

Shifting Landscape: Western Europe

French Revolution

- Sparked by poor economic conditions, king (Louis XVI) and court spending high — sought new taxes from clergy and nobility
- Called Estates General (parliament) to force; 3 orders: clergy, nobility, bourgeoisie
- Groups divided, formed National Assembly refusing to disband until France had a constitution
- Arrest of Necker resulted in riots culminating July 14, 1789

- King capitulated ordering other two orders to join National Assembly forming National Constituent Assembly which issued *Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen*
- When king refused it, populous rioted making king and family prisoner in capitol city
- Assembly reorganized government of the nation in civil, economic and religious aspects
- Civil Constitution sought to reorganize Catholic Church in France particularly around abuses, though many thought Church and Christianity part of superstitious past and should be destroyed

- Assembly decreed all who held ecclesiastical office must swear allegiance to Civil Constitution, if refused deposed — only those who swore supported by state; those refusing grew to be accused of counterrevolutionary activities and were persecuted
- 1791 National Constituent Assembly by Legislative Assembly; Day after Battle of Valmy National Convention replaced Legislative Assembly and abolished the monarchy and proclaimed the Republic
- Economy continued poorly leading to revolt. Fear of foreign invasion making many suspected of counterrevolutionary sentiments so guillotine

- Also strong anti-Christian sentiment, both Catholic and Protestant; New revolution leaders convinced harbingers of new era of science and reason to overcome superstition and religion giving rise to cult of reason or of the supreme being; this was done with the use of the guillotine
- Until Napoleon Bonaparte became master of France in 1799; opened negotiations with Pius VII and in 1801 papacy and French government agreed to Concordat
- Pope allowed authority in France church as long as didn't interfere with emperor's policies.

New Europe

- Borders of France reset to where they were before Revolution and house of Bourbon restored
- Most monarchs that Napoleon had deposed restored to thrones; hoped that these measures would bring peace to war torn continent but social and political tensions led to conspiracies, revolts and upheavals
- One source Italy and Germany's desire for national unity but opposed by Austria
- 1848 riots and revolts in Germany, Italy, Belgium, GB, Switzerland and France

- After Camillo di Cavour became Premier in 1852 with the help of Napoleon III Cavour began enterprise of Italian unity. In 1870 King Victor Emmanuel of Italy took Rome completing the unification of the peninsula (Vatican, Lateran, and Castle Gandolfo to pope)
- Dominant figure in Germany Otto von Bismarck became chancellor of Prussia in 1862 who excluded Austria from German Confederation then molded it into single nation after 10 years Germany was united under Wilhelm of Prussia
- Bismarck's religious policy against RC because majority in Austria

- After French Revolution relationship between Church and State began breaking down leading to free church (not funded by state)

Developments in Great Britain

- Industrial Revolution benefited middle class & capitalists but undermined aristocracy and poor. Cities grew rapidly due to industry and trade creating overcrowded slums giving the poor terrible working and living conditions
- House of Commons had increased power at expense of House of Lords. All this led to migration to US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

- During 19th c. renewal in Church of England; some of this renewal came from Evangelical wing of CoE. Others preferred *Oxford movement* becoming Anglo-Catholics. This led to renewal of devotional life and rebirth of monasticism in CoE (monks and nuns) meeting the needs of the poor and ill.
- Most vitality from dissident churches; growing middle class swelled membership of Methodists, Baptists and Congregationalists. These formed Sunday Schools, YMCA, YWCA and new denominations, i.e. Salvation Army 1864
- By support and inspiration of Methodists, Quakers and more birth of labour unions, prison reforms and child labour laws.

- Biggest contribution the abolition of slavery; William Wilberforce and other Christians
- 1806 & 1811: Parliament issued laws forbidding slave trade
- 1833: freedom decreed for all slaves in British Caribbean and later for other British colonies
- treaties sought with other nations to end slave trade

Protestant Theology

New Currents of Thought

- Beginning of 19th c. Industrial Revolution had reached most of Western Europe and some New World, led to mass movements of people seeking employment in industrial centres.
- Traditional extended family (parents, uncles, aunts, cousins) weakened and nuclear family had to bear greater burden to transmit traditions and values.
- More saw lives as private responsibility; individualism and self

- Idea of progress, no longer look to the old but to new. Applied science produced wealth and comfort never before seen. Future seemed to have no limit.
- Problems of I.R. would be overcome by applied technology.
- Darwin's theory of evolution showed even nature is progressing. Progress part of the structure of the universe. So this must also be true for history, concluding people had not always been what they are now, intellectual and religious views had evolved too.
- Solution for social ills to encourage progress in social structures.

