

The Enlightenment, Marxism, and Gender Roles Over Time

Enlightenment or Marxist Thinker?

Directions

Your teacher will divide the class into groups of 4-5 students each and hand each small group an envelope which contains quotes related to gender roles from both Enlightenment and Marxist thinkers. Working with your group members, read each quote, discuss what it means, and then determine if it is an Enlightenment quote or a Marxist quote. When you have finished sorting the quotations, call for your teacher to come to check your work. Once you have sorted the quotes correctly, answer the questions.

Note: You will have to read each quotation carefully to understand its message and to discern its category. Remember, not all Enlightenment thinkers had the same ideas, nor did all Marxist thinkers, so to make accurate determinations for the categories, you must consider the big ideas or principles associated with each ideology. (Quotes have been labeled to enable easy checking for accuracy by your teacher, but the letters have nothing to do with the correct category; this is not a de-coding activity!)

Enlightenment Thinkers	Marxist Thinkers

Look at the quotations you have placed in the Enlightenment column. What conclusions or inferences about Enlightenment ideas and gender roles can you make from those quotations?

Look at the quotations you have placed in the Marxist column. What conclusions or inferences about Marxist ideas and gender roles can you make from those quotations?

Continuities and Changes in Ideas about Gender

1. Review the quotes, paying attention to the speaker for each one. What changes between the Enlightenment ideas and thinkers and the Marxist ideas and thinkers do you notice? What accounts for those changes? What questions does that raise about context?

2. Compare the ideas about gender roles of the male and female thinkers. How were the ideas of the male and female Marxist thinkers changes from the ideas of the male Enlightenment thinkers? How were they continuities? How were the ideas of the male and female Marxist thinkers changes from the ideas of the female Enlightenment thinkers? How were they continuities?

3. What continuities exist between the ways Enlightenment and Marxist ideas challenged or sustained 19th-century gender roles?

4. What changes occurred between the ways Enlightenment and Marxist ideas challenged or sustained 19th-century gender roles?

Apply Your Understanding

Continuity and Change Template

Though there are several ways to write about CCOT, as you are practicing and learning to think about continuities and changes, it is helpful to have a format to structure analysis.

Here is a simple format to use as a template as you practice this skill.

A continuity in _____ from _____ to _____ is _____, because _____.
A change in _____ from _____ to _____ is _____, because _____.

Write continuity and change statements by filling in the blanks with phrases and descriptions which accurately explain the continuities and changes.

Continuity Example: A continuity in the design of cars from the early 20th century to the early 21st century is that cars have rubber tires, because they provide a smoother ride than would wheels made out of metal or wood.

Change Example: A change in the design of cars from the early 20th century to the early 21st century is the increased use of technology, because by the end of the 20th century computer technology grew at such a rate as to allow for it to be included in the design of cars to help with such things as navigation.

Work with a partner to create three continuity and change statements that answer this question and reflect your understanding of continuities and changes on ideas about gender roles from Enlightenment thinkers to Marxist thinkers. You must include at least one continuity and one change. To help you with this task, you can use the provided template. Check your notes for details, as you will need those to write strong direct continuity and change statements. Be prepared to share your best work aloud with the class.

Explain continuities and changes in how Enlightenment and Marxist ideas challenged and sustained gender roles.