

Baroque (1600-1700)

Renaissance man wanted to control this world, understand, observe carefully

Invention of microscope (1590ish) telescope (1600ish)

Humanism of Renaissance was succeeded in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries by

**Empiricism**- reliance on experimentation, experience, and observation of facts (Britain)

**Rationalism**- exercise of reason provides only valid basis for action or belief. Reason is the only way to find spiritual truth. (France) *Rene de Cartes* "Cogito ergo sum" ( I think, therefore I am)

Political Philosophy In Late 16<sup>th</sup> to early 17<sup>th</sup> century

**Divine Right** of Kings- rule by Royal Absolutism

"I am the state" Louis XIV (1638- 1715)

Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679) **No divine right**

Humans are motivated by self preservation, what we like is "good" and what we don't like is alien or "evil", "natural state" is war of every man against every other man, such a life is

"solitary, poor, brutish, and short", central government (preferably a monarchy)

Individual gives up loyalty and in turn the ruler protects the ruler

Salons- gatherings in homes of wealthy, artists, musicians, poets, and philosophers: share ideas across class barriers

Baroque Art ( motion and emotion)

Content

Protestant reformation (northern Europe)

Occasionally painted scenes from the Bible but not for use in the church

More often painted ordinary people performing everyday activities

Simple scenes of nature

Portrait painting became even more popular

Ordinary (secular) life could glorify God portraying the natural beauty of his creation and by depicting people who were created in His image

Catholic counter-Reformation (southern Europe)

Pope Paul III, Council of Trent, 1545-1563 (of an on) reforms and aggressive to heresy

Reflects a return to the medieval idea of mystical connection with God

Graphically portrays the martyrdom of ideal-looking saints

Depicted Virgin Mary and Jesus

**Form**

Painting and Sculpture

Passionate/energetic

Light/dark high contrast

Solid form

Much ornament but ornament never obscures form

Strong!!! In form, content, and emotion

Characters (figures) caught in motion/emotion

Architecture

Ovals

Curved, "waved" surfaces

Opulent use of ornaments, such as plaster or stucco, marble or faux finishing

Music

Strong motion (rhythm)

Strong emotion

Strong sense of organization built on l-o-n-g , complex phrases

Much ornament but ornament never obscures form

Basso continuo-continuous bass line in baroque music