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# Rationalism and the Age of Enlightenment



The Enlightenment was a \_\_\_\_\_ of profound intellectual movement in the 17th and 18th centuries. It emphasized \_\_\_\_\_, logic, and individualism rather than tradition. Key thinkers like \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ challenged the status quo, inspiring a wave of literature that reflected these new ideas. This era was marked by a \_\_\_\_\_ from religious and royal authority to scientific and empirical understanding.

In literature, the Enlightenment brought about a \_\_\_\_\_ in how stories and characters were developed. Writers focused on human \_\_\_\_\_ and rational thought. Novels like "Robinson Crusoe" by \_\_\_\_\_ demonstrated the Enlightenment's focus on individualism and self-reliance. Similarly, \_\_\_\_\_ became popular as a way to critique society and politics through wit and irony.

Enlightenment literature also sparked a \_\_\_\_\_ about women's rights and education. Authors like \_\_\_\_\_ argued for equality and women's intellectual development. This was a significant \_\_\_\_\_ from previous periods where women's roles were largely confined to domestic spheres.

Moreover, this era witnessed the growth of \_\_\_\_\_, which aimed to gather and disseminate knowledge widely. \_\_\_\_\_, for instance, was instrumental in compiling and editing the first modern encyclopedia, reflecting the Enlightenment's commitment to education and knowledge-sharing.

Another key aspect was the \_\_\_\_\_ of colonialism and slavery. Enlightenment writers began to question and condemn the morality of these practices, which was revolutionary at the time.

In conclusion, the Enlightenment was a turning point in literature, characterized by an emphasis on rationalism, individual rights, and a \_\_\_\_\_ to traditional authority. Its legacy is evident in the modern emphasis on critical thinking and empirical evidence in understanding our world.

Voltaire

challenge

encyclopedias

Rousseau

critique

departure

change

period

Diderot

Wollstonecraft

experience

Defoe

debate

reason

satires

shift