Notes on a Brief history of the Origins of the Discipline of Anthropology – the Convergence of certain Intellectual and Experiential prerequisites occurring in only in Europe:

1. Scientific Revolution:

   A. Locke, Descartes, Comte, etc. of the 16th thru 19th century
   – “Cartesian dualism” and objectified, quantified, secularized reality and established “scientific method”
   – the behavior of other humans: a. had own existence separate from observer – objectified, b. was governed by certain “laws” that could be discovered
   – these are not assumption about reality that are necessarily shared by the rest of humanity

   B. as exemplified by Evolutionary theory, e.g., Darwin (though around over 100 years before) – “natural selection” and “evolution of species”
   – a model explaining change and diversity in the natural biological and physical worlds

2. Printing Press and wide spread literacy – Gutenberg 1440

   – enhanced communications, the rapid sharing of information, and widespread dissemination to a big audience
   – helped spawn intellectual class

3. Societal Chaos (maybe intimate relationship of two) – 17th and 18th dislocation and change

   a. – with collapse of the “Feudal System,” stability and authority of the Roman Catholic Church weakened, and the rise of the “Industrial Revolution,”
   result in tremendous disruption to structure of society – peasants and farmers displaced, emergence of huge cities and urban working classes – internal chaos
   = all of which had to be explained and justified

   b. – in midst of the “Age of Discovery” and “Age of Conquest” – the colonialization of much of the rest of the world – exterior chaos
   – Europe flooded with stories of the “strange and exotic” – “Dr. Livingston I presume” and work of Christian missionaries
   = all of which had to be explained
Europe and America had a new appetite (via industrialization) for raw materials and natural resources. **Colonialization** offered opportunity to exploit and bring home the needed resources to continue industrialization

=all of which had to be justified

– part of that colonialization was not only exploiting the natural resources and labor of the conquered, but capture their “souls” as well – “saving the souls of the heathen” — Christian **missionizing** of world

=all of which had to be justified

4. **“Justificationist”** – and with these three elements coming together and more, development of **intellectual elites**, with time on their hands. – to provided explanation and justification theories

What they come up with – **Classical Evolutionist** – “arm chair anthropologist” apply the “Survival of the Fittest” to the “other” – the first “anthropologist”

– it explained world in terms of inevitable “progress” from “primitive” and “barbaric” to “civilized”

A great concept for **explaining why there are differences** and **for justifying conquest of “souls” and exploitation of “resources”**

Simply put:

**We are advanced** – you are “primitive”  You are where we had progressed from - a sort of archaic hold-over

– hence you are different (explanation)

– hence we superior and you are inferior

– hence we have the “right” and should in fact teach and convert, as well as exploit and enslave you to help bring you up to our level (justification)