

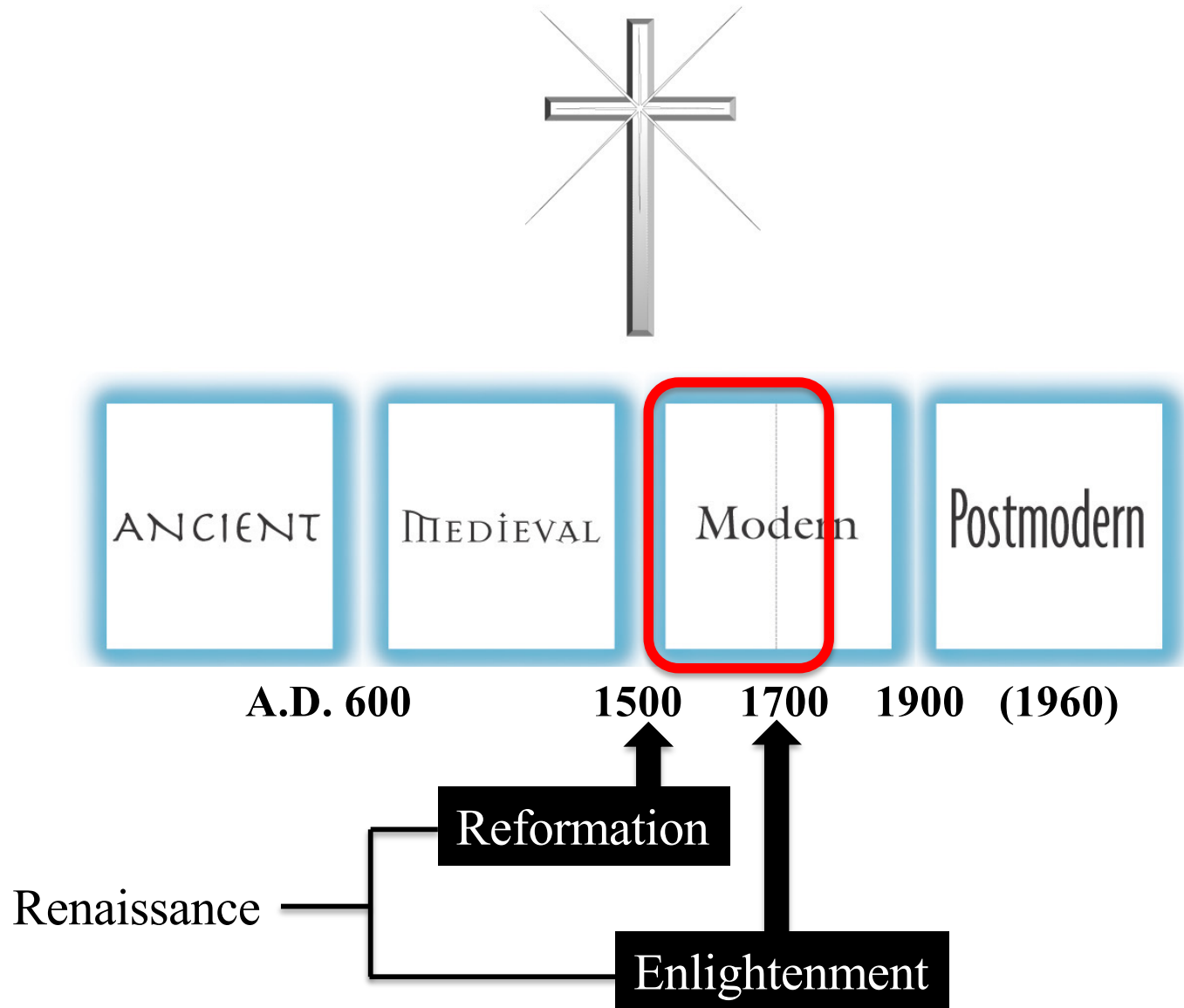
What Does It Mean To Be: *Rational* **American Enlightenment**

