

The Modern Period..1700 to Today...in the Western World (Overall

Historical Conditions

The western world was marked by a spirit of trade, colonization and expansion during this time, the latter by means of war very often. The industrial age was about to begin and while the stress on fine art had begun to decline, the stress on technical art and industry was about under way and this in turn would introduce this modern age of technology. England and France would undergo revolutionary movements...in England the war with the American colonies and in France the bloody revolution that would effectively end the monarchy and usher in the Napoleonic age. Towards the end of the period Italy would become a consolidated nation under the work of Garibaldi, et al, and Germany, in the latter part of the 19th century, would become a centralized power instead of a looser confederation of Teutonic states. World trade would help open the mission eyes and interest of the church and the growth of new philosophies and educational emphases would be very pronounced.

New scientific studies would turn the world into an anti-supernatural cast and the new psychologies would work against man's spirit-being. The age would eventually lead to two giant wars and the threat of near-world destruction. This factor will prove a powerful influence in personal religious decisions.

Conflicts

There was an on-going conflict with the Romanist counter-reformation influence.

But the real conflict would be first with deadness in the existing body and then with liberalism.

By 1800 much that had been branded heretical in the past ages was tolerated and fostered in the church and this spirit came to be such a strong factor that by 1900 it dominated the church. The essential battle was polemical...that is what we are saying at this point.

There would be increasing conflict with the new cults and with the many differing protestant and Roman bodies all claiming superiority. Conflicts over the nature of the faith would be more acute than at any time since the first century.