

## The Romantic Period

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## Progress and Science

- The stability of the scientific method ("All Rel. Are One" 79)
- Science Affects perception of time
  - Earth and Sky
    - Deep Time: the Grand Canyon
    - Astronomical Time: Speed of light  $c = 299,792,458 \pm 0$  km/s
- Applied Science: Industrialization
  - Transformation in how passage of time is perceived. People began to behave and organize themselves in new ways.
    - Time IS money: wage-earning hours.
  - Labor
- Social Science: Political Revolutions
  - French and American Revolutions
  - historical materialism

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## Literary Zeitgeist: "Spirit" of the Age

- Interest in the Human Condition
  - Individual Freedom: French & American Revolutions
  - Consequences of the Act of Enclosure.
  - Consequences of Industrialization and urban growth (Blake's "The Chimney Sweeper" poems (85, 90))
- Nature as Sublime
  - Edmund Burke's ideas of the Sublime
  - Nature's interaction with Human nature
- Prophets, Prophecy, Poets, and Poems
  - Poet as Diviner of the World in a Bardic Tradition
- Milton re-defined.
  - Blake: "The reason Milton wrote in fetters when he wrote of Angels and God, and at liberty when of Devils and Hell, is because he was a true Poet and of the Devil's party without knowing it".
- Dreams & Nightmares
  - Supernatural/Mystic
  - Opium / laudenum

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