Bill Petro

your friendly neighborhood historian

billpetro.com/compass

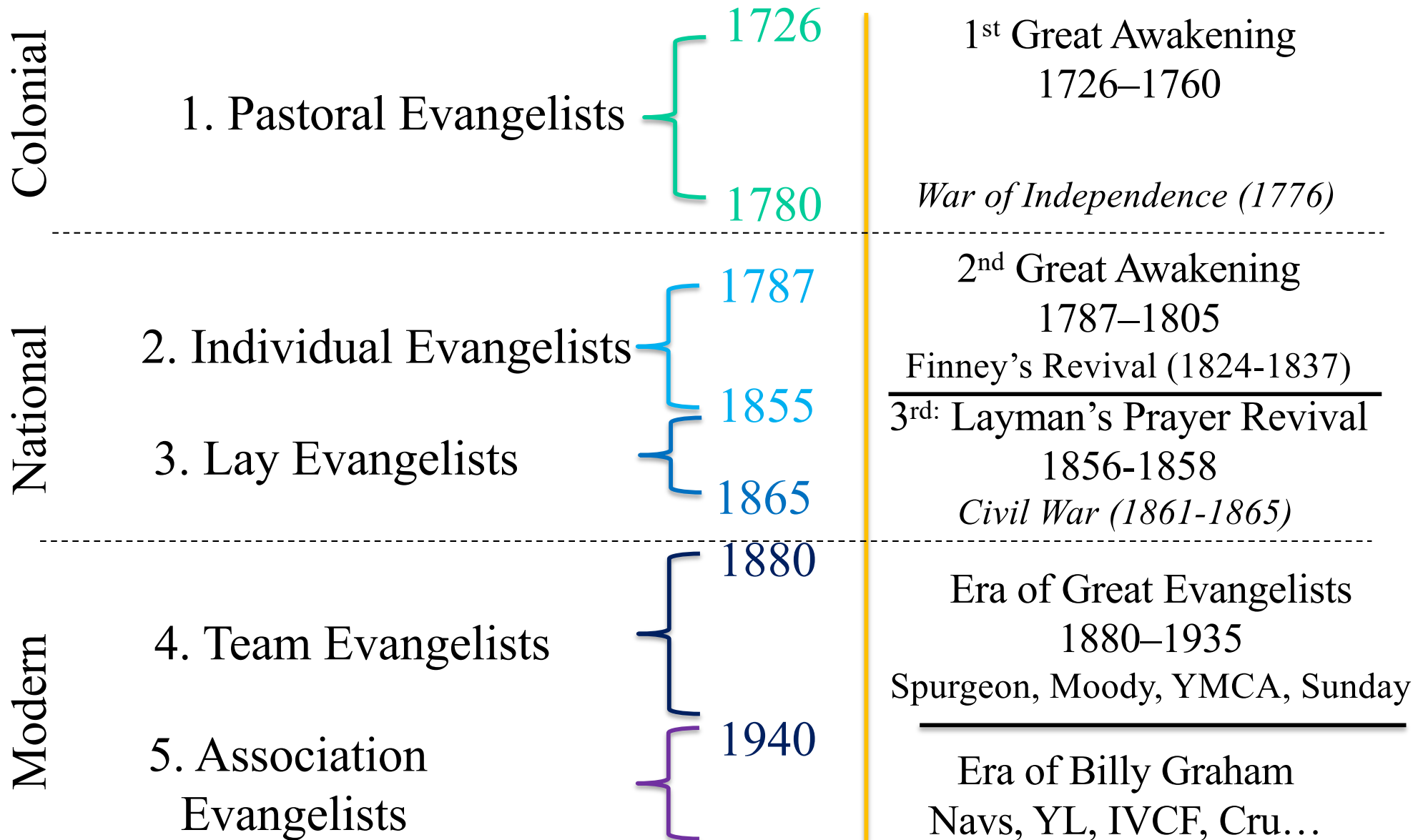
The Divisions of History



American Church History

Colonial Years	National Era	Modern Times
1620	1787	1865
Age of Divine Sovereignty	Age of Biblicistic Rationalism and “Common Sense”	Age of Rationalism and Science

