

The advancement and progression of society has been able to persist because of influential metaphysical movements, such as the Enlightenment. The 18th century philosophical movement that shattered traditional ideals is characterized by the belief in the potency of human reason and ingenuity in political, educational, and religious principles. As suggestive of the era in history, the word enlightenment itself is defined as revelation of intellectual or spiritual thought. The revolutionary light, cast by copious brilliant thinkers, encompassed several aspects of society, and its fluoresce still lingers today.

Prior to the Enlightenment another movement referred to as the Scientific Revolution revealed earth's true physical laws of nature. This movement ultimately stimulated the Enlightenment through the plethora of discoveries and findings by inquiring minds. The Scientific Revolution altered the way people lived as pedantic figures began to question the working of society and its structure. The success of new science and technology promoted philosophy to test the old traditional ideas for the construction of new beliefs.

Furthermore, the Enlightenment includes various types doctrine. Such differing schools of thought include rationalism, skepticism, and romanticism. Romanticism is undoubtedly the best approach to live by as skepticism and rationalism leave little room for enjoying the true vitality of life. The belief of rationalism declares that truth comes from the rational mind, not from the exterior, outside, observable world or any observable thing. Similar to some degree is the doctrine of skepticism, a belief that everything is subject to uncertainty to an extent. Skeptics believe that nothing is ever known absolutely, and so tend to agree more with rationalists because they admit science would never be wholly correct. Conversely, romanticism involves

the restoration and glorification of natural order and the natural man. Romanticism encourages the return to life as it can be observed, felt, and encountered. The philosophy promotes reliance on emotion, intuition and instinct, essential attributes needed to be successful in several ventures such as relationships or business. Romanticism permits one to enjoy the beauty of nature and embrace life's simplistic joy. Too much reason clouds the inherent serenity in the world. Over analyzing makes something easy, cumbersome and complex unnecessarily. Reason also eliminates tolerance as it often paints situations and ideas in black and white, leaving no room for different interpretations or perspectives. Likewise, skepticism fails to recognize the true quality of anything in life. Therefore, how is anything of importance or appreciated for its artificial greatness? Romanticism, however, allows one to take pleasure in life, without the burdens rationality often brings.

Moreover, the ideals of the Enlightenment are still seen in society today. Mankind have made tremendous strides in technology with advances in medicines, appliances, and communications, spurred by minds rejecting traditional doctrine. Similarly, individuals in school are often encouraged to be innovative and progressive in thought, causing people to learn, which is the gateway to discovery. There are also organizations and laws to help preserve the earth and its natural beauty, a major indication of romanticism still alive in present day.

Conclusively, romanticism can be employed in daily life. By staying true to myself, the very essence of this philosophy is at work. This includes standing up for my beliefs and living with confidence in who I am. Embracing my authentic human nature while appreciating the simplistic beauty of life and the world it encompasses also fulfills romanticism's purpose. For

instance, cherishing the picturesque scene of the sunrise or planting a tree achieves the latter.

In essence, the Enlightenment was a movement that transformed the traditional ideas and thoughts of a previous time period. Its influential philosophies are still implemented today, perpetually emitting the light of knowledge to inquiring minds of all people.

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According to the Oxford dictionary enlightenment is the action or state of attaining or having attained spiritual knowledge or insight. Human enlightenment is realized dozens of times throughout history and continues to be perceived today. The man who became the Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama, is said to have reached a mental state that he called enlightenment after several days of meditation. Sir Isaac Newton was enlightened after his discovery of gravity and its three laws. These two instances do not even begin to scratch the surface of what enlightenment entails. There are; however, two distinctly different philosophical thought processes. The first being religious thought and the second rationalism. While religious enlightenment and romanticism have their own noteworthy merit, rationalism holds the best approach to life.

Technological entrepreneurs, political leaders, and medical minds all share one thing in common despite vastly different fields: a rational thinking process. Not only do they make millions, but also have the lifestyle many Americans harbor envy for. Logical thinking has lead to multiple scientific advancements, including sending a high tech robot on mars, creating an implant to treat complex brain aneurysms, building a gene sequence machine that can map a whole genome in two hours, and there are thousands of more examples that prove the superiority of rational thought to reach enlightenment.

