

Name: _____ Seat _____ Period _____ Date: _____

Whitney High School
AP European History

Lesson 61 • Handout 129
S. Rosenberg

Conflicting Views

Directions: Read, highlight, and take some notes on the side of quotations from Galileo Galilei and Martin Luther. Explain below why each would have been disturbed by the other's concept of the universe. SiR will be checking at the start of the next class period to make sure you've done this work.

Galileo Galilei

Recantation, 22 June 1633

I, Galileo Galilei . . . swear that I have always believed, do now believe, and by God's help will for the future believe, all that is held, preached, and taught by the Holy Catholic and Apostolic Roman Church. But whereas . . . I wrote and printed a book in which I discuss this [heliocentric] doctrine already condemned, and adduce arguments of great cogency in its favour, without presenting any solution of these; and for this cause I have been pronounced by the Holy Office to be vehemently suspected of heresy, that is to say, of having held and believed that the sun is the center of the world and immovable, and that the earth is not the center and moves:—

Therefore, desiring to remove from the minds of your Eminences, and of all faithful Christians, this strong suspicion, reasonably conceived against me, with sincere heart and unfeigned faith I abjure, curse, and detest the aforesaid errors and heresies . . . and I swear that in future I will never again say or assert, verbally or in writing, anything that might furnish occasion for a similar suspicion regarding me . . .

I, the said Galileo Galilei, have abjured, sworn, promised, and bound myself as above.¹

Martin Luther

Rejection of the Copernican Cosmology, 4 June 1539

So it goes now. Whoever wants to be clever must agree with nothing that others esteem. He must do something of his own. This is what that fellow does who wishes to turn the whole of astronomy upside down. Even in these things that are thrown into disorder I believe the Holy Scriptures, for Joshua commanded the sun to stand still and not the earth [*Joshua 10:12*].²