



STUDY GUIDE

WHY THE WEST WON

KEY TERMS: Western Civilization institutional innovations representative government

NOTE-TAKING COLUMN: Complete this section <u>during</u> the video. Include definitions and key terms.	CUE COLUMN: Complete this section <u>after</u> the video.
<p>How many of the major 17th-century breakthroughs in mathematics, astronomy, physics, chemistry, and biology happened in Western Europe?</p> <p>When Western work ethic led to greater wealth, what did that in turn lead to?</p> <p>What was the ‘Great Divergence,’ according to economic historians?</p>	<p>In what ways did the West innovate to the point of being so much wealthier and more powerful than the rest of the world?</p> <p>Why should Western civilization be so highly valued and supported?</p>

DISCUSSION & REVIEW QUESTIONS:


- Towards the beginning of the video, Professor Ferguson notes that, “ ... fewer and fewer students now graduate with any understanding of what has differentiated the West from the rest of the world. They leave with the misleading view that the defining features of Western civilization are slavery, imperialism and war.” Why do you think that this is the case- that so many students are intentionally being misled about Western civilization? What might the short and long-term consequences be of students being indoctrinated about Western civilization rather than properly educated about it? Explain.
- Professor Ferguson goes on to explain that, “ ... the peoples of Western Europe engaged in all of those things [slavery, imperialism, and war]. But the point is that these were the least original things they did. Prior to that time, nearly all major civilizations enslaved people, built empires and made war. ...The West first surged ahead of the rest thanks to a series of institutional innovations...” What factors do you think sparked the Western people of that time to be original and to innovate? Explain. Why do you think it was the Western people that innovated- why didn't people in the East or in other parts of the world innovate like the West did? Explain.
- One of the most important innovations in the West that Professor Ferguson shares with us is “The rule of law and representative government. An optimal system of social and political order emerged in the English-speaking world, based on private-property rights and the representation of property owners in elected legislatures. This was quite different from the systems of law that had evolved elsewhere, in which individual rights were given short shrift.” What, specifically, do you think made this particular innovation so important? Why do you think that, prior to this time, groups were valued much more heavily than individuals? Explain.
- After laying out the six major differentiating factors of Western civilization, Professor Ferguson points out that, “They are the best explanation for what economic historians call ‘the Great Divergence’: the astonishing gap that arose between Western standards of living and those in the rest of the world. Yes, Western civilization did empire. It did war. It did slavery. But these were not the things that led to the Great Divergence and the period of Western dominance of the world. It was the six killer applications that were crucial. And this Western bundle of institutions still seems to offer humanity the best hope of solving the problems we face in the twenty-first-century.” Why do you think that these six institutions of Western civilization were so successful in helping the people of those nations to advance so dramatically in such a relatively short period? Do you agree with Professor Ferguson that these six pillars of Western civilization are the best hope of solving modern problems? Why or why not?
- At the end of the video, Professor Ferguson concludes that, “Maybe the biggest of these problems is not the rise of China, radical Islam or carbon dioxide emissions, but our own loss of faith in the civilization we inherited from our ancestors. ...In 1938 Churchill defined the ‘central principle of [Western] Civilization’ as ‘the subordination of the ruling class to... the people and to their will as expressed in [a] Constitution.’ Maybe you know of another civilization that came up with that simple but uniquely powerful idea. I don’t.” Why do you think that some people are ‘losing faith’ in Western civilization and its ideals? Explain. What makes the condition of a ruling class subordinate to a citizenry as expressed in a constitution such a ‘uniquely powerful idea?’ Explain.

EXTEND THE LEARNING:

CASE STUDY: Olive Beech

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the article “Olive Ann Beech, American Businesswoman,” then answer the questions that follow.

- What was Mrs. Beech’s first job? What roles did she fill at Travel Air Manufacturing? When did Mrs. Beech and her husband found Beech Aircraft? What was her role in her own company? What happened to Mrs. Beech in 1936, in terms of her place in the company? What did Mrs. Beech do for the company during the war? What happened to Mrs. Beech, in terms of her role in the company, when her husband died? How did Mrs. Beech become known amongst journalists and aerospace enthusiasts? How did Mrs. Beech become wealthy? Mrs. Beech was the first woman to be given which award in the industry, and what did they give it to her for?
- Do you think that Mrs. Beech, or any other woman, could replicate her story and accomplishments in modern-day China or Saudi Arabia? Why or why not? Which of the six Western innovations that Professor Ferguson outlays in the video contributed to Mrs. Beech’s success, and in what way did they contribute to her accomplished career? Explain.
- Why do you think that other parts of the world are slow to adopt, or are outright against, the innovations of the West? Do you think that other nations should adopt and implement these innovations of the West? Why or why not?