American Revivals



American Church History

Colonial Years	National Era	Modern Times	Postmodern Period
	1787	1865	1960

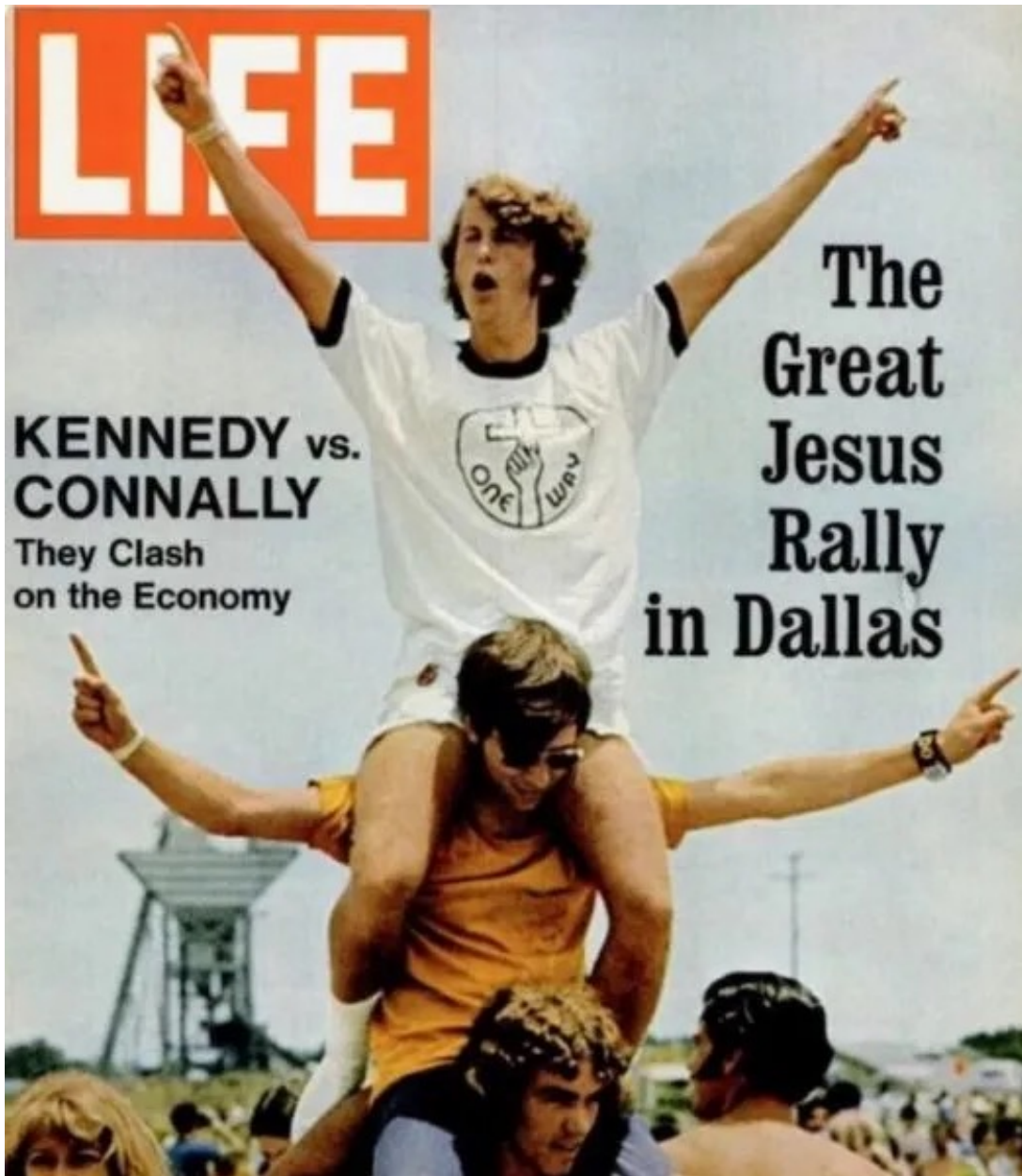
Age of Divine
Sovereignty

Age of Biblicistic
Rationalism and
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Age of
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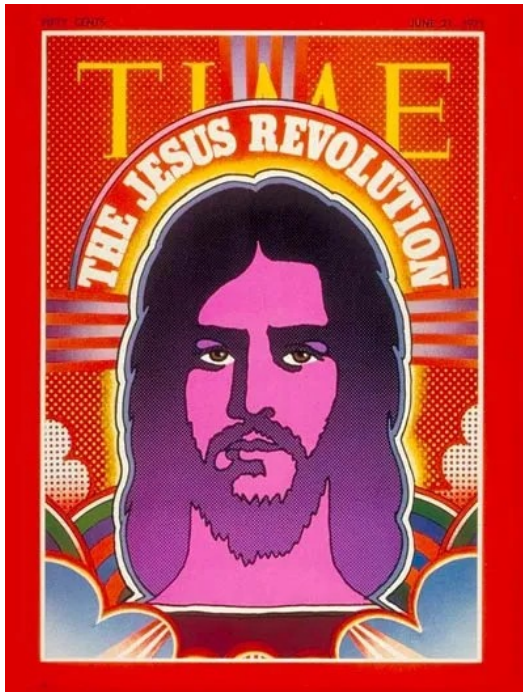
Age of
Privatism,
Relativism,
Subjectivism,
Self, and
Despair

Jesus Revolution



- 1967 – 1975?
- Spread from California
- Calvary Chapel
 - Harvest Christian Fellowship
 - Vineyard Movement
- Hollywood Presbyterian:
 - Salt Company
- Cru: Explo '72
- Music: C.C.M.

