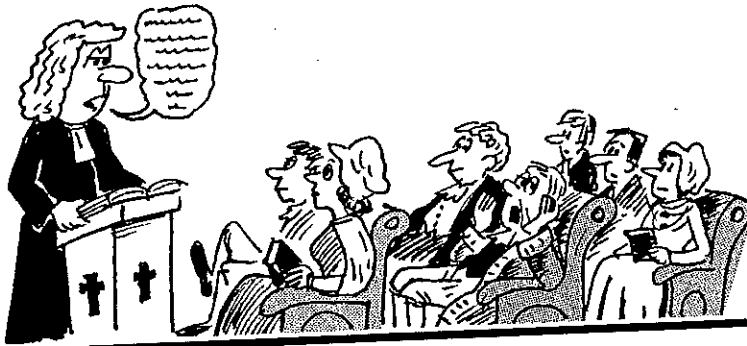


THE GREAT AWAKENING was a movement

FROM THIS

TO THIS



A GREAT AWAKENING of religious fervor swept the colonies in the early 1700s. The movement, the first to unify the colonies, involved two decades of evangelistic revivals—gatherings that replaced rational, intellectual sermons with emotional salvation experiences.

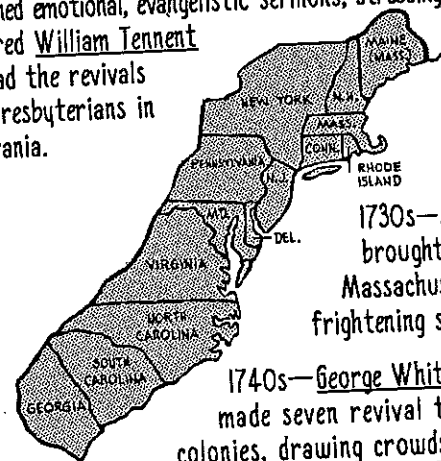
The movement occurred in reaction to widespread religious disinterest. Despite the fact that nine of thirteen colonies had established (state-supported) churches, religious faith seemingly turned to formality with succeeding generations. A secular interest in business hastened the process.



1720 ESTIMATED RELIGIOUS STATISTICS

New England—1 in 7 belonged to a church.  
Middle Colonies—1 in 15 belonged to a church.  
Southern Colonies—1 in 15 supported a church.

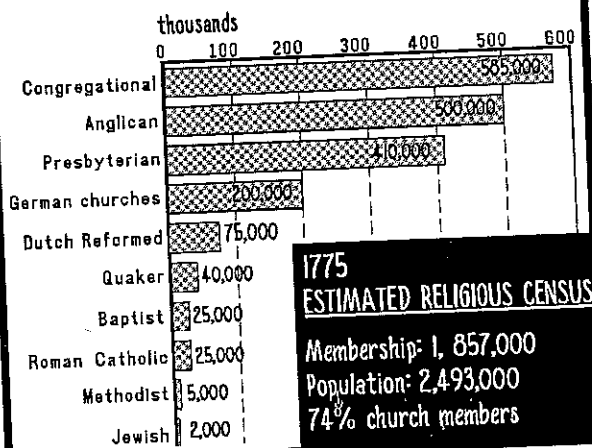
1720s—The Awakening began when Theodore Frelinghuysen, a Dutch Reformed minister, came from Holland to pastor in New Jersey. He preached emotional, evangelistic sermons, stressing faith over reason. He inspired William Tennent to spread the revivals among Presbyterians in Pennsylvania.



1730s—Jonathan Edwards brought the Awakening to Massachusetts by preaching frightening sermons about hell.

1740s—George Whitefield of England made seven revival tours through the colonies, drawing crowds of 20,000.

RESULTS OF THE GREAT AWAKENING—1) Stimulated growth in all denominations; 2) democratized Protestant religion by proclaiming salvation for all, not just those predestined; 3) fostered anti-intellectualism in religion by belittling educated ministers; 4) spurred the founding of denominational colleges by those wishing to preserve doctrinal purity among their youth.



