



The
Excellence
Centre

CARE CONVERSATIONS

FORWARD
FROM

DR TINA LAMONT // Director TEC



Dear Friend,

We trust that you have continued to find our *Care Conversations* a welcome part of your week. The feedback has been encouraging. We want to keep supporting you in your important role in this ministry of Christian education.

In this next series of *Care Conversations*, Stephen looks at some important historical moments through the eyes of Rodney Stark, and in particular his *How the West Won: The Neglected Story of the Triumph of Modernity* (ISI Books, 2015). We trust that this gives you a fresh lens about some common themes in our world of education.

Please remember to contact us at The Excellence Centre if we can assist you with any of the topics raised in these Conversations.

Sincerely,

Dr Tina Lamont

Director TEC

The Excellence Centre

Series 3:

NOTIONS OF THE WEST



REFLECTION BY
STEPHEN J FYSON *PHD*
PRINCIPAL CONSULTANT



Number 4:

When is a revolution a revolution?



I once heard one of the founders of Christian Schooling in Australia say that next to English, he would make History the other compulsory subject (sorry Mathematicians and others...). Emeritus Professor Seymour Sarason from the Yale Psycho-Educational Clinic used to warn against people in leadership being *ahistorical* – not having an eye to lessons from history.

I also had a friend who taught History say to me, on a way back from a missions service trip overseas, that he was going home to “Rip up all those notes from university”. When I asked him why, he replied that “Marxism was how they taught it, and it is all wrong!”

Rodney Stark has noticed the same difficulty with getting our history wrong,

with the naming of the so-called Scientific Revolution:

There was no 'scientific revolution' during the seventeenth century – these brilliant achievements were the culmination of normal scientific progress stretching back to the founding of universities in the twelfth century by Scholastic natural philosophers. [p.2]

It is often our egos that claim things for ourselves when they are shared achievements – even in our disciplines. May God help us see this danger, not only across the eras of time, but in our lives, and in our own learning communities.

Grace and peace,

Stephen J Tyson PhD
Principal Consultant
The Excellence Centre



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- To be authentically Christian
- Provide excellent products, services and research products
- Practice Christian Community

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