Additional Reading



History of Explo 72: The Apex of the Jesus Movement, 50 Years Ago

Movie Review: Jesus Revolution



Objectives

By the end of this session, *you* should be able to

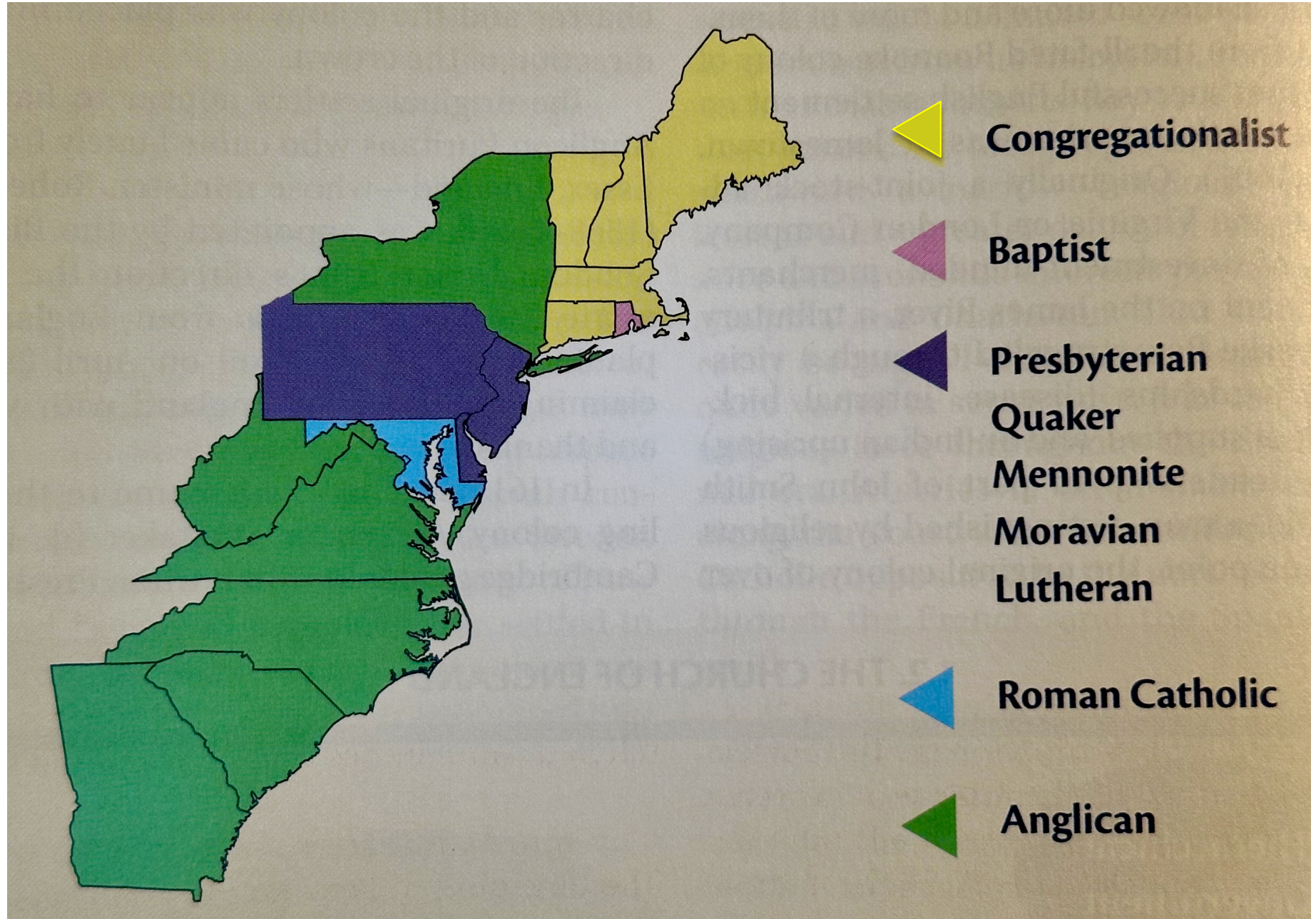
- Discuss American **Denominationalism**
- Review the Impacts of the **Great Awakening**
- Identify **Enlightenment** themes in America

Colonies 1650:

