man.
- Cartesian–Lockean outlook on ideas left room for Skepticism.
 - Copy Theory of Cognition.
- Berkeley argued:
 - Ideas are the ultimate reality and not merely copies of things.
 - Objects exist only when perceived.
- To explain our continued human existence there must be an omnipresent force watching all things.

Why Do We See The World In Three, Not Two, Dimensions

- We have belief in external objects because because of depth perception.
- Sensations provide clues about distance.
 - Association exists between the distance of object and how much the perceiver's eyes converge.
 - However, we must learn this association.
- Berkeley argued that we perceive objects as shapes, colours, lines, and learn to associate context with those shapes.

David Hume



- Hume's aim:
 - Replace metaphysics with psychology.
 - Move beyond skepticism to a practical philosophy without the certainties that religion pretended to give us.

Contents of the Mind

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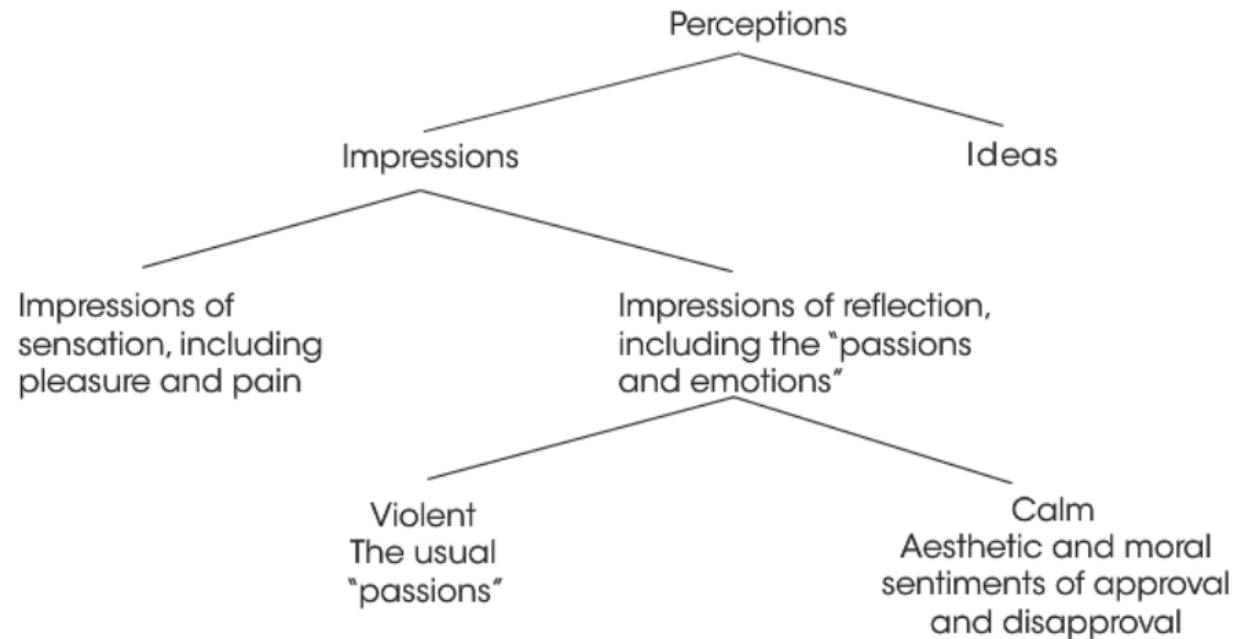


FIGURE 6–1 Hume’s categorization of the contents of the human mind. (Adapted from *THE PHILOSOPHY OF DAVID, Smith, 1941; Macmillan, London.*)

- Believed human nature was reflected in the contents of minds:
 - 2 types of perception:
 - Impressions (Sensations).
 - Ideas (Vivid copies of Impressions).

- Simple vs. Complex Impressions.
 - Simple: Raw sensation (i.e., blue spot of ink).
 - Complex: A combination of many simple perceptions all at once.
- Simple vs. Complex Ideas.
 - Simple: Copies of simple impressions.
 - Complex: Collection of simple ideas.

Simple Impressions → Simple Ideas → Complex Idea

- Two conclusions:
 - Give priority to Impressions over Ideas because they are the guide to reality.
 - Give priority to Simple Impressions over Complex Impressions.

