

HHI22
Spring 2013
Discussion Sheet #1

Wednesday, January 22, 2013

First Day of Class: Organizational, The World in 1650

Friday, January 24, 2013

Absolutism

Readings Due: Text: chap. 24, pp. 534-42; Anthology: Bossuet, Hobbes.

Hobbes, *Leviathan*

- 1) What is Hobbes' view of human beings?
- 2) What does Hobbes' mean by the *Right of Nature*?
- 3) How does Hobbes believe humans can co-exist within a society?

Bossuet, *Politics Drawn From the Very Words of Holy Scripture*

- 1) What is *rule by divine right*? Why is it significant?
- 2) What are the powers and privileges of the king?
- 3) What is the role of the people?

General Question: What is Absolutism? What other governmental options existed at the time?

Monday, January 28, 2013

Scientific Revolution

Readings Due: Text: chap. 24, pp. 543-56; **Source II:** Francis Bacon, Isaac Newton

Bacon, *Novum Organum* (Johnson)

- 1) According to Bacon, what is the solution to the so-called *idols* that plague human thinking?
- 2) How can humans supersede them?

Newton, *Optics and the Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy* (Johnson)

- 1) How is one supposed to study the natural world?
- 2) What assumptions is one supposed to make about the natural world?
- 3) What keeps the Universe together according to Newton?

General Question: What is science? What does it say about the human self and identity?

Wednesday, January 30, 2013

Enlightenment

Readings Due: Text: chap. 25, pp. 570-79; Anthology: Locke

Locke, *Of Civil Government*

- 1) What is the purpose of laws in society?
- 2) What does Locke mean by *property*?
- 3) What is *liberty in society* mean for Locke?
- 4) What is the ultimate purpose of government?

General Question: What is the Enlightenment? What are some of its ideas regarding identity and government? How did it spread and why is it important?

Friday, February 1, 2013

Enlightenment

Readings Due: Sources II: Adam Smith

Smith, *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations*

- 1) What does Smith consider to be the role of government in economic production?
- 2) What is the ideal form of trade for Smith?
- 3) What is the general tone of Smith's writing?