**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.**