Association: The Gravity of the Mind

- Hume defined Association as the link between Simple Impressions to form Complex Impressions.
- In any situation there's cause, association and effect.
 - We cannot perceive the cause, but from the association and perceived effect we can infer the cause.
 - eg. Light switch, Billiard Balls

Hume's Adaptive Skepticism

- Believed in the innate ability of humans to make associations.
 - Generalize and come to conclusions.
 - Stressed similarities between animals and humans.
- Practiced moderate skepticism.
- Epitomized the two main ways of thinking about the mind for the next century:
 - Associative Empiricism.
 - Kantian Idealism.

Associationism: David Hartley (1705–1757)

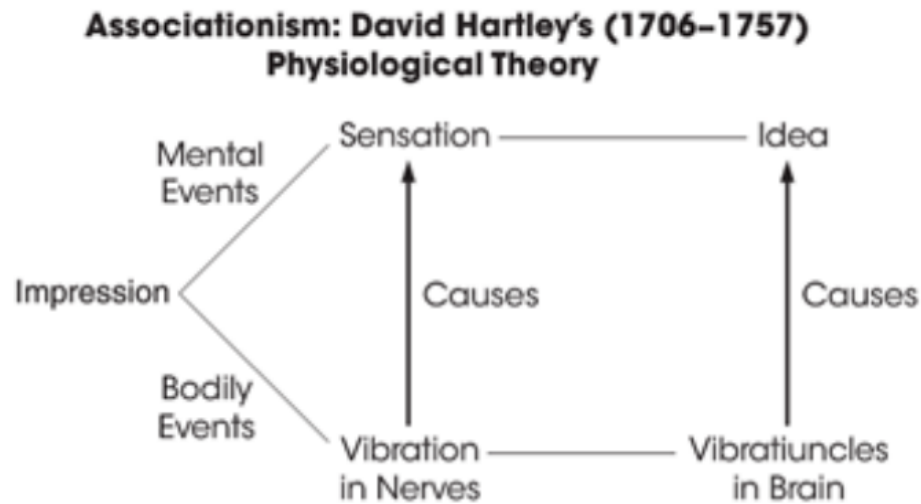


FIGURE 6–2 Associationism: David Hartley's (1706–1757) Physiological Theory

- Developed associationism.
 - Merged mental and medical science.
 - Proposed parallel laws of Association between the mind and brain.

Reassertion of Common Sense: The Scottish School



- Thomas Reid (1710–1796)
- Dugald Stewart (1753–1828)

Reviving Realism

- Reid founded Common Sense philosophy.
- Stayed within religious boundaries.
- 3 elements of Perception:
 - The Perceiver.
 - Act of Perception.
 - The real object.

Reid's Philosophies

Realism

- Rejected the theory that conscious experience is manufactured out of sensations.
 - Robs it of meaning.
- Instead viewed objects as being the base unit of Perception.

Nativism

- Humans have innate faculties of mind.

Dugald Stewart

- Abandoned the term 'common sense' and instead relied on associative concepts.
- Further dissected the mind into component faculties.
 - Each had a role in mental life/knowledge.
 - eg. learning ability, personality, memory, etc.
- Scottish philosophy was very influential on American Psychology.

The Transcendental Pretense: Immanuel Kant (1724-1804)

- Hume's skepticism disrupted Kant's dogmatism.
- Used metaphysical arguments:
 - Phenomena: the world of experience (Cartesian Theatre).
 - Noumena: the world of things in themselves.
 - Science tests on observation (against phenomena).
- Truth is based on phenomena, not noumena.

Transcendental Ego

- Kant's aim was to investigate the phenomena in the mind.
- Components of experience:
 - 3-D Space.
 - Number.
 - Causality.
- Taught a form of Idealism based upon these categories of experience.

Kant on Scientific Psychology

- Did not believe Psychology was a science.
 - Consciousness cannot be measured quantitatively.
 - Physics and metaphysics can be used to explain.

- Kant's Anthropology:
 - Science of humanity
 - Study of:
 - Human intellectual faculties
 - Human Appetite
 - Human Character
 - Commonsense psychology
- Psychological Anthropology:
 - Concerned with the body and it's effect on the mind
- Pragmatic Anthropology:
 - Concerned with the person as a morally free agent and citizen of the world

The Moral Question: Is Society Natural?