Observing the world in a more rational frame of mind can be challenging. Nevertheless, incorporating it into one's lifestyle can make a massive difference on the most minute details to the most important. For example, math and science homework can be finished quicker and even more accurately by viewing the problems in a logical manner over

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a romanticized one, and most people already conduct their lives in this manner. The solution to a difficult personal problem can be found by simply changing perspective. One situation that comes to mind is choosing where to live after college, a problem that many people face. Emotional thought only considers where friends and significant others will live while rational mind is more apt to look at job prospects, cost of living and the like.

Rationalism is by far the best philosophical school of thought both in the age of The Enlightenment and today. Historical events not only support this, but the fact that it is still the most prominent form of thinking in modern society further proves its superiority. Its versatility to be part of everyday life is yet another reason why it has thrived and led mankind to success.

Enlightenment

The Enlightenment sometimes called the Age of Reason was an intellectual movement in 18th century Europe. This movement valued natural, humanistic attitudes. The Enlightenment was stimulated by the Scientific Revolution. The Scientific Revolution was instrumental to the beginning of the Enlightenment because it served as a catalyst for new philosophy as it placed an emphasis for change on humanity. Through this revolution, people began to see the success in understanding the physical world through logic and observation. Since the Scientific Revolution was able to possess a breakthrough with logic and observation, Enlightenment philosophers expected to see the same breakthrough, except they hoped to see it in politics and social issues.

The Enlightenment is often compared to the Renaissance movement as it contains similar characteristics. Each movement had an optimistic, natural, and humanistic approach. Each movement also looked for answers instead of going by faith. The most significant difference was that the Renaissance was a movement that searched for past knowledge as the Enlightenment was a movement whose sole purpose was to break away from the past. This was a move from ancient history to the modern world.

Rationalism, skepticism, and romanticism were the three primary philosophical schools of thought during the Enlightenment. Rationalism was any view appealing to reason as a source of knowledge or justification. The use of deductive reasoning is applied in this philosophical school. Rationalism is a philosophy that predicts and explains behavior based on logic, such as mathematics and science. Skepticism was a philosophical school of thought that crossed disciplines and cultures. This movement led to the rejecting of the external world. Skepticism also denied the possibility of certainty in knowledge. The philosophical school of skepticism was basically a disbelief of claims lacking supporting evidence. Romanticism was an artistic, literary,

and intellectual movement. It was a movement that happened as a result of the Industrial Revolution. This movement focused heavily on visual arts, music, and literature. It had major impacts on natural science and education. Romanticism was able to bring about strong emotions, such as terror and horror. This movement was also an escape from the political and social norms of society as it began to praise individuals and artists.

The school of thought that I believe takes a better approach to life is the philosophical school of rationalism. I believe rationalism is the better approach because it is based upon logic. Logic can be supported by performing many tests, so being able to understand deductive reasoning is important. I also believe rationalism is better because it is any view appealing to reason as a source of knowledge or justification. This method of reasoning stimulates the mind, which is important in today's society.

The ideas of the Enlightenment are still in use today. The Enlightenment ideas were very influential as they influenced the formation of the United States. Our politics, government, freedom of oppression, natural rights and freedom of religion were heavily influenced by the Enlightenment and its philosophers. The American Revolution was a result of the colonists who stood up against the British. The British imposed unfair taxes upon the colonists, but the colonists stood up against this oppression and declared the taxes unfair. Our government system is based off of Montesquieu whom believed in a balance of power. He believed that the government should contain three branches. Rousseau believed in a democratic government. Freedom of religion was also an Enlightenment idea. The Great Awakening brought about a new understanding between the relationship with God and with the Church. This new understanding allowed people to choose their religions freely. The United States is a democracy, has three branches of government, and also allows for freedom of religion. Even though the Enlightenment

ideas were thought of in the 18th century, we still use them in our government, politics, and religion today.

In conclusion, the philosophical school of rationalism is implemented in my everyday life. I am currently taking AP Calculus and AP Chemistry. During and outside of class, I have to use the information I am given to construct a logical explanation. When I use my reasoning skills, I am able to use the information I comprehended as a source of knowledge and justification. The Enlightenment was an intellectual movement that focused on natural, humanistic attitudes. It was also a political and social movement for European society. The Enlightenment has not only moved countries away from the past, it has moved them towards a better future.