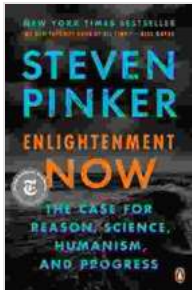


# The Case for Reason, Science, Humanism, and Progress



## Enlightenment Now: The Case for Reason, Science, Humanism, and Progress by Steven Pinker

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language	: English
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
X-Ray	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
File size	: 23083 KB
Screen Reader	: Supported
Print length	: 576 pages



In an era characterized by rampant irrationalism, the rise of anti-intellectualism, and the erosion of trust in institutions, it is more important than ever to make a case for reason, science, humanism, and progress. These concepts, which have shaped the course of human history, are essential for the advancement of knowledge, the flourishing of society, and the pursuit of a better future for all.

## The Enlightenment and the Birth of Reason

The Enlightenment, a philosophical movement that emerged in Europe in the 17th and 18th centuries, was a watershed moment in the history of reason. Philosophers such as John Locke, David Hume, and Immanuel Kant emphasized the power of human reason to understand the world and to improve human life. They rejected the prevailing dogmas of religion and

tradition, and instead advocated for the use of empirical evidence and logical reasoning as the basis for knowledge.

The Enlightenment's emphasis on reason had a profound impact on science and society. It led to the development of the scientific method, which has revolutionized our understanding of the natural world, and to the emergence of humanism, which places human beings and their well-being at the center of inquiry.

### **Science: The Engine of Progress**

Science is the systematic study of the natural world. It is based on the principles of observation, experimentation, and logical reasoning. Science has played a pivotal role in improving human life, from the development of vaccines and antibiotics to the creation of computers and the internet.

Through science, we have gained a deeper understanding of the universe and our place in it. We have learned how to harness the power of nature to improve our health, enhance our well-being, and protect our environment.

### **Humanism: A Commitment to Human Flourishing**

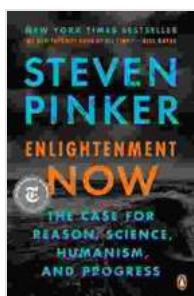
Humanism is a philosophical and ethical stance that emphasizes the value and dignity of human beings. Humanists believe that human beings have the capacity to reason, to create, and to make progress. They reject the supernatural and instead focus on promoting human well-being and social justice.

Humanism has been a driving force behind many of the major social and political movements of the past two centuries, including the abolition of slavery, the fight for women's rights, and the pursuit of racial equality.

## Progress: The Promise of a Better Future

Progress is the idea that human society can and should improve over time. It is based on the belief that reason and science can be used to solve problems, overcome obstacles, and create a better world for all.

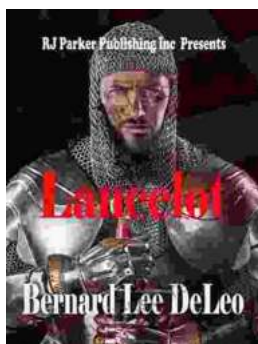
The history of humanity is a testament to the power of progress. We have come a long way since the days when our ancestors lived in caves and struggled to survive.



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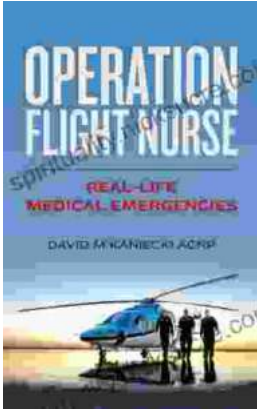
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