

Concepts of Western Culture

{ What Western Culture has contributed to:

Materialism

Historical materialism springs from a fundamental underlying reality of human existence: that in order for human beings to survive and continue existence from generation to generation, it is necessary for them to produce and reproduce the material requirements of life.

Industrials

6 THEMES

{ THE THEMES THAT RUN THROUGH
WESTERN CIVILIZATIONS

Throughout the history of civilization, religion has played an essential role in many societies. There are many reasons why religions have played such a prominent role in defining the culture of a society, but arguably the most notable of these reasons is that a belief or faith in a spiritual or divine power can add meaning and significance to many people's worldly lives.

Religion – and the conflicts it has caused has continually shaped and changed which societies and cultures are dominant during certain periods of Western Civilization.

RELIGION

The “ Science of Ideas”

the process of production of meanings, signs and values in social life;

a body of ideas characteristic of a particular social group or class;

is a collection of beliefs held by an individual, group or society.
It can be described as a set of conscious and unconscious ideas
which make up one's beliefs, goals, expectations, and motivations.

An ideology is a comprehensive normative vision that is followed by people,
governments, or other groups that is considered the correct way
by the majority of the population.

Beliefs about politics, science, medicine, philosophy , architecture. = Social Norms.

Ex: A Canadian Ideology of our culture is clothing – we can wear what we wish,
but must cover certain portions of our bodies to be considered socially acceptable.

IDEOLOGY

Is an outlook or system of thought attaching prime importance to human rather than divine or supernatural matters.

Humanist beliefs stress the potential value and goodness of human beings, emphasize common human needs, and seek solely rational ways of solving human problems.

a Renaissance cultural movement that turned away from medieval scholasticism and revived interest in ancient Greek and Roman thought.

Philosophy. a variety of ethical theory and practice that emphasizes reason, scientific inquiry, and human fulfillment in the natural world and often rejects the importance of belief in God.

HUMANISM

individualism did not exist in the ancient world.

“Since the sixteenth century and the advent of the nation-state, people in the West have come to understand ‘society’ to mean an association of individuals.”

Antiquity had no notion of the powers of the government being limited by the rights of individuals, even for family heads.

“Citizens belonged to the city, body and soul.”

Women, children, slaves and non-citizens held no rights and lived only at the pleasure of the family head.

is the moral stance, political philosophy, ideology, or social outlook that emphasizes the moral worth of the individual. Individualists promote the exercise of one's goals and desires and so value independence and self-reliance and advocate that interests of the individual should achieve precedence over the state or a social group.

INDIVIDUALISM

Secularism is a principle that involves two basic ideas.

The first is the strict separation of the state from religious institutions.

The second is that people of different religions and beliefs are equal before the law.

The separation of religion and state is the foundation of secularism.

It ensures that religious groups don't interfere in affairs of state, and makes sure the state doesn't interfere in religious affairs.

Secularism ensures that the right of individuals to freedom of religion is always balanced by the right to be free from religion.

SECULARISM

is generally any questioning attitude or doubt towards one or more items of knowledge or belief. It is often directed at domains, such as morality (moral skepticism), religion (skepticism about the existence of God), or the nature of knowledge (skepticism of knowledge)

Skeptics may even doubt the reliability of their own sense

Being skeptical meant that a person was able to think critically and methodically. Be able to think methodically lead to the creation of science.

Scepticism is arguably the most influential philosophical movement in the history of Western civilization

SCEPTICISM

First Assignment: