**The Major Themes of the Era:  
        A.  rationalism --> logical reasoning based on facts.  
        B.  cosmology --> new world view based on Newtonian physics --> analysis of natural phenomena as systems.  
        C.  secularism --> application of scientific theories to religion and society.  
        D.  scientific method --> experimentation;  observation;  hypothesis.  
        E.  utilitarianism (Bentham) --> laws created for the common good and not for special interests. The greatest good for the greatest number.  
        F.  optimism & self-confidence --> anything is possible (a reversal of medieval thinking).  
        G.  tolerance --> a greater acceptance of different societies and cultures.  
        H.  freedom --> a mind as well as a society free to think, free from prejudice.  
         I.  mass education.  
        J.  legal / penal reforms --> Beccaria, Bentham.  
        K.  constitutionalism.**