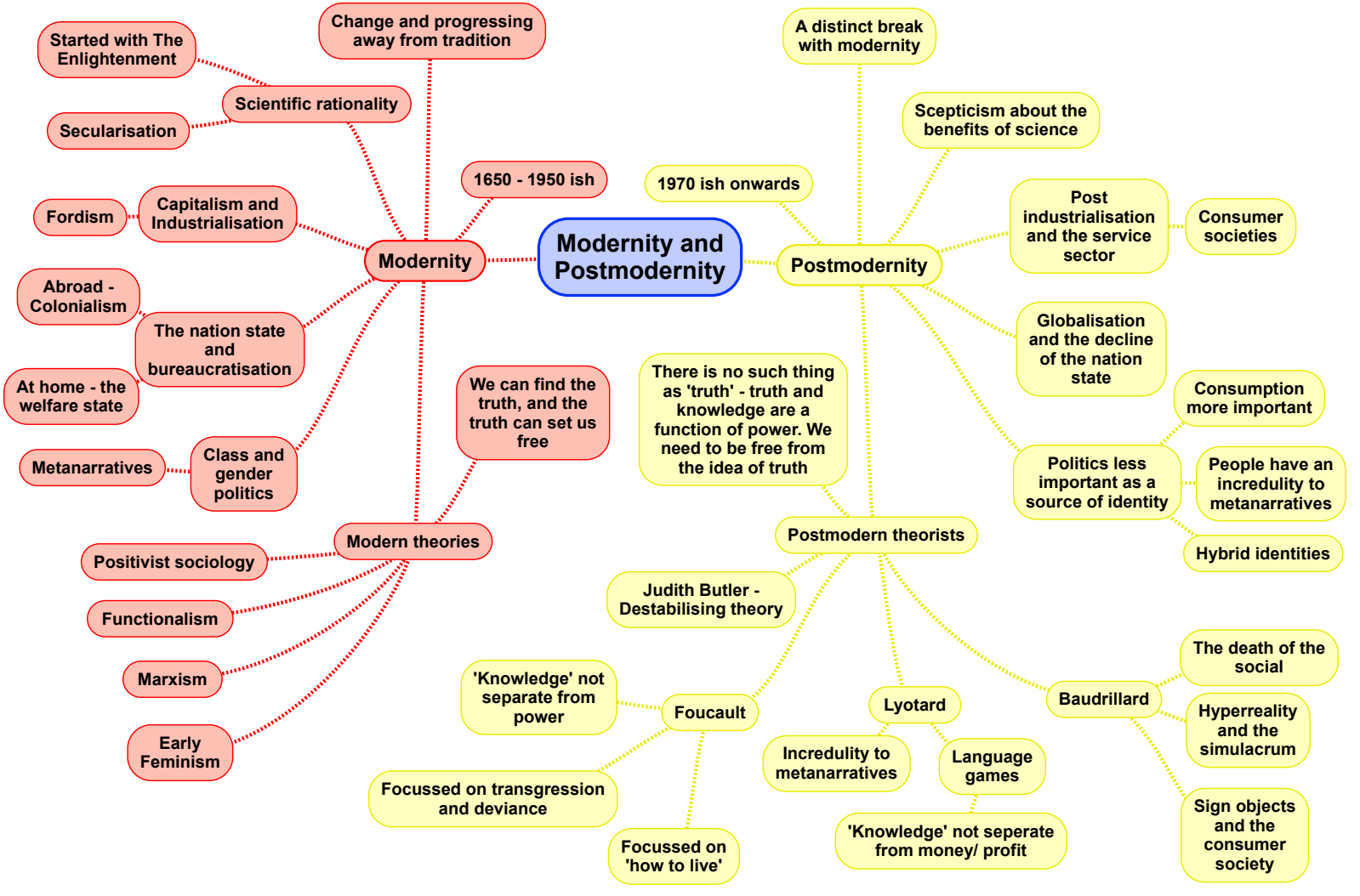
Modernity and Postmodernity
Modernity
1650 - 1950 ish
Change and progressing away from tradition
Scientific rationality
Started with The Enlightenment
Secularisation
Capitalism and Industrialisation
Fordism
The nation state and bureaucratisation
Abroad - Colonialism
At home - the welfare state
Class and gender politics
Metanarratives
Modern theories
Positivist sociology
Functionalism
Marxism
Early Feminism
We can find the truth, and the truth can set us free
Postmodernity
1970 ish onwards
A distinct break with modernity
Scepticism about the benefits of science
Post industrialisation and the service sector
Consumer societies
Globalisation and the decline of the nation state
Consumption more important
Politics less important as a source of identity
People have an incredulity to metanarratives
Hybrid identities
There is no such thing as 'truth' - truth and knowledge are a function of power. We need to be free from the idea of truth
Postmodern theorists
Judith Butler - Destabilising theory
Foucault
'Knowledge' not separate from power
Focussed on transgression and deviance
Focussed on 'how to live'
Lyotard
Incredulity to metanarratives
Language games
'Knowledge' not seperate from money/ profit
Baudrillard
The death of the social
Hyperreality and the simulacrum
Sign objects and the consumer society