

Chapter 6 Worksheet/Study Guide The Enlightenment

FAS reminded us in Chapter 5 that “what the Reformation’s return to biblical teaching gave society was the opportunity for tremendous freedom, but without chaos. That is, an individual had freedom because there was a consensus based upon the absolutes given in the Bible, and therefore real values within which to have freedom, without these freedoms leading to chaos. The world had not known anything like this before.” (Page 113)

It was these freedoms that eventually led to “The Bloodless Revolution,” which took place from 1688 to 1689 in England. It involved the overthrow of the Catholic King James II, who was replaced by his Protestant daughter Mary and her Dutch husband, William of Orange. Motives for the revolution were complex and included both political and religious concerns. The event ultimately changed how England was governed, giving Parliament more power over the monarchy and planting seeds for the beginnings of a political democracy.

1. FAS says, “The utopian dream of the Enlightenment can be summed up by five words: **reason, nature, happiness, progress, and liberty**. It was thoroughly secular in its thinking. The humanistic elements which had risen during the Renaissance came to flood tide in the Enlightenment. Here was man starting from himself absolutely. And if the humanistic elements of the Renaissance stand in sharp contrast to the Reformation, the Enlightenment was in total antithesis to it. The two stood for and were based upon **absolutely different things in an absolute way, and they produced absolutely different results**. (Page 132, para 2)

- Using the five words of the utopian dream of the Enlightenment listed above, contrast each from the humanistic view of Enlightenment vs. God’s view. (Hint: Use the Bible)

Reason: _____

Nature: _____

Happiness: _____

Progress: _____

Liberty: _____

2. Much of the content in Chapter 6 (Pages 133-139) is FAS contrasting the outcomes of the French Revolution (Massacre and authoritarian leadership) and the Russian Revolution (Communist dictatorship and repression) with England's Bloodless Revolution and the Revolution in the United States.

Using the lens of beliefs determine actions and actions have consequences, take a few minutes to summarize in writing what you read.

3. FAS says on Page 139, para 3: "Seeing the contrast between the Reformation countries and the Communist and southern European countries, we must not minimize the riches in government and society which came forth from the Reformation. Even in those places where the Reformation consensus was less consistent than it should have been on the **basis of the biblical view, there were absolutes** on which to combat injustice."

What message does this have for our country today?

4. Realizing this book was first published in 1977, what should be our response to FAS's words on page 141, para 2-3?
