

Thoughts on why: excerpts from your responses

- European wars led to heavy emphasis on R&D and STEM development
- Access to education
- Representation by the media
- The Renaissance and industrialization originated in Western Europe
- Wars in Islamic world led to setbacks in scientific advancement
- Wealth concentrated in Europe
- Discoveries from outside of Europe were incorporated into European thinking without attribution
- Women were excluded, sometimes by societal convention and stereotypes
- People of color sometimes forbidden access to education
- Access to resources, education, and funding for physics
- Access to education, many universities were all-male
- Women not taken seriously by colleagues and professors
- Access to wealth and ability to afford higher education
- White physicists selected more often for positions at universities
- Physics often centered on white “old boys clubs” (for example, Copenhagen meetings)
- Defense-oriented funding in the West
- We tend not to focus on Eastern achievements
- Implicit norms, lack of mentors, and institutionalized causes continue to block women and people of color in physics
- Contributions of women physics are ignored even when they exist
- Divide/ lack of scientific collaboration between East and West
- Western imperialism and colonialism impeded educational development across the globe
- Social marginalization and oppression
- Accomplishments of those from underrepresented groups are downplayed or ignored even today
- Archaic cultural expectations of scientists that are slowly breaking down
- Bias in higher education
- Lack of role models
- Appropriation of credit for work done by people of color
- Continued exploitation of colonized countries destabilizes governments and economic structures
- Women perceived as less capable or intelligent, more emotional, objectified
- America has put a lot of resources and capital into scientific research
- Creators of textbooks and people who identify “greatest discoveries” select for white men
- Dominance of white men in physics continues to present a difficult barrier to entry for others