

Chapter 4 Section 4

New Age of Science

Focus Questions #15

- List three effects created by the scientific revolution.
- What are some of the innovations brought by this revolution?
- What is Darwin's theory?
- Why is Darwin's theory controversial to many Europeans?

New Age Science

- Is a period that occurs because of the rapid advances in science and technology fueled by industrial growth.
- This period as a result challenges religious faith and ideas of God, creating division in many European societies and well as American society.

Effects of the Scientific Revolution

- Created a modern rational approach to the study of the natural world.
- Led to new discoveries in science like; vaccine to smallpox, germ theory, medical practices, material elements and their atomic weight.
- Most importantly these new scientific methods questioned and undermined the religious faith of many people.

Effects of the Scientific Revolution

- As a result secularization increased throughout Europe.
- Secularization is defined as the indifference to or rejection of religion in the affairs of the world.
- For many people as a result truth was now to be found in science and not religion.

Charles Darwin

- Created the concept of humans as beings who were part of the natural world.
- His theory proposed that each species or kind of plant or animal had evolved over millions of years from earlier simpler forms of life.
- Organic Evolution is referred to this theory.

Survival of the Fittest

- This theory argued that some organisms are better to adapt to changes in the environment than others.
- Those that survive reproduce and thrive, while the unfit do not. (survival of the fittest)
- Darwin argued that human beings had animal origins and were not an exception to the rule.

Controversy

- Darwin's ideas raised a storm of controversy. Some people objected that this theory made humans beings ordinary products of nature and not unique creations of God.
- Other people were bothered because they felt he did not grant God a role in creation as described in the Bible.
- Gradually however many scientists and other intellectuals came to accept Darwinism.
- As a result new age science challenges the ideal of religion, creating a conflict that continues today.