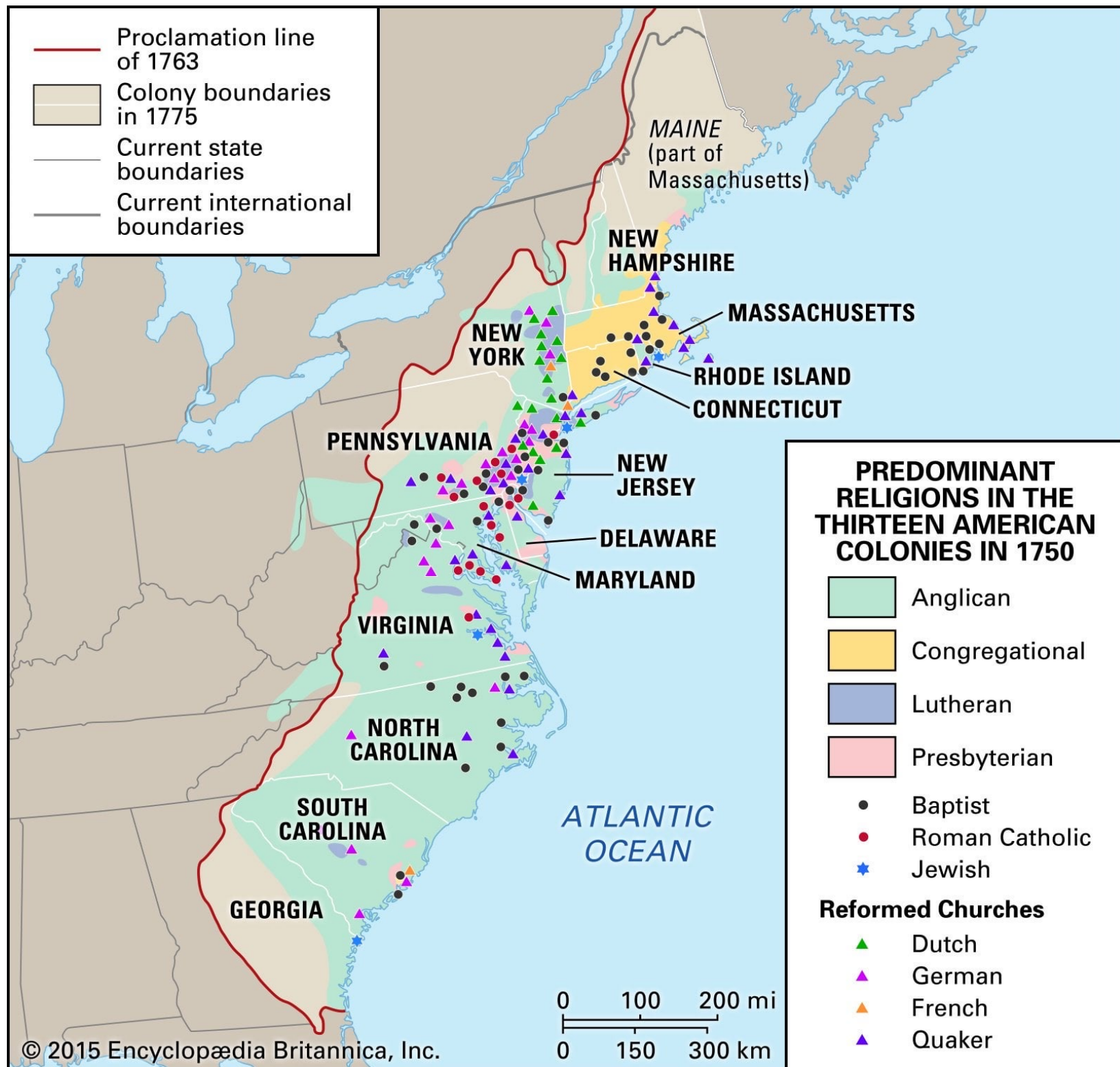
European Nations



Pluralism of Religion in the 13 Colonies, late 1600s



Colonies 1750: American Religion



53. Religion in the Thirteen Colonies

COLONY	CHARTER DATE	CHARTER RECIPIENT	FIRST SETTLED	SETTLERS	MAIN REASON FOR COMING	RELIGIOUS ORIENTATION	ESTABLISHED CHURCH
VIRGINIA	1606	Virginia Company	1607	English	Economic gain	Anglican	Church of England
	1624	Royal Colony					
MASSACHUSETTS	1619	Pilgrims	1620	Pilgrims	Religious freedom	Separatists	Congregational
	1629	Mass. Bay Co.		Puritans	Establish theocracy	Congregationalist	
	1684	Royal Colony					
NEW HAMPSHIRE	1679	Royal Colony	1623	Puritans	Expansion from Massachusetts Bay	Congregationalist	Congregational
NEW YORK	1664	Royal Colony	1624	Dutch	Economic gain	Dutch Reformed	Church of England (1692)
MARYLAND	1632	Lord Baltimore	1634	English	Refuge for Roman Catholics	Roman Catholic and other	Church of England (1691)
	1691	Royal Colony					
CONNECTICUT	1662	John Winthrop, Jr. (Royal Colony)	1634	Puritans	Expansion from Massachusetts Bay	Congregationalist	Congregational
