Shaquan Baker

Instructor Name

History and Anthropology

4 November 2019

Foundations of Enlightenment

The Age of Enlightenment was a philosophical movement that followed the Age of Renaissance in 18th century Europe. It was based on the concept of reasoning, declaring it as the foremost source of all sorts of authority. It also gave the concepts of tolerance, liberty, fraternity, ideals and constitutional form of government. The philosophers of this age simply wished to separate the state from the church, as they believed that the latter was one of their sources of misery. They took upon themselves to rid the society of traditional canons and principles. Philosophers like Rousseau and Voltaire argued on several traditional activities on the grounds of reason and not faith. The age of enlightenment gave way to several advances in human knowledge at the time that includes Scientific methods, Deism and Reductionism (DUPRÉ). The Scientific Method helped the future generations to come as it separated Science from the Supranational and offered explanations to certain concepts that were not questioned as they came into direct conflict with religion. Deism was an interesting construct that argues that God has created Men (and Women), but He does not interfere in the affairs of them, rather he is simply not interested in the running of the world, leaving Men to fend for themselves. It also gave space to a variety of political movements like the famous French Revolution of 1789 and the formation of the First Republic (History). The effects of the Age of Enlightenment were usually in the form of fits and starts as the French Republic was soon replaced by the Dictatorship of Napoléon Bonaparte and after that, the monarchy was restored in France.

# Works Cited

DUPRÉ, LOUIS. "The Enlightenment and the Intellectual Foundations of Modern Culture." *Jstor.org* (2004).

History, Hourly. *The Age of Enlightenment: A History From Beginning to End*. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2016.