

Today we honor Copernicus not because he produced the modern view of the solar system (he didn't) or because the system was simpler than Ptolemy's (it wasn't), but because he was the first person in "modern times" who had the courage and perseverance to carry his idea beyond the realm of philosophical speculation. It was he who pointed out that the emperor's new clothes might be missing. After him everyone came to see geocentrism as just an assumption, one that could be challenged like any other. (Trefl, 1988, p. 18).

There were also improvements in anatomical and geological studies, as well as the new acquisition of previously known scientific data that was being discovered from the early Greek scientists. These early Greek studies being translated into Latin were becoming available because of the interest in the fourteenth century of the Renaissance man. During the Middle Ages, there were several innovations that would change the landscape of Europe forever. They included gunpowder, the magnetic compass, and the one that would help usher in the Protestant Reformation—the printing press (Bossy, 1995).

The invention of printing made possible the most rapid expansion of knowledge that we have known prior to the proliferation of computers in our own time. Books were once the privilege of the few who could afford hand-copied versions, but once they could become available to all, learning now became obtainable by all citizens. By 1500, there were over 1,000 print shops and millions of volumes in print.

The printing press was the key to the success of the Protestant Reformation, with Martin Luther's tracts attacking the Church of Rome rushed into print and spread like wildfire throughout Europe and England (Lamb, 2004). Navigation of the vast oceans far away from home became possible with innovations such as the astrolabe. This European colonization period brought up of new frontiers to science as well as religion. Yes, there were tremendous opportunities in the minds of kings and explorers, but the areas of discovery and opening up of new frontiers to science as well as religion. Yes, there were tremendous opportunities in the minds of the believers involved in the Protestant Reformation that fictional *Utopia* written by Thomas More (Harrington, 1999).

England had been under the umbrella of the Roman Empire and when this mighty empire fell, the country suffered human and economic hardships as well as numerous power struggles. The Pope's influence extended to England and was involved in much of the politics of England's battles for leadership in Great Britain up to the Reformation. Many of these conflicts involved secular matters while others included religious issues (Duncan, 2001). The history of England has revolved around the sharing of ideas and in many cases wars with the mainland of Europe. England flourished in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries with the tide of this population growth (Duncan, 2001). The Great Famine and Black Death would kill almost half of the population of England, throwing the economy into chaos and the old political order into disorder as well (Abert, 2001).

The yearning for the Renaissance man and the Greek way of thinking was not as dominant as on the mainland of Europe, but England did have its share of

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