

without the church and a loss of confidence in governmental systems. We are not saying this is particularly good, we are saying that it was a factor that allowed the wide acceptance of much of what the reformers stood for.

II.2.d.
Cultural
Development

The Expanding World

Of course we refer to the knowledge of newer parts of the earth and better knowledge about well known parts. It is not the world that expands but our knowledge of it and some like to speak of this as "shrinking the universe." Well...

A new interest in the east had been marked since the days of Marco Polo. The "discovery" of sea routes to the east that would offset the danger of the Islamic bandits, etc., brought a fresh flurry of interest in trade in that direction. The Mediterranean countries became leaders in that trade.

A new age of exploration was begun by the Portuguese, hunting ways to the east, and other good things. Columbus, you know, was looking for a shortcut to India so as not to have to go around the Cape of Good Hope. The Portuguese opened up the coasts of Africa and they and the Spanish began the plundering of the new world that resulted in a lot of money being brought to Europe for various projects.

New world acquisitions haunted the capitols of Europe. England, France, Spain, Portugal and the Low Countries joined in a fierce market battle for new lands and trade routes. Rivalries in the international arena often interfered, in the time of the Reformation, with the national unities that would have been needed to quench the fire Luther ignited.

And, as noted earlier, science began to blossom and bloom..particularly in mathematics, astronomy and physics. Some alchemists are still trying to make gold from anything that is more abundant but a great outreach of knowledge is plying the traffic.

II.2.e
The
Broadening
intellect

The Broadening Intellect

In general, the renaissance is upon us and it is seen in three stages: