

BAND ONE

Section 4 : Humanity and The Noble Savage

TONY LENTIN

STILL (1)

The Philosoph's passion for the classics was paralleled by their interest in non- Europeans like the heroes and philosophers of ancient Greece and Rome they were appealing because they were different.

STILL (2)

STILL (3)

The ancient civilisation of China was greatly respected, the cultivated ruling class of Mandarins were admired and the exquisite artistry was highly valued.
Eastern religions were thought to be based on

	reason and natural morality rather than revelation and dogma.
STILL (4)	India was well-known in Britain through the activities of the East India Company. British artists depicted their Indian contacts as exotic and elegant. Englishmen themselves were sometimes portrayed in Indian dress.
STILL (5)	And there were even occasional marriages between Englishmen and Indian women.
Music: World Music T.4	
STILL (6)	But one of the most lasting enlightenment concepts on man and human nature was the noble savage.
STILL (7)	
STILL(8)	
STILL (9)	The phrase embodied a Utopian dream of an earthly paradise, a golden age in which man was good, living freely and innocently without need of laws or churches.
STILL (10)	
STILL (11)	
STILL (12)	
STILL (13)	The vision of the noble savage received a huge boost with Captain Cook's discovery of the South Sea Islands and Australia. Artists portrayed cultures, which were sexually liberated and therefore, free.
STILL (14)	
STILL (15)	The noble savage became a cult in high society. The Polynesian Prince Omi was brought from Tahiti to England in 1774 after Cook's second voyage.
STILL (16)	
STILL (17)	He was celebrated in London society and his portrait was painted by Sir Joshua Reynolds, he was admired by enlightened thinkers for what they saw his natural charm and dignity uncorrupted by artificial social convention.
STILL (18)	However, much of society did not extend this benevolence towards Africans or Afro-Caribbean's. While the Pacific Islanders were idealised. Africans were portrayed as inferior, a convenient view for those who benefited from the brutal but highly lucrative slave trade.
STILL (19)	
STILL (20)	But the Philosophs were uncompromising in their objection to slavery.
STILL (21)	
STILL (22)	
STILL (23)	<u>QUOTE</u>
STILL (24)	'This buying of Negro's to reduce them to slavery

STILL (25) is one business that violates, religion, morality, natural laws and all the rights of human nature.'

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STILL (26) In a very few cases former African slaves themselves became enlightenment thinkers and were accepted as part of the circle.

STILL (27) Olaudah Equiano was born in what is now Nigeria, he served as a slave boy in the Royal Navy he then struggled in the West Indies to buy his freedom from his white master.

STILL (28) Eventually he emigrated to England and became a moderately prosperous Christian Englishman. In his Autobiography he writes against the horrors of slavery

Music: Minuetto 1

STILL (29) Another well-known black writer in Britain was

STILL (30) Ignatius Sancho he was born on a slave ship in 1729 and was sold as a child in London but managed to become acquainted with London

STILL (31) society, Sancho wrote novels and music and became part of the London Literary scene. Successful former slaves such as Equiano and Sancho vindicated enlightenment belief in basic human equality.