- Pursuit of a scientific ethics resulted in a moral crisis.
- French Enlightenment set out to improve life through science.
- Commonsense philosophers of Scotland resisted the moral crisis.
 - Influential to American thought.

Cartesian Materialism

- Descartes believed that animals are machines.
 - Stated humans are not (because we have souls).
 - He was accused of being a secret materialist.
- The number of Materialists increased in the Age of Reason.
- Cartesian Materialism most notably influenced the work of La Mettrie.

Julien Offray de La Mettrie

- Raises animals to the level of humans.
 - Animals share moral sentiments.
 - Morality is included in natural biological order.
- Disagreed with Descartes; thought language is not unique to humans.
- Point of living is to attain happiness (hedonism).

Materialism

- Matter is alive.
 - Biological tissues is capable of self-generation and motion.
- Humans are a vital, living, dynamic machine, an integral part of nature.

La Mettrie's Conclusion

- Transformism: the universe was not created by God but emerged from primordial matter as a result of the action of law.
 - Biological universe is just the result of the way that nature is organized.
 - This is the beginning of evolutionary thought.
 - This was La Mettrie's version of the Truth.

French Empiricism

- Sensationism: deriving the mind entirely from sensations, denying the existence of autonomous mental faculties and the power of reflection found in Locke's psychology.
 - French commentators thought they were improving Locke's empiricism.

Etienne Bonnot de Condillac & French Empiricism

- He was a Christian.
- His aim was to reduce human understanding to one principle—sensation.
 - Aimed to prove all mental faculties are derived from sensation.
 - eg. Memory - occurs when a sensation is experienced for a second time.
- Denied self-reflection.

Consequences of French Materialism and Empiricism

Clause Helvetius

- Borrowed from La Mettrie's materialism and Condillac's empiricism.
- Believed in Complete Environmentalism.
 - Mind is malleable.
- Improved education would lead to improved people.
 - Dictatorship?
- Previously hypothesized, rational thought directed behaviour.
 - Moral Crisis: Emerging ideas that behaviour was a result of hedonism.

Consequences of French Materialism and Empiricism

- La Mettrie:
 - emphasized that pleasure was part of human nature.
 - we live meaningless/purposeless lives in a meaningless world.
- Marquis de Sade:
 - Naturalism: Believes behaviour is driven by pleasure and uninhibited by morals.
 - Animal-like.
 - Moral Nihilism.

Enlightened Ethical Philosophies

- Religious authority was losing power.
 - 3 new points of Ethical Thought:
 - Consequentialism.
 - Deontological ethics.
 - Virtue Ethics.

Ethics of outcomes: Utilitarianism

- Hedonism.

Jeremy Bentham

- Defined pleasures including:
 - Wealth, power, status, etc.
- Felicific calculus: calculus of happiness.
 - Advocated for minimal government.

Ethics of Duty: Kant

- He wanted to develop a categorical imperative that spelled out what was right or wrong without regard to any specific goal.
 - The rational transcendental self becomes the lawgiver for all rational beings, not just the individual caught in the moral dilemma.

Ethics of Sensibility : The Scottish School of Moral Sense

- Hume thought that human morality was grounded in human nature.
 - Human nature tends to be moral.
 - eg. Animal mothers
- Turnbull believed morality was innate.
 - Born with abilities to understand moral sense.
- Division in Scottish philosophies on what was the source of human nature.
 - Turnbull & Reid thought it came from God.
 - Hume said it came from nature itself.

The Importance of Scottish Moral Sense Theory

- Rejected French Naturalists.
 - People are sociable and like to behave decently.
 - Not selfish and vicious.
- Establishes psychology as the science of human nature.
 - Human behaviour is not just controlled by government principles.
- Influential in development of american psychology.

Social Engineering

Robert Owen

- French Revolution.
 - Utopian Society.
 - Happier workers would lead to industrial prosperity.
- Anticipates I/O Psychology movement in business.

Enlightenment & Women

- Locke stated that the mind has no sex.
 - Differences result of tradition.
- Rousseau believed that education should accommodate these natural gender differences.
 - Peter Day experiment.
 - Immediate future lay with Rousseau.

