

from *“All That is Solid Melts into Air: The Experience of Modernity”* - Marshall Berman, 1981

The Many Sources of the Maelstrom of Modernity-

- great discoveries in the physical sciences
- industrialization of production
- immense demographic upheavals
- rapid and cataclysmic urban growth
- systems of mass communication
- increasingly powerful nation-states
- mass social movements of people, and peoples
- ever-expanding drastically fluctuating capitalist world market

The History of Modernity in Three Phases -

1st - from the start of the 16th century to the end of the 18th, people are just beginning to experience modern life; they hardly know what has hit them.

2nd - begins with the great revolutionary wave of the 1790s; with the French Revolution and its reverberations, a great modern public abruptly and dramatically comes to life.

3rd - in the 20th century the process of modernization expands to take in virtually the whole world, both developing a world culture and shattering it into a multitude of fragments, losing its capacity to organize and give meaning to people's lives.