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The Enlightenment and Empiricism



During the Enlightenment, a _____ marked by a surge in philosophical, scientific, and cultural advancements, the concept of _____ played a pivotal role. This philosophy emphasized the importance of sensory _____ as the foundation of knowledge, challenging the previously dominant reliance on _____ and abstract reasoning. Key figures like John Locke argued that the human mind at birth was a _____, or blank slate, upon which experience could write. Locke's ideas laid the groundwork for later philosophers such as David _____, who further developed empirical thought, questioning the existence of inherent attributes and emphasizing the importance of _____ and experience in forming ideas. In contrast, rationalists believed that certain _____ could be known independently of sensory experience, through the use of reason alone. Empiricism, however, contended that all human knowledge arises from what we perceive through our _____.

The debate between empiricism and rationalism highlighted the period's deep questions about the nature of human _____ and the limits of knowledge. Empirical methods also greatly influenced the development of the scientific _____, which relies on observation and experimentation to confirm or refute theories. This method became a cornerstone of modern _____, propelling advancements in various fields. The Enlightenment's emphasis on empirical evidence contributed to significant societal changes, including the push for political and social _____. It encouraged individuals to question traditional authority and to seek out knowledge through their own investigations, leading to a more informed and _____ public.

Empiricism's legacy is evident in today's emphasis on evidence-based practices in education, medicine, and policy-making, showing its lasting impact on how we acquire and validate _____.

science

intuition

period

observation

critical

senses

knowledge

method

experience

truths

tabula rasa

understanding

reform

empiricism

Hume