

# *From the First to the Second “Europe”*

*The Early Modern Era (1350-1650) as an Era of Transition*

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- **I. A Theme which Unites this Period is “Search for New Authorities” centering on individualism.**
  - **B. Individualism defined: The tendency (1) to focus on the individual, not the community, and (2) to develop man's earthly, human potential, not fit him for the afterlife**
  - **II. Review of First Europe.**
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## *Questions*

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- 1. Is this theme a valid way to understand the period 1350-1650?
  - 2. If not, have you a suggestion?
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- **III. In the 14th century the tempo of change quickens. Variety and multiplicity become the order of the day. The old survives with the new.**
  - **IV. Is the “Faustian” theme useful? Faust of the legend and Goethe’s play Faust.**
  - **V. The wide-ranging character of the search.**
    - **Turning from collective authority to individualism.**
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- **Shift from closed universe to infinite universe**
  - **Questioning of orthodox Christian theology and acceptance of view that reality is ultimately mysterious and incomprehensible.**
  - **Questioning of corporate religious experience and willingness to accept inner, mystical experience.**
  - **Rejection of intermediate authorities such as Pope and Councils for Scripture and conscience as guides.**
  - **Turning away from Gothic and medieval to classical models.**
  - **Questioning of rank and class and turning to talent, education, determination, and cunning.**
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- Questioning of “fair price” economy as taught by Church in favor of market economy.
  - Questioning of “Divine Right of Kings” in favor of the battlefield, political intrigue, or will of the people.
  - Rejection of medieval models of scholarship for original inquiry and experimentation.
  - Rejection of other-worldliness for delight in earthly secular, pleasures and activities.
  - Rejection of accepted geography of the world for voyages of exploration and discovery.
  - Questioning of accepted technology for better tools and instruments (clocks, instruments of measure and lenses).
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- Again, let's discuss these statements about a search for new authority.
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- **VI. Illustrations of the Motif of “Search for New Authorities”:**
  - **A. Rise of Humanism.**
    - **Man as a human being important in his own right.**
    - **Ideal of Renaissance Universal Man.**
    - **Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519)**
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- Giovanni, Count Pico della Mirandola (1463-1494). Oration on the Dignity of Man
  - B. Renaissance Art. Depicting Man in his natural element. Leonardo. Sandro Botticelli (1445-1510). Leonardo’s “Madonna of the Rocks,” next slide.
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- **C. The Rise of Capitalism.** Search for profit, despite Church’s teaching. Led to innovations in commercial methods and practices. Joint stock companies, bill of exchange, double-entry bookkeeping.
  - **D. Voyages of Exploration and Discovery.** Traditional geography or new maps based on exploration? Late medieval exploration through Straits of Gibraltar in 1291; Atlantic forays to Canary Islands, Madeira and Azores Islands; Saharan and Ethiopian adventures .
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- European exploration sped up in 15<sup>th</sup> century. Why?
    1. Desire for riches
    2. Missionary zeal.
    3. earlier growth of wealth and food production making exploration possible.
    4. Zeal to claim lands for nation-state.
    5. New technologies and instruments: magnetic compass; stern post rudder and better shipbuilding; improved celestial navigation.
    6. Curiosity about other peoples and the unknown.
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Portugal and Spain led the way.

Portugal - Prince Henry and King John II of Portugal.  
Vasco de Gama . Africa coast, India, Malaysia, Siam,  
China, Japan; also Brazil.

Spain – Christopher Columbus to West Indies. Treaty of  
Tordesillas (1494). Conquest of Central and South  
America. The New World or “America” Martin  
Waldseemuller’s world map in 1507

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Ferdinand Magellan’s voyage in 1519, leading to first circumnavigation of globe. Cortes and Pizarro in Central America.

English, French, Dutch voyages leading to colonial gains.

Is all this a good illustration of the theme of surging individualism which is breaking traditional authorities?

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## **Questions:**

1. Which of the motives above convince you? Why? Is missionary zeal suspect, despite the fact that priests accompanied the seaman and soldiers of Spain and Portugal? Or the fact that a desire for religious freedom drove many English settlers westward?
  2. Why *were* Europeans more curious than others? Or, another way of asking it, why didn't Moslems and Chinese, for example, do the same kind of sustained exploration
  3. While discovering others different from themselves, Europeans made these peoples aware of themselves. And also made them begin to think of themselves as different from (and perhaps superior to) Europeans. That would take time, but it began with the European impact on the rest of the world. What do you think?
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- **E. Protestant Reformation.**
    - Luther said each person was his own priest.  
Emphasized Bible study.
    - John Calvin stressed individual in doctrine of elect. The elect held eminent positions because of individual merit.
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- 1. Is another word for "profit" greed?
  - 2. The medieval church taught that the lending of money at interest was contrary to nature and to God's laws. Jews, however, could be lenders because they were outside the Church. In other words, capital was needed, but Christians shouldn't be amassing it?
  - 3. Historians have disagreed about whether Protestantism stimulated capitalism by an emphasis on proving one's election by success. Is there a Protestant ethic which values work as godly?
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- **F. Baroque Art and Music.** The Baroque is characterized by exuberance and flamboyance; held in check by rigid discipline of the medium or the methods. Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-1669) and “Anatomy Lesson of Dr. Tulp”
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- Anatomy Lesson of Dr. Tulp
  - <http://www.ibiblio.org/wm/paint/auth/rembrandt/1630/nicolaes-tulp.jpg>
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- Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750). Sought to fuse the voices of the fugue into one whole. Art of the Fugue.
  - **G. The Scientific Revolution.** Desire for control of nature. Required exact observations and measurements. **Mathematics.**
    - Nicholas Copernicus (1473-1543)
    - Galileo Galilei (1564-1642)
    - Johannes Kepler (1571-1630)
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- *Rene Descartes (1596-1650)*
  - *Isaac Newton (1642-1727)*
  - *Francis Bacon (1561-1626). Knowledge is power.*
  
  - *H. Corollary is Idea of Secular Progress.*
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- We have stated that the idea of progress is an essential component of Europe as a culture. This new emphasis, however, is on progress as a secular trend, coming in the here and now, in this world. How did the transition to this world from the next occur? Is mankind making progress?
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- I. New Attitudes toward the State. Niccolo Machiavelli (1469-1527).
  - J. Varieties of Modern Secular State.
    - Absolute monarchy of Louis XIV of France.
    - British and American models.
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