- So, socialism was a common theme in those focused on social conditions
- Karl Marx (*Communist Manifesto*) became most influential, recognizing that ideas always have social and political functions, i.e. dominant class ideas bolster existing order
- Religion part of structure to support the powerful, “the opiate of the people.”
- Late 19th c. Sigmund Freud focus on subconscious moving the psyche: sex and aggression remain no matter repression

Schleiermacher's Theology

- His family was reformed, but educated by Moravians leaving mark on theology
- Using Romanticism to help him out of his doubts created by Rationalism he wrote those in Romanticism the importance of religion for human life
- Main argument religion is not form a knowledge or system of morality but a feeling (not sentimental or passing or sudden) — profound awareness of existence of One on whom all existence depends (ours and the worlds)

- Purpose of religious bodies to communicate to others and future generations particular forming experiences so they can share in same feeling
- Protestant community based two fundamental historical moments: Jesus and impact he made on his first disciples and Reformation of 16th c.
- Function of theology to explore and expound implications of feeling of dependance at three levels: self, relations with the world, and relations with God
- Anything not related to feeling of dependance has no place in theology, i.e. creation important (how is not)
- Allowed him to interpret Christianity so not contradicting science

Hegel's System

- G.W.F. Hegel (1770-1831) started with theology but found it too narrow a field of study, whole of reality instead
- Reality must be seen as a whole not disconnected things and events; can do this through affirming identity of reason and reality, “What is rational exists, and what exists is rational.”
- Reason = process of thinking: *thesis*, *antithesis*, and *synthesis*, i.e. dynamic reason constantly advancing.
- Universal reason — *the Spirit* is the whole of reality

- Built system including entirety of history as the thought of the Spirit. Past is never lost but surpassed and included in new synthesis — present includes the past and sums it up and the future which is rational development of present.
- Convinced Christianity was absolute religion summing up entire process of human religious development
- Central theme is relationship between God and humanity reaches apex in incarnation — divine and human fully united
- Doctrine of Trinity affirms dynamic nature of ultimate reality; Father (God alone) Son (creation) Spirit (community)

Kierkegaard's Work

- Soren Aabye Kierkegaard (1813-1855) believed his intellectual gifts meant he was called to special mission and every other call must give way, including engagement.
- Reason unable to penetrate ultimate truth, faith can. Christianity is a matter of faith in the God whose revelation comes to us in Scriptures and in Jesus Christ.
- True faith cannot be an easy matter or a means to tranquil life. Faith is a risk, adventure that requires self-denial and denial of joys of the faithless.

- Greatest enemy of Christianity is Christendom which purpose was to simplify becoming a Christian. To be Christian was to be neither Muslim or Jew.
- Cheap Christianity with neither cost or pain, “crime of Christendom” “takes God for a fool.” Real tragedy is few realize how ridiculous it is to speak of God in such terms.
- Saw his calling as “making Christianity difficult.” One must recognize the cost of faith and pay the price. Has to do with person’s existence not merely intellect.

Roman Catholic Christianity

- 1st part of 20th c. RC followed policies from Council of Trent, mainly reaction to Protestantism. Reaction to modern world fear and condemnation.
- John XXIII (pope 1958-1963): task to restore communication with world. 3 months after election prepared to call council. Called other bishops brother bishops asking advice rather than ruling like monarch. 2 years to prepare for council. October 11, 1962 opened Second Vatican Council.
- Opening speech call to respond to concerns of modern world not condemnation

- First document to be discussed liturgy — needed renewal
- Pope John died June 1963 and Pope Paul VI (1963-1978) declared council to continue it's work. Call to build a bridge between the Church and the modern world.
- Authorized use of vernacular languages in the liturgy and freedom to adapt it to local context. Issued documents on church, Eastern churches, and ecumenism. Emphasized centrality of Christ to counteract extreme devotion to Mary. Emphasized the church as the people of God, clergy and laity. Declared religious freedom for people and groups. Recognized unique relationship with Israel (Jews).

- Paul VI (died 1979), John Paul I (brief), John Paul II (1st non-Italian pope since 16th c.) Polish knowing struggle under Germans and Russians (Fascism and Communism). His election shows tension between CC and Communist government. His election eventually led to fall of Communism in Poland and Poland's freedom from Soviet Empire.
- In 1995 with fall of Soviet Empire and end of Communism in Russia, he issued encyclical calling for greater efforts to bridge distance between Catholics, Orthodox, and Protestants.
- Faced with issues of sexual abuse by priest, ordination of women, and removing celibacy for priests

- He spoke strong words on plight of poor and injustice of their oppression. Issued directives against priests holding political office. Died in 2005 and succeeded by German Benedict XVI.
- 2006 dropped traditional title patriarch of the West as gesture of openness to Eastern Orthodoxy.
- 2009 insisting on celibacy for priesthood, accepted married Anglican clergy into priesthood who converted to Catholicism when Anglican communion divided over ordination of homosexuals.

Theological Developments

- Pierre Teilhard de Chardin (1881-1955) Jesuit interested in theory of evolution. Wrote not survival of the fittest but complexity and consciousness Jesus Christ being the omega point; joining of humanity with divine without losing humanity. Influenced both Catholics and Protestants to look at eschatology as starting point for theology.
- Henri de Lubac (1896-1991) Jesuit: Whole history had the single goal of Jesus Christ, the church (body of Christ) is a sacrament in the midst of the world.

- Yves Congar (1904-1995) Dominican people of God dominant and laity focus of attention. Resulted in openness to other Christians unusual prior.
- Karl Rainer (1904-1984) Jesuit desired to bring mystery back into the heart of everyday life. Open to renewed interpretation of tradition, often at variance with Rome.

The Pilgrim's Progress

Week 9

Pages 113-127

1. Why are mountains an important symbol for Christians?
Note: Lewis uses a mountain in The Last Battle.
2. Ignorance answers Christians question by what means will the gate be open and he replies, "I know my Lord's will, and I have been a good liver, I pay every man his own; I pray, fast, pay tithes, and give alms, and have left my country for whither I am going." What, then, is the gate?
3. What was the point of the story of Little-Faith?
4. How should the pilgrims been able to recognize Flatterer?