

WORLDVIEW THEMES **OF MODERNITY**

1. NATURAL – supernatural

1.1 *This worldly – other worldly*

1.2 *Androcentric – theocentric*

1.3 *Materialism – spiritualism*

1.4 *Science – religion*

**1.5 *Public Life and Truth –
private life and truth***

THEMES AND COUNTER-THEMES IN MODERNITY

1. *NATURAL - supernatural dualism*

1.1 this worldly vs other worldly

- androcentrism**
- naturalism**
- secularism**

1.2 materialism vs spiritualism

- capitalism & Marxism**
- consumerism**
- welfare state and civil religion**

1.3 science vs religion

1.4 public vs private spheres of life

THE GREAT DIVIDE

Theology

Missions

Theory

Practice

Pure

Applied

Philosophical

Scientific

THE WORLDVIEW OF MODERNITY

2. MECHANISTIC ROOT METAPHOR – Organic root metaphor

- **order – relationships**
- **impersonal laws – divine commands**
- **rationalization of procedures – negotiations**
- **technique**
- **contract – covenant**
- **planning – live out of control**

THE WORLDVIEW OF MODERNITY

3. POSITIVE KNOWLEDGE – tradition

- **skepticism – trust**
- **objective knowledge – feelings, values**
- **reason – faith**
- **grand unified theory – mystery, ambiguity**
- **analytical – wholistic**
- **quantitative – qualitative**
- **hierarchy – equality**
- **schooling – apprenticeship, discipling**

1. NATURAL / supernatural dualism

1.1 This worldly - other worldly

- time, now - eternity

1.2 Androcentrism - theocentrism

1.3 Materialism - spiritual realities

- market state
- welfare state
- commodification of everything

1.4 Science - religion

1.5 Public Sphere - private sphere

Handwritten notes:

Public Sphere
Private Sphere
Public Sphere
Private Sphere
Public Sphere
Private Sphere
Public Sphere
Private Sphere

2. MECHANISTIC // organic root metaphors

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2.1 The world is like a machine // world of relationships

- we control nature by factories
- humans by bureaucracies, armies

2.3 Componentiality // interdependence of all things

- break things down into interchangeable parts that can be manipulated
- clear categories
- hierarchical taxonomies

2.3 Impersonal natural laws //

negotiated relationships

divine commands

- mechanistic causality
- predictability, control
- natural laws
- social laws
- moral laws

2.4 Highes values: order, control //

highest value is relationships

- chaos is evil, not unformed potential
- nonconformity is condemned
- like digital, intrinsic sets
- cleanliness is highly valued
- contracts rather than gifts and covenants

2.5 An engineering mentality //

relational, negotiational

- quantification
- planning, control, problem solving mentality (vs. relating, living out of control)
- focus on technique, not ends
- seek generalized abstract systems
- a formulaic approach

2.6 Institutionalization

- **move to organize human organizations in mechanistic ways**
- **institutions develop a life of their own**

2.7 Rationalization:

- **attempt to rationalize human behavior through social engineering**
- **reduce everything to techniques**
- **move from covenants and promises to contracts**

3. RATIONAL POSITIVISM // traditional wisdom

3.1 Reason // authority, revelation

- doubt over faith
- critical reflection

3.2 Objectivity // subjectivity

- positivist photographic view of knowledge // personal knowledge
- 1:1 correspondence to reality
- precise, potentially complete
- cognition divorced from feelings and morality

3.3 Digital intrinsic categories // fuzzy intrinsic sets

- break down into fundamental units
- classification and taxonomies
- grand abstract analytical grids [GUT]

3.4. Quantitative // quality

3.5 Abstract algorithmic logic // concrete functional logic

- precise, referential signs
[mathematics]
- propositional machine logic

3.6 Grand Unified Theory [GUT] // mystery, paradox, ambiguity

3.7 Schooling // socialization

3.8 Hierarchy // equality

3.9 Sight // sound

- literate society // oral society

4. **UNIVERSALISM** //

particularism

- “civilization”
- colonialism

5. **INDIVIDUAL** //

group

5.1 **Ethnocentrism** //

humanity

5.2 **Freedom and rights** //

duties and responsibilities

6. **NATION STATE** //

traditional ethnic communities

7. MYTH OF “RAGS TO RICHES”

8. MYTH OF “ROMANTIC LOVE” // social duty

8.1 Marriage should be based on love // socially arranged

- love is an uncontrollable emotion

8.2 Focus on romance and sex

- it is erotic and self-serving

8.3 The story is the chase and capture

8.4 After marriage there is no story worth telling

9. MYTH OF REDEMPTIVE VIOLENCE

9.1 Focus on future - past is over

9.2 Progress

- future can be better

9.3 Redemptive violence

- competition leads to progress
- this involves violence
- the fittest survive
- this leads to progress

9.4 Battle mentality:

- good must defeat evil by force to set up the empire of good
- the fight must be 'fair' – not morally right
- the combatants must be equally matched
- the good must pull victory out of apparent defeat

9.5 Examples of the Myth of Redemptive Violence:

- biological Darwinism - theory of human biological evolution
- cultural Darwinism - theory of human cultural evolution from barbarian to civilized
- political Darwinism - theory of democracy as the best way to rule societies
- economic Darwinism - theory of capitalism as the best way to achieve economic development