

Pre-modern (Up to 1650) –

The natural and supernatural world's exist side-by-side. Thus, both effect each other. The spiritual world effects events in our natural world, but our natural efforts influence the unseen world. The spiritual world is world of reality with many spiritual beings. The source of knowledge or the authority for truth (epistemology) came from revealed knowledge from an authoritative source such as a god. Thus, the ones who held that knowledge or had access to that source held the authority.

This is a **God-centered** world view and there is an **Absolute** Truth.

A few key events:

632 – Death of Mohammed

1453 – Fall of Constantinople

Modern (1600-1950's) –

Current view of the majority of people in the Western world today. The focus is on reason, science, logic and rationalism. Two main approaches to knowing truth (epistemology):

1. Empiricism – knowing through the senses. This became the modern science with a developed methodology.
2. Reason (logic)

The authority no longer rested with the church (or, those with access to the spiritual). Authority now rested with:

1. those who could demonstrate the absolute accuracy of their knowledge/truth (scientists, scholars, professors, universities, institutions of higher learning)
2. those who had access to enforcing their logic/reason (governments, kings, militant leaders)

This is a **Man-centered** world view and there is a **Method** for man to find the Truth and the right way.

A few key events:

1626 - Death of Francis Bacon

1632 - Galileo's Relative Motion Theory

1727 - Death of Isaac Newton

1776 - American Independence

1799 - Napoleon Rises

1838 - Darwin's Theory of Evolution

1865- Mendel's laws of heredity

1905 - Einstein's Special Theory of Relativity

1914 - World War I

1939 - World War II

1945 - USA ends WWII with atomic bomb

Post-modern (1960's-present)

A reaction to the very, very negative and violent consequences of the Modern era (oppressive kings, revolutions, Napoleon, World Wars, Hitler, Stalin, etc.) was the questioning of both the man-centered view (Modern) and the God-centered view (pre-modern). No longer are people looking for the "right" way, but "any" way. No longer are people looking for a group direction, but an individual direction. No longer is there room for intolerance. No longer can anyone know what is best for any other individual. Post-modern's epistemology (discovering knowledge and finding truth) finds the way and the truth through pluralism using multiple methods. Thus, they are willing to look to pre-modern methods for finding truth: spiritual, mysticism, etc. And, they are willing to try and approve of multiple methods of finding answers and establishing truth(s) even though they know science is no longer the end of the discussion. Because of this postmodern view concerning Truth, authority, absolutes and knowledge all previous sources of truth, authority, absolutes and knowledge must be deconstructed. Authority will be dispersed and hierarchies will be leveled. This is **Earth/World-centered** and **Pluralism** leads to truth and salvation of man.

A few key events:

1948 – Israel becomes a nation

1948 – Invention of the transistor

1948 – Television and its mass market

1962 – Cuban missile crisis

1964 – Berkeley Free Speech Movement

1975 – First personal computers and that mass market