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ENGL 201

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Typically people assume the Enlightenment and the Renaissance share similar characteristics, and though they both bring about changes to the world, there are numerous differences during these historical events. The Enlightenment is known as the Age of Reason, which took place from 1685 to 1815. Throughout this movement, the politics, philosophy, science, and communications of Europe were reformed. Christians especially in this age began to change their beliefs in their religion. In comparison, the Renaissance was a time of rebirth during the 1300s to 1600s. This era focused on art, ancient knowledge, and religion, mainly focusing on letting individuals express themselves freely. As far worldviews go, the Enlightenment was centered around the intellectual side of humanity, while the Renaissance was aimed more towards the artistic side of humanity. People saw these time periods as a chance for progression. The Renaissance was seen as an inspiration to people looking to grow the knowledge of reasons, technologies, and sciences; however, the Enlightenment was and still is influential to reason, rationality, and objectivity. The political theory during the Enlightenment led to three political revolutions: The English Revolution (1688), the American Revolution (1775–83), and the French Revolution (1789–99). These revolutions make way for the current democracies in the world today.

Some key thinkers and writers during the Enlightenment are John Locke, Isaac Newton, Voltaire, Adam Smith, Galileo Galilei, and Johannes Kepler. John Locke is known as the “Father of Liberalism,” Adam Smith is very well known for the *Wealth of Nations*, and Voltaire is known for [freedom of religion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom_of_religion), [freedom of speech](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom_of_speech) and [separation of church and state](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Separation_of_church_and_state). Isaac Newton is credited for the principles of physics, Galileo Galilei believed the heliocentric theory Copernicus came up with was true, and Johannes Kepler said that the planets moved in an elliptical motion.

<http://www.differencebetween.net/miscellaneous/culture-miscellaneous/difference-between-renaissance-world-view-and-enlightenment-world-view/>

<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/enlightenment/#PolThe>

<https://www.history.com/topics/enlightenment>