

scientific revolution ap world history

Scientific Revolution is a term that encapsulates a significant period in history, roughly spanning from the late 16th century to the 18th century, during which the foundations of modern science were laid. This era was characterized by dramatic shifts in thought regarding the natural world, moving away from traditional Aristotelian views and medieval scholasticism to a more empirical and experimental approach. In the context of Advanced Placement World History (AP World History), understanding the Scientific Revolution is crucial, as it not only transformed scientific thought but also had profound implications for society, politics, and culture.

The Historical Context of the Scientific Revolution

The Scientific Revolution emerged in a milieu where traditional authorities, such as the Church and ancient philosophers, dominated intellectual discourse. The Renaissance had already sparked a revival of interest in classical texts and humanist ideas, but it was the later developments in science and philosophy that would fundamentally alter humanity's understanding of the universe.

The Role of the Renaissance

The Renaissance (14th to 17th centuries) set the stage for the Scientific Revolution in several ways:

1. **Humanism:** The focus on human potential and achievements encouraged a shift away from religious explanations of the world.
2. **Rediscovery of Classical Texts:** Scholars revisited works by ancient Greek and Roman thinkers, which inspired new ideas and methodologies.
3. **Technological Advancements:** Innovations in technology, such as the printing press, allowed for the wider dissemination of scientific ideas and texts.