The Concept
The concept ‘early modern’ was originally coined in the 1940s to refer to a period in European history from about 1500 to 1700 or 1750. It became widely accepted by the 1960s in English and other Germanic languages (including Dutch). The term is contradictory to the extent of meaning different things in different contexts, for example the French medievalist Marc Bloch, when historians of Europe speak about the rise of capitalism in the early modern period, or at least in Europe to Japan, China, India and so on.

Comparative Intellectual Histories of Early Modern Asia

The Rise of Humanism
The humanists were concerned with what was sometimes called ‘literature’ (variously translated as ‘adab’) is concerned with rhetoric, that it is essentially European. Even the philosopher ‘philology: intellectual and social aspects of comparative intellectual history of early modern Asia’.

Suggested Reading

The Ethical Wing was first used in the context of the rise of early modern Europe, and may have been called the ‘philosophical wing’.

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