









Overview of the Eight Key Beliefs

Origin of Key Belief	The Eight Key Beliefs	Trace Color on Charts
Pythagoras	Mental contemplation alone is sufficient to provide insights about the observed world; contemplation yields revelations from within that are exact, certain, and eternal. Emphasis: Each mind's <i>internal</i> functions and processes.	 pink
Plato	Knowledge is "given" to each human at birth due to his or her prior unity with the "Real" world; that knowledge can be drawn from within by certain learning methods. Emphasis: Each mind's inborn "given" contents and understandings.	 green
Aristotle	Mental development <i>will occur</i> due to a purposeful (<i>telos</i>) internal principle. If there is no impediment, a mind <i>inexorably</i> attains its mature form. Emphasis: Each person's mind inevitably develops, requiring neither external support nor internal intentionality.	 blue
<i>Empiricists:</i> F. Bacon, Locke, and Newton	Understanding begins with facts based on observations made by the senses, and continues via inductive thought to attain a highly probable (but still tentative) conclusion. Emphasis: Each mind's capacity to sense and understand the external world.	 red
Rousseau	"The younger the human, the better the human" because infants are unspoiled by civilization. The young are precious and should be guarded from all corruptions. Emphasis: Each mind's initial excellence and ability to flower with little external help.	 violet
Luther and the <i>Social Contractists:</i> Quesnay, Rousseau, and Locke	Total dependence on and deference to authorities is neither necessary nor productive. Individuals can <i>and should</i> be self-reliant, self-expressive. Authorities have uses but need rational justification. Emphasis: Each mind's capacity for self-direction.	 grey
Calvin	Before time began, each person's eternal destiny was pre-determined – "given" – by God. Children at a very young age must become God-fearing individuals by having their wills "broken." Emphasis: Each mind's propensity to displease God.	 black
Spencer	Mental development follows inborn patterns set by racial history; child caretakers <i>must</i> cater to these. The young have no resilience or flexibility; their energy is needed for growth & activity, leaving little for academics. Emphasis: Each mind's fragile, rigid, spontaneously unfolding patterns require subservient caretaker compliance.	 orange

[Chapter 1 has no chart]

[Chart for Chapter 2](#) →