COLONIAL COLLEGES, including those\* whose founding was influenced by the Awakening

Rank	College Name	Denomination	Year	Location
1.	Harvard	Congregational	1636	Cambridge, Mass.
2.	William and Mary	Anglican	1693	Williamsburg, Va.
3.	Yale	Congregational	1701	New Haven, Conn.
4.	*Princeton	Presbyterian	1746	Princeton, N.J.
5.	Pennsylvania	Nondenominational	1751	Philadelphia, Pa.
6.	*Columbia	Anglican	1754	New York, N.Y.
7.	*Brown	Baptist	1764	Providence, R.I.
8.	*Rutgers	Dutch Reformed	1766	New Brunswick, N.J.
9.	*Dartmouth	Congregational	1769	Hanover, N.H.

# 41 — THE AMERICAN ENLIGHTENMENT: AGE OF REASON, 1740-1800 —

enlighten—to shed light on truth; to free from ignorance  
truth—how things are

intellect—power of the mind to understand through the use of reason  
reason—to explore the cause and effect of things

1492

1740

1800

2000

**THE ENLIGHTENMENT** was a European and American intellectual revolution of the 18th century. It overthrew a long era of absolute ideas revealed through priests and kings; it affirmed man's capacity to reason and thus discover for himself truths about God, man, and the universe. The Enlightenment period emphasized man's freedom, as well as his ability, to think for himself. The 18th century, called the **AGE OF REASON**, gave birth to the American republic, founded by men of the Enlightenment.



From where did this new confidence in reason come? It started with the SCIENTIFIC REVOLUTION of the 16th and 17th centuries.

In 1665 English scientist SIR ISAAC NEWTON, building on the work of Polish NICKOLAS COPERNICUS and Italian GALILEO GALILEI, discovered the laws of motion governing the universe. These were laws of nature: natural laws that could be learned through observation, reason, and logic. In other words, thunder was not the wrath of God but a result of physical occurrences, understandable through reason—that is, cause and effect thinking.

NATURAL LAW and REASON became key words of the Enlightenment. Newton applied them to the physical world. JOHN LOCKE and ADAM SMITH, two other British thinkers, applied them to human society: to politics and economics. America's **FOUNDING FATHERS** applied them to their Revolution and Constitution.

## AMERICAN ENLIGHTENMENT INSTITUTIONS

**POLITICAL:**  
Republic



Natural law gives each human being three natural rights: LIFE, LIBERTY, and PROPERTY, according to JOHN LOCKE, an English philosopher, in Two Treatises of Government (1690). Reason tells us that LIFE is essential to being human; LIBERTY is essential to protecting one's life, and PROPERTY is essential for things to sustain life.

People infringe on each other's rights, so through a social contract (mutual agreement) they form a government whose sole purpose is to protect their three rights. The people elect agents to govern them but retain their sovereignty. If the agents fail to protect the people's rights to LIFE, LIBERTY and PROPERTY, they may be deposed. Locke's ideas influenced THOMAS JEFFERSON in the Declaration of Independence.



**ECONOMIC:**  
Capitalism



The law of supply and demand is the natural law of the market place, according to Scottish economist ADAM SMITH in Wealth of Nations (1776). With no government interference in business, neither aid nor regulation, the invisible hand of supply and demand competition leads to the best product at the lowest price.

Capitalism, an economic system based on the law of supply and demand, was adopted by the Founding Fathers. Capitalism involves three rights: 1) private property, 2) free enterprise, and 3) profit. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, about whom you will read later, was one of the greatest exponents of capitalism.



**RELIGIOUS:**  
Deism

According to THOMAS PAINE in his book Age of Reason (1794), God created a universe governed by natural laws; therefore, nature is mankind's Bible. This is the basic concept of Deism, a religious philosophy held by many 18th century American political leaders, including Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, as well as Paine. Deists believed in a rational God of goodness who wanted the best for His creation. They rejected supernatural phenomena, including heaven and hell. They believed in creating heaven on earth by doing good. Morality could be determined by reason and natural law rather than through religious authorities—the standard of morality being that which contributes to people's welfare and happiness.