The Counter Enlightenment

- Enlightenment philosophes thought Newtonian laws could be applied to human mind.
 - Presumed end of superstitions, religious traditions, etc.
- Philosophes thought anything unscientific was a barrier to enlightenment.
 - Included history.
 - Developed polarized views AGAINST scientific reasoning.

The Criterion and Rule of Truth is to Have Made it: Giambattista Vico (1660-1744)

- Vico raised idea that humans could not be understood by science, not because they have a soul but because they have culture, which can't be made sense of Newtonianly.
- Vico thought that history/society was more Truthful than science.
 - We may only know what we our selves have made.
 - God made nature so only he can understand it.
 - History is the process of self-creation.

The Criterion and Rule of Truth is to Have Made it: Giambattista Vico (1660–1744)

- Naturwissenschaft (Newtonian science): built on external observations of the nature.
- Geisteswissenschaft (Spiritual science): which we learn about from internal observation.
- In Germany psychology straddled these two categories:
 - (Natural Science): Wundt's division of psychology in 'physiological psychology.'
 - (Human Sciences): 'Volkerpsychologie', the study of human culture.
 - ie. myth, custom, language (Supported by Kant and Vico).

Science, Modernity, and the Counter-Enlightenment

- Enlightenment focused on the idea that people should behave due to reason alone.
 - ie. cultural differences and religious authority were doomed to disappear.
- Counter-Enlightenment argued people wouldn't be able to be guided by reason alone.
 - Wisdom was drawn from religion and tradition which made divisions in power bearable.
 - The French Revolution was spurred by this division.
- Edmund Burke opposed the French Revolution.
 - To overturn tradition all together was to overturn social norms, culture, and history.

We Live in a World We Ourselves Create: Johann Gottfried Herder (1744-1803)

- Independently came to many of the same conclusions as Vico.
 - People should try to fulfill their own potential.
 - Opposed faculty psychology.
- Believed each culture was unique.
 - Imposing one set of cultural values on another was reprehensible.
 - Viewed Age of Reason as degenerative.

We Live in a World We Ourselves Create:

- Herder & Fichte were well received in Germany.
- German philosophy opposed the focus on individual consciousness spurred by the Enlightenment.
 - "The individual life has no existence, since it has no value in itself, but must and should sink to nothing, while on the contrary, the race alone exists." (Race = Common Language)

Rising Influence of German Psychology

- German philosophies disconnect with the Enlightenment ideals.
 - German psychologists (eg. Freud, Wundt) focus on what would be considered Geisteswissenschaft.
 - Other European psychologists focusing on Naturwissenschaft.

Ascent of Romanticism

- Herder laid down the foundation of romanticism, and his views were supported by other philosophes:
 - Herder: “I feel! I am!”
 - Descartes: “I think, therefore I am.”
 - Condillac (implied): “I sense, therefore I am.”
- With these ideas, most left the era of abstract reasoning, to enter the emphatic emotion of romanticism.

Nature versus Civilization: Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778)

- Rousseau believed that deep investigation led to unhappiness.
 - Ignorance was bliss.
- Rousseau and Herder had many of the same complaints of the enlightenment.
- Rousseau believed people were innately free (Noble Savages).
- Hobbes' believed people were violent/warlike (English Civil War).
- Rousseau declared the society corrupt and in needed reworking (inspired the early French revolutionaries).

Nature versus Civilization: Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778)

- Believed that education should be self directed.
 - Freedom for the student to determine intellectual pursuits.
 - However, this is perceived freedom.
- Rousseau and Herder believed the corruption of the society could be overcome by education.
 - Herder: Self-fulfillment for individual was drawn from fulfillment of society.

The Irrational Realm of the Unconscious: Mesmerism

- Franz Anton Mesmer (1734-1815)
 - Believed in "Animal Magnetism": illness was caused by the misalignment of universal fluids.
 - Similar to Newton's "Ether."
- Mesmerism became popular because as a pseudoscience it incorporated an appropriate amount of science with traditional religious practice.
- Mesmerism inspired Modern Hypnosis.

Conclusion: Reason and its Discontents

- The theme of the scientific age and in particular, the Enlightenment, was the triumph of science.
 - Science was replacing the previously dominant theology.
 - Nature was being analyzed empirically to understand the world.
- Shift of speculations about nature into detailed analysis.

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