

# AN INTRODUCTION

Christianity Answers the 21st Century

Part IV

*World Views of the Western World*

---

# COURSE OF EMPIRE

## Desolation

---

### EXPLORING THE IDEAS of the FRONT COVER

- Look closely at the picture on the front cover of this book. Make 5 observations about the scene being presented. Look for who and what are presented and any actions.
- What is the central image in the scene? What time of day is it? What sounds would you hear? What has happened here?
- What do you think this picture symbolizes?
- What feelings do you have as you look at this painting?
- What is the significance of this picture? If you were standing at this location looking at the ruins of this civilization, what affect would it have on you?

### EXPLAINING THE IDEAS of the FRONT COVER

This is the fifth painting in a series of five entitled **The Course of Empire** by Thomas Cole. The complete series depicts freedom, and then glory; when that fails, wealth, vice, corruption, destruction and finally **Desolation** (the painting featured on the front cover).

James Fenimore Cooper writes: “In the ...fifth [painting], an avenging Providence ...whispers through silent desolation ... ‘It is done!’ ... Such is the expression of the solemn twilight, the motionless autumnal foliage, the quiet footsteps of encroaching waters, the solitary heron and her nest upon the crumbling column. By the beams of the moon, now rising over the tranquil ocean, and by the last gleams of day, the poet lights the beholder to the tomb of Empire, and gives him voiceless solitude, in which to hear, from mournful ruins and triumphant nature, the moral of the strain.”

### EXPANDING UPON THE IDEAS of the FRONT COVER

This course, **Christianity Answers the 21st Century**, is a study of the shift in thinking that occurred in the 20th Century and the affect of this shift on Western Civilization. Learn from the past so that you can give meaningful answers to those living in the 21st Century.

# SHIFTS IN SOCIETY

## Contrasting Our Past to Our Present

Contrast American life from colonization to the 1840's with life during the 20th century. Describe changes in education, government, and society. Use previous studies to assist you in making this comparison.

### COLONIZATION TO THE 1840'S

Refer to *The Revolutionary Age*

**World Views** Part III or any other source.

### THE 20TH CENTURY

Interview Several People Over 50 Years Old

#### Education

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

#### Government

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

#### Society

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

What could have caused such shifts in American life?

---

---

---

---

# REFORMATION - ENLIGHTENMENT

## Comparing the Thoughts and Ideas

American life as described by Alexis de Tocqueville was quite different from 21st century America! Originally, American society rested upon the foundation of the Reformation. Hilary Clinton, shortly after her husband became the President of the United States of America, made this statement: "We have to think in new ways." This new way of thinking rests upon a different foundation — the foundation of the Enlightenment. To better understand the shifts in our society, it is important to review the differences between the basic ideas of the Reformation and the Enlightenment.

### REFORMATION THINKING

What words would you use to describe Reformation thinking?

### ENLIGHTENMENT THINKING

Dr. Schaeffer writes, "The utopian dream of the Enlightenment can be summed up by five words: reason, nature, happiness, progress, and liberty."

Reason • Nature • Happiness  
Progress • Liberty

### BASIC BELIEFS REGARDING GOD, MAN, AND ETHICS/MORALITY

Fill in the chart below.

ISSUE	THE REFORMATION	THE ENLIGHTENMENT
GOD		
MAN		
ETHICS/MORALITY		

BREAKING WITH THE PAST

Revelation was replaced by ...

\_\_\_\_\_

Reason was replaced by ...

\_\_\_\_\_

Romanticism was replaced by ...

\_\_\_\_\_

Realism was replaced by ...

\_\_\_\_\_

The Traditional View of Man

The 20th Century View of Man

Man's Search of Meaning

The Enlightenment and the French Revolution

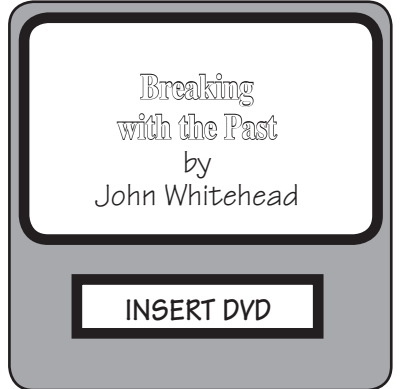
Philosophers of the Enlightenment and their View of Man

Voltaire

Kant

Rousseau

Watch Episode One from **Grasping for the Wind.**



Notes, Special Thoughts,  
or Questions ...

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Notes, Special Thoughts,  
or Questions ...

The Romantic Movement and its View of Man

The Realistic Period and its View of Man

John Whitehead explains that "Each successive revolt against tradition has led only to more revolution and dehumanization." Trace the changing view of the value of man from the Reformation to modern day.

How do the works of Rembrandt, Schamberg and Bacon show the shift from a high dignity of man to the dehumanization of man?

Ecclesiastes 4:4 refers to humanity's actions as "grasping for the wind." How have the world views of Western Society demonstrated this to be true?



Notes, Special Thoughts,  
or Questions ...

What are some of the primary reasons for the chaos that we see in society today?

Why did Darwin's theory of natural selection have such a far-reaching effect? Explain how the theory affected such leaders as Adolf Hitler.

How does the Judeo-Christian concept of man's place in the universe differ from Darwin's theory of natural selection?

How did Karl Marx view man? What effect did his have?

How did the Impressionists' view of reality affect modern society?

How have the ideas of Marx, Seurat, and Gauguin affected other art forms? Give examples.



Notes, Special Thoughts,  
or Questions ...

Why has the Christian world view lost its influence on modern culture?

How can contemporary Christians influence culture again?

How did Cubists such as Pablo Picasso view reality? What effect did his work have on modern man's view of his own value?

How did Marcel Duchamp view human free will and the significance of human beings?

What effect did World War I have upon the American culture?

Give examples of Expressionism.  
What affect would their ideas have upon culture?

What caused the rise of modern psychology?  
What was Freud's view of man?



Notes, Special Thoughts,  
or Questions ...

How did Einstein's theory of relativity influence modern man's acceptance of moral relativism?

How did moral relativism differ from Judeo-Christian faith and morals?

What effect did Margaret Sanger have upon traditional ideas of morality?

How did jazz and rock'n'roll express the spirit of the age?

How did modern art reflect the spirit of the age?  
How was it used to propagate this spirit?

Explain the purposes of the movie **Citizen Kane**.

"As of the mid-Twentieth Century, Western culture seemed to have lost its way." What is the basis of such a statement?



Notes, Special Thoughts,  
or Questions ...

What effect did World War II have upon American's view of death and why?

What effect did Existentialism have on Western culture? Comment upon Sartre's view of moral choices and hope in a senseless world.

What were Orwell's view of man and a successful totalitarian state?

Explain the effect that television has had upon the 21st century.

What was the Beat Generation? Who is Allen Ginsberg and what was his relationship to the Beat Generation?

What effect did rock music have upon the 21st century?

How did James Dean and Elvis Presley personify the youth culture?

How did the feminist movement and the Civil Rights Movement affect American culture?



Notes, Special Thoughts,  
or Questions ...

“The Sixties generation was considered to be revolutionaries overthrowing the establishment.” Explain this statement.

How did Bob Dylan use his work to promote the cultural movement?

What was the effect of The Beatles on the youth movements?

What was the long-term effect of the 1960's generation on the American society?



Notes, Special Thoughts,  
or Questions ...

*Describe the Western culture at the end of the 20th Century.*

*What hope do we have that Western society can find meaning for man's existence?*

*Has the experiment to establish an orderly and meaningful society without a Judeo-Christian foundation worked? What was the result? What is the answer to the chaos we see today?*