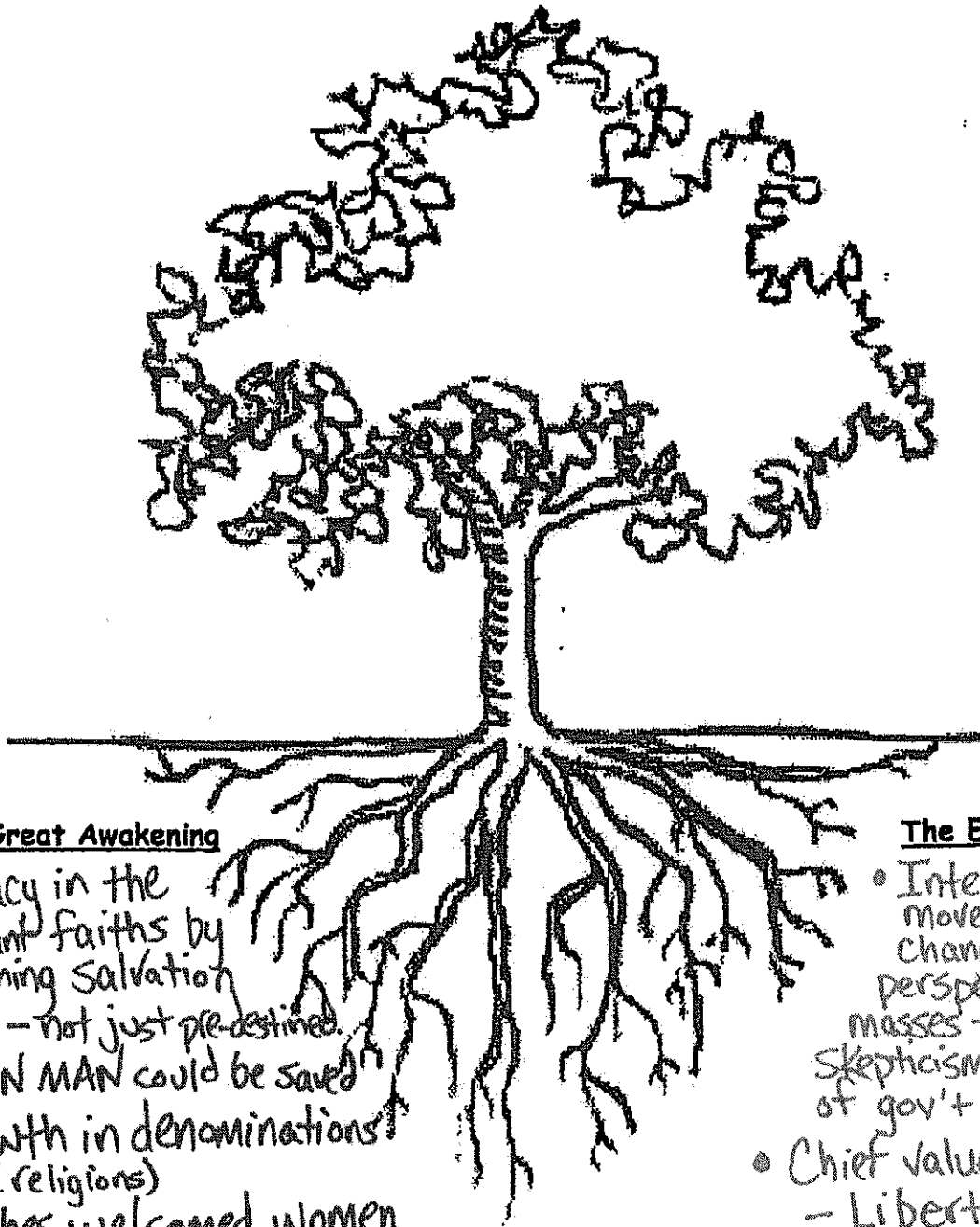
**INTELLECTUAL:**  
Science

Learning through discovery was the hallmark of the Enlightenment period. This involved a scientific approach to learning nature's laws through observation and experiment, as well as the belief that new knowledge should be used for the good of mankind. You'll see this approach to learning in the lives of two self-taught men who spent their lives investigating nature: BENJAMIN BANNEKER and BENJAMIN FRANKLIN.

Read on for the story of Benjamin Banneker.



# DEMOCRACY IN AMERICA and its ROOTS



## The First Great Awakening

- Democracy in the Protestant faiths by proclaiming salvation for all - not just pre-destined.
- COMMON MAN could be saved
- ↑ growth in denominations (religions)
- Churches welcomed women, African-Americans, Native Americans
- Churches inspired colonists to help others - anti-intellectualism in religion
- Contributes to revolutionary idea of independence from Britain years later.

## The Enlightenment

- Intellectual movement that changed the perspective of the masses - fostered skepticism & questioning of gov't & religion
- Chief values:
  - Liberty
  - Democracy
  - Republicanism
  - Religious Tolerance