RHODE ISLAND	1644	Roger Williams	1636	English	Radicals fleeing Massachusetts Bay	Congregationalist	None
	1663	Renewed					
NEW JERSEY	1664	John Berkeley George Carteret	1638	Swedish	Economic gain	Lutheran	None
	1702	Royal Colony		Dutch	Expansion from N.Y.	Dutch Reformed	
				English	Religious freedom	Quaker	
DELAWARE	1683	Duke of York	1638	Swedish	Economic gain	Lutheran	None
	1693	Part of Pa.		Dutch		Dutch Reformed	
	1704	Separate gov't		English		Anglican	
NORTH CAROLINA	1712	Separate gov't from S.C.	1653	English	Economic gain	Anglican	Church of England
	1729	Royal Colony					
SOUTH CAROLINA	1663	Carolina Company	1670	English	Economic gain	Anglican	Church of England (1704)
				French	Religious freedom	Huguenots	
PENNSYLVANIA	1681	William Penn	1681	English	Religious freedom	Quaker	None
				German	Fleeing Thirty Years' War	Lutheran	
						Religious freedom	
GEORGIA	1732	James Oglethorpe	1733	English	Relief for those in debtors' prisons	Anglican	Church of England (1758)
	1752	Royal Colony		German	Religious freedom	Moravian	