QUIZ

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1. At most English-speaking universities, graduates are leaving with the misleading view that the defining features of Western civilization are _____.
 - a. slavery
 - b. imperialism
 - c. war
 - d. all of the above

2. How many of the major 17th-century breakthroughs in mathematics, astronomy, physics, chemistry, and biology happened in Western Europe?
 - a. some of them
 - b. half of them
 - c. most of them
 - d. all of them

3. Nearly all the major 19th- and 20th-century breakthroughs in health care were made by Western Europeans and North Americans.
 - a. True
 - b. False

4. Because Westerners worked longer, worked harder, and saved more of what they earned, what did this work ethic lead to?
 - a. widespread institutional corruption
 - b. unprecedented capital accumulation
 - c. weakened industrial development
 - d. increased monarchical power

5. “The Great Divergence,” according to economic historians, is _____.
 - a. when human tribes separated into those who farmed for food and stayed in one place and those who remained nomadic in finding resources
 - b. when the first industrial capitalists became millionaires
 - c. when a gap arose between Western standards of living and those in the rest of the world
 - d. when mammals became the dominant species over reptiles



QUIZ - ANSWER KEY

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<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Olive-Ann-Beech>

Olive Ann Beech

American businesswoman

Written By: The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica

Olive Ann Beech, née Olive Ann Mellor, (born Sept. 25, 1903, Waverly, Kan., U.S.—died July 6, 1993, Wichita, Kan.), American businesswoman who served first as secretary-treasurer (1932–50) and then as president (1950–68) and chairman of the board (1950–82) of Beech Aircraft Corporation, a leading manufacturer of business and military airplanes founded by her and her husband, Walter H. Beech.

Olive Ann Mellor studied bookkeeping and stenography at a secretarial and business school in Wichita and then worked as a bookkeeper for an electrical supply and contracting firm in Augusta, Kan. In 1924 she was hired by the Travel Air Manufacturing Company, which had recently been founded in Wichita and was being run by flyers and aircraft engineers Lloyd Stearman, Clyde Cessna, and Walter Beech. Soon she was handling the business end of the operation, working variously as secretary, bookkeeper, and office manager of the growing company. In 1930 Olive Ann and Walter were married. Two daughters were born of their marriage, which also was the foundation of a remarkable business partnership.

In 1929 Walter Beech, who had assumed the presidency of Travel Air, sold the company to the Curtiss-Wright Company and stayed on as an officer of the new parent company. The couple lived at various times in St. Louis and New York City. In 1932, at the depth of the Great Depression, Walter and Olive Ann returned to Wichita and founded the Beech Aircraft Company with another investor and a small group of engineers. Olive Ann was the secretary-treasurer, again handling business matters while her husband, the company president, designed and sold airplanes. In 1936, when the company issued common stock, Olive Ann became a member of the board of directors of Beech Aircraft Corporation. Also in that year she suggested that female aviator Louise Thaden compete in the prestigious Bendix Transcontinental Air Race in a Beechcraft Staggerwing, one of a series of large, fast, and expensive biplanes that the company had been producing for the business market. Thaden won the coast-to-coast race, bringing important publicity to the company.

World War II brought great change and growth to Beech Aircraft, as it expanded production and converted some of its models to military use. Olive Ann Beech played a central role, obtaining financing for plant expansion and assuming personal control over the company while her husband was hospitalized in 1940 with an attack of encephalitis. After the war the company resumed civilian production but also continued to produce for the U.S. military and began to subcontract subassemblies for other aircraft companies.

Walter Beech died in 1950, and Olive Ann was elected to replace him as president and chairman of the board. She ran the company for the next 18 years, during which time Beech Aircraft expanded its line of high-performance general aviation planes, subcontracted work in the space-exploration industry, and also produced military trainers, transports, and target drones. Olive Ann Beech steadfastly resisted bringing the company into the jet age, arguing that it was more profitable to build on the company's historic line of propeller-driven craft, for which there was still a market. During her tenure she progressively removed or disciplined several company directors who were relatives and old colleagues of her late husband, all the while elevating her own nephew, Frank Hedrick, to greater responsibilities in the company.

As the astute, imperious, and impeccably tailored female president of a successful company, Beech became renowned among journalists and aerospace enthusiasts as the "first lady" and "queen" of American aviation. Made wealthy by the company's success, she patronized arts groups and funded local and statewide scholarships. She received many honours and tributes, including the National Aeronautic Association's Wright Brothers Memorial Trophy in 1980 "for five decades of outstanding leadership in the development of general aviation." Beech, who never learned to fly, was the first woman to receive that award. In 1968 Beech handed over the presidency of Beech Aircraft to Hedrick while staying on as chairman of the board. In 1980 Beech Aircraft was purchased by the Raytheon Company, and Beech became a member of the board of the new owner. In 1982 Raytheon requested the resignations of Beech and Hedrick, and Beech fully retired from the aerospace business.