

It was not a class struggle but was a dispute between what had really become two separate nations...just a good old war, in other words. We think the intervention of God prevented the sort of class struggle that overcame France and the simple fact is that while America was by no means "classless" it had a strong middle class corps and there was a unity of most of the peoples against an "aggressor". We think (a bit of prejudice may be detected here) it also providential that there was no great repression after the war and that there was not great revulsion against the church although that can be understood from a purely political point of view as well. Many of the leaders of the American conflict shared the religious views of the more moderate French leaders but most of them had totally different concepts of man and society. The American war did not help the church even though much of the church favored it and worked to its end. National upheavals tend to separate people from their moorings and it takes a long time for them to get back. So in the decades following the war there was considerable growth of non-christian ideas and sentiment, both in Britain and the colonies.

IV.2.e. Intellectual foment

Intellectual Foment

The final step in the foundation of modern unbelief may be called the intellectual foment of that time. This was the age of industrial movements, world conquests, and the birth of new thought groups in philosophy, etc., as noted earlier. This new curiosity about man, his world, and his thinking provided a basis for the speculation of coming theologians. History would become a maze to be deciphered by the intellectually able and soon the traditional values and standards would be minimized.

IV.3 Missions

RETURN OF MISSIONARY INTEREST

We have noted that the church was never entirely devoid of missionary interest but part of the time at least that interest was expended in countries where the Gospel had been preached and churches established that later fell to disuse of unbelief. Now, with a shrinking world and a greater awareness of far lands and distant people, there was a quickening of early century interest in the propagation of the Gospel.."to the ends of the earth."