“Denomination Theory”

- Primary expression of American Christianity, post 1740’s
- Based, in part, on *freedom* to differ (dissent)
- Denomination *vs.* Sect
- Inclusive *vs.* Exclusive
- Architected by Congregationalists at *Westminster Assembly*
 - The true church cannot be identified with any *single* ecclesiastical structure
- Seed planted by Reformers: *not of bishops but of believers.*

Effects of the Great Awakening

- 80% of Americans unified in common understanding of Christian life and faith
- Dissent/dissenters enjoyed greater respect: Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians
- Emphasis on education: Univ. of Penn, U of NC.

American Colleges

- 1636: Harvard – Puritans, to train clergy
- 1701: Yale – “to train men to preach the Gospel”
- 1749: College of Philadelphia – U. of Penn (revival hall)
- 1762: Queens – became Rutgers
- 1726: College of New Jersey – Princeton (Whitefield)
- Moore’s Indian Charity Training College – to train Indians, moved to Dartmouth (Whitefield)
- College of Rhode Island (Baptist) – Brown
- Kings College of N.Y. – Colombia, to train Indians

All Ivy League Colleges (except Cornell) were to train men for the ministry.



- 1636: Harvard Calvinist Congregationalists
- 1701: Yale Calvinist Congregationalists
- 1726: Princeton Calvinist Presbyterians
- 1754: Colombia Church of England
- 1749: U. of Penn Church of England/Methodist
- 1762: Rutgers Dutch Reformed (Calvinist)
- 1764: Brown Baptists
- 1769: Dartmouth Calvinist Congregationalists
- 1865: Cornell Nonsectarian

Effects of the Great Awakening, *cont*

- Preaching to Indians and Slaves
- Reinterpreted the Covenant: *man's response*
- Dissolution of Theocracy: *disestablishment* in VA & NC, democratization
- Breakdown in theological consensus: New/Old Lights.

Emotional - Intellectual



The Enlightenment

aka: “Age of Reason,” Rationalism

- *Post-Reformation*
- Rebellion against it, in the guise of intellectualism:
Empiricism denied the faith of the Reformation
- “*Reality is what I observe with my own senses*”
- Ideals: natural law, liberty, progress, religious toleration, separation of church & state, *constitutional government*.

