

Chapter 8

Changes in the World of Ideas

Further reading

General: For an introductory guide to the intellectual and cultural world of the late eighteenth century the see Tim Blanning, *The Pursuit of Glory, Europe 1648–1815*, London, Allen Lane, 2007. The best reference book on the literary aspects of the period is Margaret Drabble, *The Oxford Companion to English Literature*, Oxford, OUP, 1985. The history of music is well covered in Donald J. Grout and Claude V. Palisca, *A History of Western Music*, London, W.W. Norton, 1996. For further reference see *The Oxford Concise Dictionary of Music*, Oxford, OUP, 2004. There are two excellent books on Romantic art: Hugh Honour, *Romanticism*, London, Pelican Books, 1981 and David Blayden Brown, *Romanticism*, London, Phaidon, 2001. On the intellectual challenges to Christianity in the nineteenth century see Owen Chadwick's wide ranging and masterly *The Secularisation of the European Mind in the Nineteenth Century*, Cambridge, CUP, 1975; Nigel Aston, *Christianity and revolutionary Europe*, Cambridge, CUP, 2002; and *Religious Change in Europe, 1650–1814*, ed. Nigel Aston, Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1997. Literature: There is an admirable guide to English Romantic writers by D. Stevens, *Romanticism*, Cambridge University Press, 2004. See also Duncan Wu, *Romanticism: an Anthology*, Oxford, Blackwell, 2005 and Marilyn Butler, *Romantics, Rebels and Reactionaries: English Literature and its Background, 1760–1830*, Oxford, OUP, 1981. L. Furst provides a very useful anthology of European texts in *European Romanticism*, London, Methuen, 1980. On French literature see *French Literature and its Background: the Early Nineteenth Century*, ed. John Cruikshank, Oxford, OUP, 1969. On German literature see N. Boyle, *German Literature, A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford, OUP, 2007. For those who wish to dig more deeply see Boyle's *Goethe, The Poet and the Age, the Poetry of Desire* Oxford, OUP, 1991 and *Goethe, The Poet and the Age, Revolution and Renewal*, Oxford, OUP, 2001. A good introduction to Russian literature and culture can be found in Orlando Figes, *Natasha's Dance*, London, Allen Lane, 2002. For a more detailed picture of the literary scene in the early nineteenth century see T.J. Binyon, *Pushkin*, London, HarperCollins, 2002. Music and Art: Useful articles on all the writers, composers and painters mentioned can be found on the Internet, together.

See also Diarmaid MacCulloch, *A History of Christianity*, London, Allen Lane, 2009

Religion

- Pope Pius IX, Encyclical *The Syllabus of Errors* (1864)
- Ernest Renan, *The Life of Jesus* (1863)

Both documents may most easily be accessed via

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbook37.html>, Religion in the Face of Modernity –

Catholicism – The Popes; Protestantism – Biblical Criticism

Literature

- Percy Bysshe Shelley, *In Defence of Poetry*, Internet Modern History Sourcebook, <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/shelley-poetry.html>
- William Wordsworth, *Poems by William Wordsworth, including Lyrical Ballads and miscellaneous pieces by the author*, London, 1815, pp. viii –xlii, Google Books
- J.C. Friedrich Schiller, *Letters upon the Aesthetic Education of Man, 1794*, Internet History Source Book: Romanticism, <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/schiller.education>

Music

The following suggestions may be found on various web sites, notably iTunes and Spotify. They have been selected to reveal both the continuities in the European musical tradition and the innovations introduced in the nineteenth century.

(a) Symphonies:

- W.A. Mozart, Symphonies No. 38 (the *Prague*), in D, K504, 1786; No. 39 in E. flat, K 543, 1788; No. 40 in G minor, K. 550; No 41 (the *Jupiter*), K551, 1788
- Ludwig van Beethoven. Symphony No 3 in E flat (the *Eroica*), 1805; Symphony no 6 in F (the *Pastoral*) 1808
- Franz Schubert, Symphony No. 8 in B minor (the *Unfinished*), 1822

(b) String Quartets (two violins, viola and 'cello)

- W.A. Mozart, String Quartet No 19 in C (the *Dissonance*), 1785
- J. Haydn, String Quartet, op.76 , in C (the *Emperor*), 1797
- Ludwig van Beethoven, String Quartet No 14 in C sharp minor, op. 131, 1826
- Franz Schubert, No 14 in D minor (*Death and the Maiden*), 1824

(c) Songs:

- Franz Schubert, *Erlkonig*, 1815; *An die Musik*, 1817; *Wintereise* (Song Cycle), 1823-4
- Robert Schumann, Song cycles, *Frauenliebe und Leben*, 1840; *Dichterliebe*, 1840

Art

- Sir Joshua Reynolds, *Seven Discourses on Art*, <http://www.authorama.com/seven-discourses-on-art-1.html>.
- *Memoirs of the Life of John Constable*, Google Books, C.R. Leslie, *Memoirs of the Life of John Constable*, R.A., London, 1845, Google Books

For the following individual paintings: <http://abcgallery.com/alfaind.html>

- Jacques-Louis David, *The Death of Marat*, Olga's Gallery, <http://www.abcgallery.com/D/david/david7.html>
- Eugene Delacroix, *The Massacre at Chios*, 1824, Olga's Gallery, <http://www.abcgallery.com/D/delacroix/delacroix40.html>
- Theodore Gericault, *The Raft of Medusa*, Olga's Gallery, <http://www.abcgallery.com/D/david/gericault4.html>
- Francisco Goya, *The Disasters of War*, 1812-1820, <http://homepage.mac.com/dmhart/WarArt/StudyGuides/Goya.html>
- Caspar David Friedrich, *The Cross in the Mountains*, 1808, <http://caspardavidfriedrich.org/The-Cross-In-The-Mountains-1808.html>
- John Constable, *Boatbuilding*, 1808, Olga's Gallery, <http://www.abcgallery.com/C/constable/constable.html>
- J.M.W. Turner, *Rain, Steam and Speed, The Great Western Railway*, 1844, The National Gallery, <http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/artists/joseph-mallord-william-turner>

From the computer to democracy, the free market to Charles Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection, the top ten ideas in the world. But the invention of the computer would not have been possible without parallel developments in logic in the 20th century by philosophers such as Bertrand Russell and Ludwig Wittgenstein. To build a machine that calculates with ideas, we have to understand the forms of reasoning into which ideas fit.

2. the copernican revolution. The recognition that the Earth orbits the Sun (and not vice versa) arguably marks the start of the modern era. The Polish astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus gave the first clear statement of this in 1543: human beings and their planet were no longer the centre of everything.

What ideas do you think changed the world?

1. Farming Ask people what the most important historical revolution is and their answers might include: the Industrial Revolution, the Information Revolution, or maybe even the French Revolution. But without the Neolithic Revolution, none of the above would have taken place.

Although not all the freedoms available on the Internet are positive, the fact that in the present anyone can be, for example, a journalist, a dj or a filmmaker is changing how we live daily. Only time will tell, however, the full impact of this revolution on human society.

8. Soap Difficult to imagine, or for that matter, smell, a society without soap. However, will these ideas actually make your life better? Can I change the world? essay exciting? Will they help you stand out? Definitely not! Every idea should be supported by details or appropriate examples. In the rest of the body paragraph, you should explain why these examples prove your thesis. Use helpful transition words to naturally lead the reader to the following paragraph.