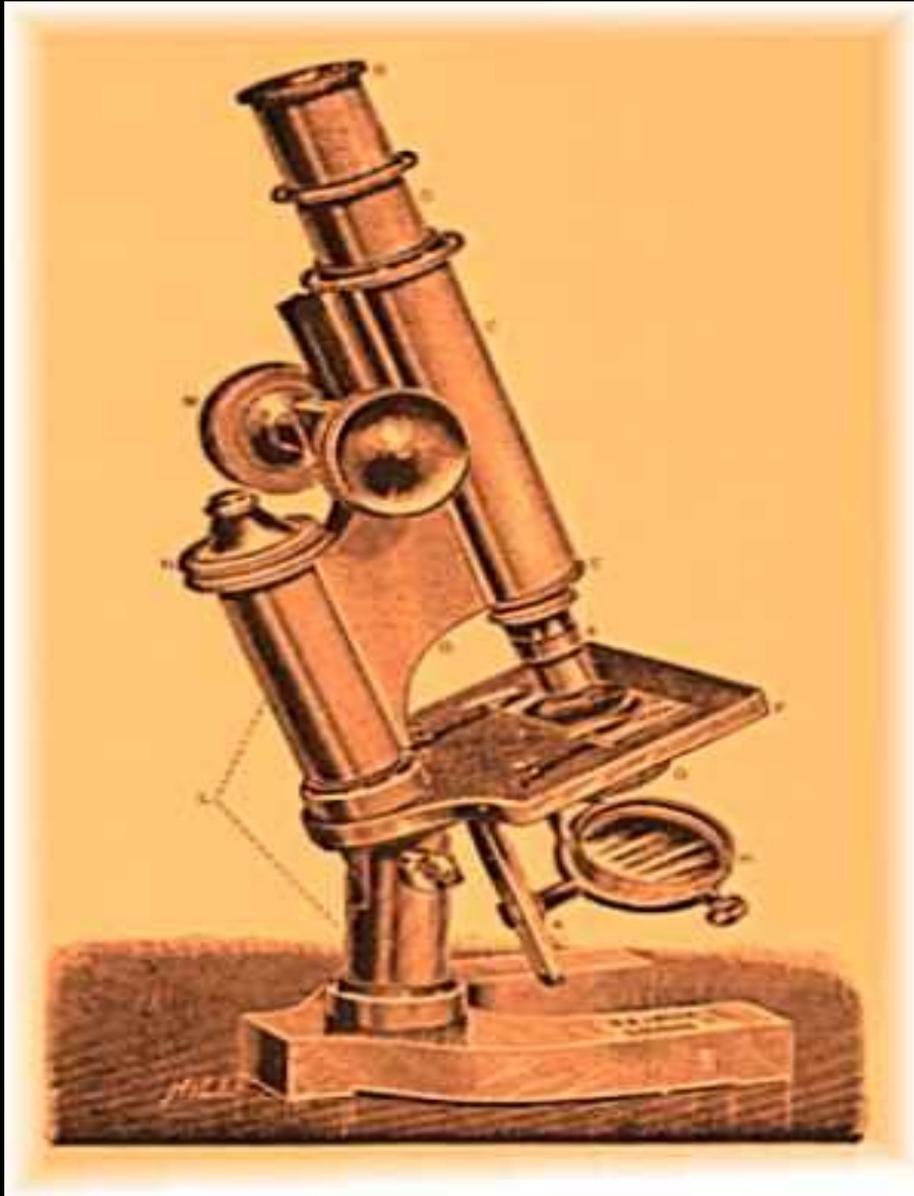


# The Scientific Revolution





# Causes of the Scientific Revolution



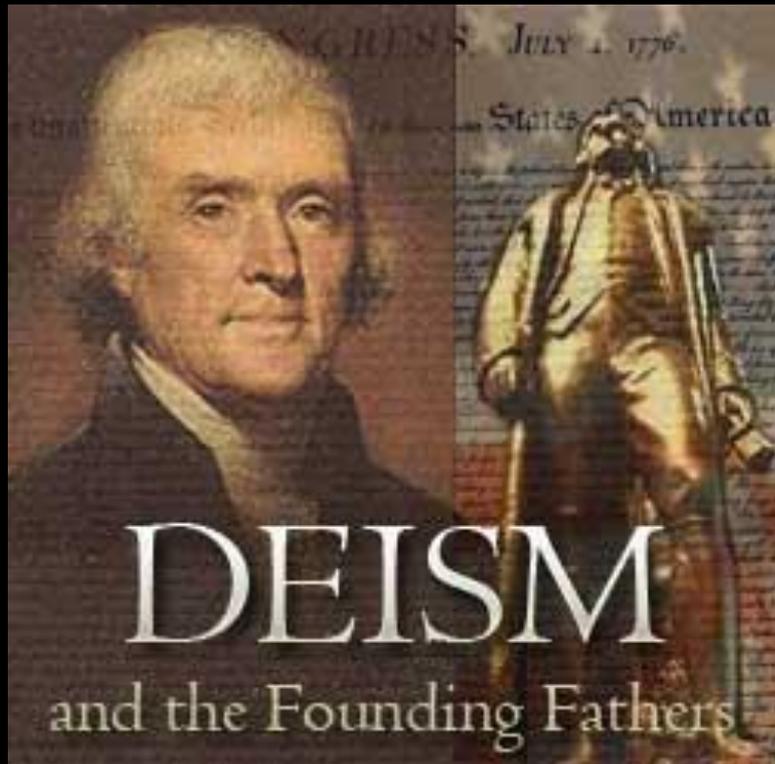
- Medieval Intellectual Life and Medieval Universities
- The Italian Renaissance
- Renewed emphasis on mathematics
- Renaissance idea of Humanism
- Navigational problems of long sea voyages
- Better scientific instruments

# Effects of the Scientific Revolution



- Rise of the “Scientific Community”
- The modern scientific method
- A universe ordered according to natural laws

# Effects of the Scientific Revolution



- Laws discovered by human reason
- “De-Spiritualized” and de-mystified the Universe
- Mechanical View of the Universe
- Deistic View of God-- God as the cosmic capitalist

# Scientific Revolution: Change in Thinking

- **Skepticism and Independent Reasoning:** For example, Descartes reached the extreme of skepticism by doubting his own existence. Then, he realized that his own act of thinking proved his own existence (I think, therefore, I am.)
- **Challenges to Religion:** The idea that the universe worked like a machine according to natural laws and without the intervention of God challenged established religious ideas. This position was adopted by the Deists in the 18th century.

# Scientific Revolution: Change in Thinking

- **Decline in Belief in Magic, Demons, and Witchcraft:** By the 18th century, the educated classes denied the existence of demons and the power of witchcraft. The skeptical views of the educated classes were not shared by the common people for whom religion remained important. The result was a divide between learned and popular culture.
- **Questions about Humanity's Role in the Universe:** By making humans the inhabitants of a tiny planet circling the sun, the Copernican Universe reduced the importance of humanity. It led people to begin to question the place of humanity in creation.

# Scientific Revolution: Change in Thinking

- **Gave Humanity Control of Nature:** Some philosophers argued that by gaining knowledge of the laws of nature, people could control nature. Through science and technology, they could improve human life. This belief in progress became an integral part of Western culture.
- **Challenges to Established Views of Women:** The new scientific ideas challenged the ancient and medieval beliefs about the physical and mental inferiority of women by concluding that both men and women made equal contribution to reproduction. Nevertheless, traditional notions about women continued to dominate