Approaches to Authority and the Enlightenment

Reformation
16 & 17th century

Enlightenment
18th century

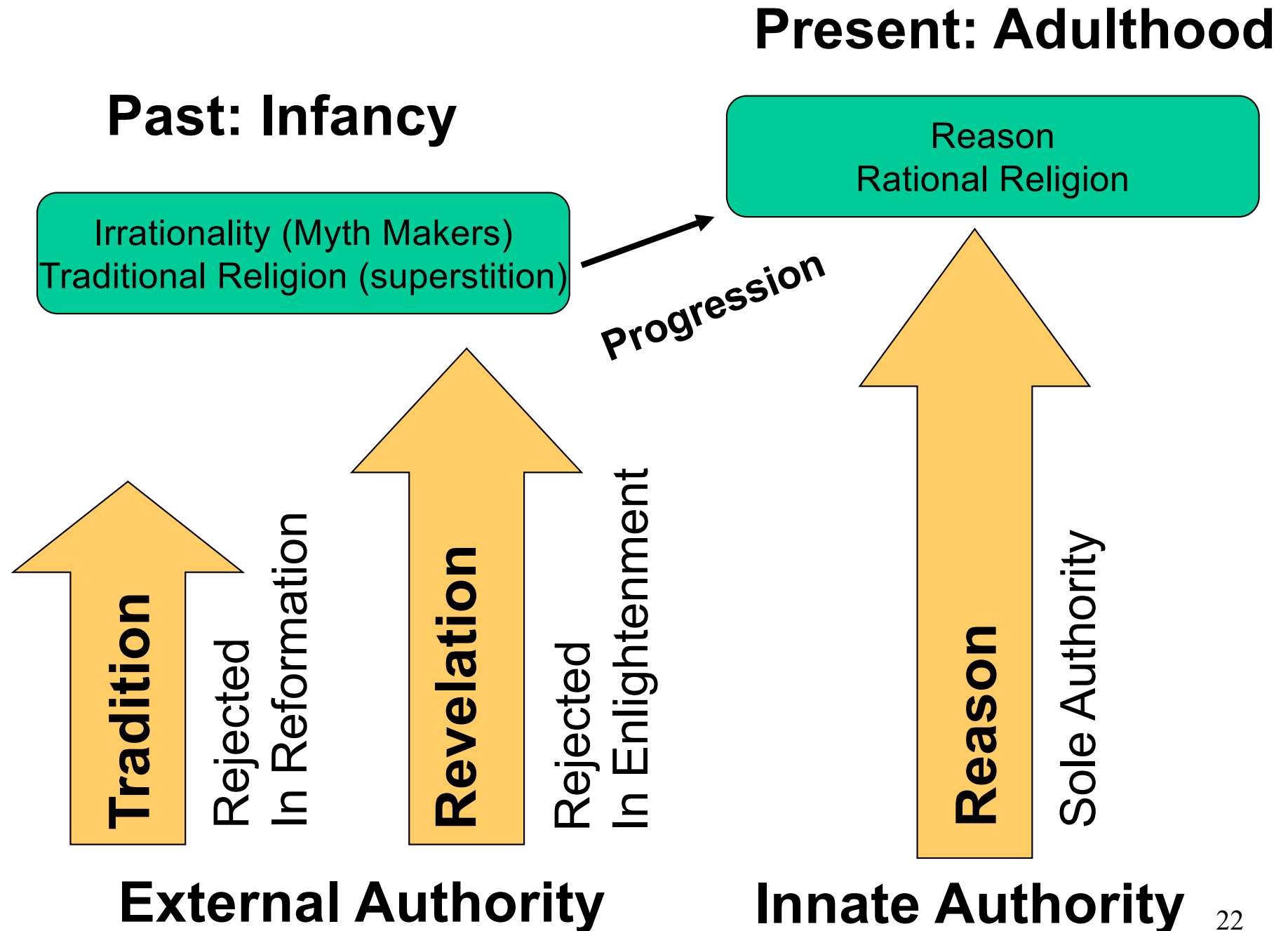
Roman Catholicism

Protestantism

Rationalism

Authority	Holy Church ↓ Authoritarianism Pope and Councils	Holy Bible ↓ Creeds/Confessions (Secondary)	Human Reason ↓ Philosophical Systems
	God ↓ ↑ Church ↑ ↓ Man	God ↓ Christ ↓ Man	God ↑ Man

From Revelation to Reason



Isaac Newton

- *Principia Mathematica* – 1687
- *Implicit*: man has ability to discover secrets of the universe, control destiny
- Narrowing the gulf between God and man
- *Effect*: corrosive effect on Calvinistic orthodoxy, more rational, less emotional



1-Word Summary

• Pilgrims	Separatists
• Puritans	Saints
• Denominations	Inclusive
• Whitefield	Dramatic
• Wesley	Methodism
• Edwards	Glory
• Great Awakening	Fire
• Enlightenment	Rationalism.