

*Charles Darwin*



*A. Einstein*

# Chapter 24: The Birth of Modern European Thought





# Advances in Reading and Primary Education

- 85% literacy rates in Britain, France, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, and Scandinavia / far lesser rates in Italy, Spain, Russia, Austria-Hungary and the Balkans
- liberals and conservatives call for more primary education and literacy



# Reading Material

- number of newspapers, books, magazines, mail-order catalogs, and libraries grow rapidly
- sometimes the publications were mediocre catering to sensationalism, scandal, and pornography
- still new reading materials led to a popularization of knowledge





Captain Nemo's submarine confronts a giant octopus in Verne's *Twenty Thousand Leagues under the Sea*.

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Public education became widespread in Europe during the second half of the nineteenth century and women came to dominate the profession of school teaching, especially at the elementary level. This 1905 photograph shows English schoolchildren going through morning drills.

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# Auguste Comte

- developed **positivism** - a philosophy of human intellectual development based on science
- wrote The Positive Philosophy in which he argued human thought has three stages
  - (1) theological – physical nature explained by divinity
  - (2) metaphysical – abstract principles explained by operative agencies of nature
  - (3) positive – explanations of nature become matters of exact description of phenomena
- considered “father” of modern sociology



# Charles Darwin

- in *On the Origin of Species* formulates principle of natural selection which explained how species evolved over time
- together with **Alfred Russel Wallace** comes up with **natural selection** – principle of survival of the fittest
- theory undermines deistic argument for the existence of God
- in *Descent of Man*, applies principle of evolution to human beings





Darwin's theories about the evolution of humankind from the higher primates aroused enormous controversy. This caricature shows him with a monkey's body holding a mirror to an apelike creature.

National History Museum, London, UK/Bridgeman Art Library





# Science and Ethics

- **Herbert Spencer** – British philosopher who believed in **social Darwinism**, society progresses through competition where the strong defeat the weak
- **Thomas Henry Huxley** – strongly supported Darwin, but opposed Spencer, declared the physical process of evolution was at odds with human ethical development

# Christianity Under Siege / Intellectual Skepticism

- history – writers question the historical accuracy of the Bible, citing no genuine historical evidence
- science – Darwin and other scientists doubt the story of Creation citing that the Earth is much older than the Bible
- morality
  - liberal intellectuals question the cruelty and sacrifices mentioned in the Bible
  - **Friedrich Nietzsche** – felt Christianity glorified weakness, rather than strength
  - movement towards secularism

# Conflict Between Church and State

- Great Britain – churches opposed improvements in government schools because it raised the costs of church schools / **Education Act of 1902** – provided state support for religious and non-religious schools
- France – public schools expanded, religious teachings replaced by civic training and Napoleonic Concordat terminated separating church and state
- Germany
  - education secularized in 1870-1871 under Bismarck
  - “**May Laws**” of 1873 – require priests to be educated in German schools and pass state examinations
  - Bismarck’s **Kulturkampf** “cultural struggle” provokes Catholic resentment against the German state



## Zwischen Berlin und Rom.



**Conflict Between Church and State in Germany** The conflict between the German imperial government and the German Roman Catholic Church was among the most intense church-state encounters of the late nineteenth century. Here the tumultuous event is somewhat trivialized as Bismarck and the Pope are portrayed attempting to checkmate each other.



# Religious Revival

- church revivals occur in Britain, Ireland and France
- cult of the miracle at Lourdes grows


## Late 19th Century and the Roman Catholic Church

- **Pope Pius IX** after Italian unification turns from liberal to conservative issuing Syllabus of Errors – setting Catholic Church against science, philosophy and politics
- **papal infallibility** – pope is incapable of error on the issues of faith and morals
- **Pope Leo XIII** – Pius successor, moderate who defended religious education and religious control of marriage, but also wanted a corporate society based on moral religious principles rather than socialist or capitalist ideals
- **Pius X** – rejected modernism and required all priests to take an anti-Modernist oath



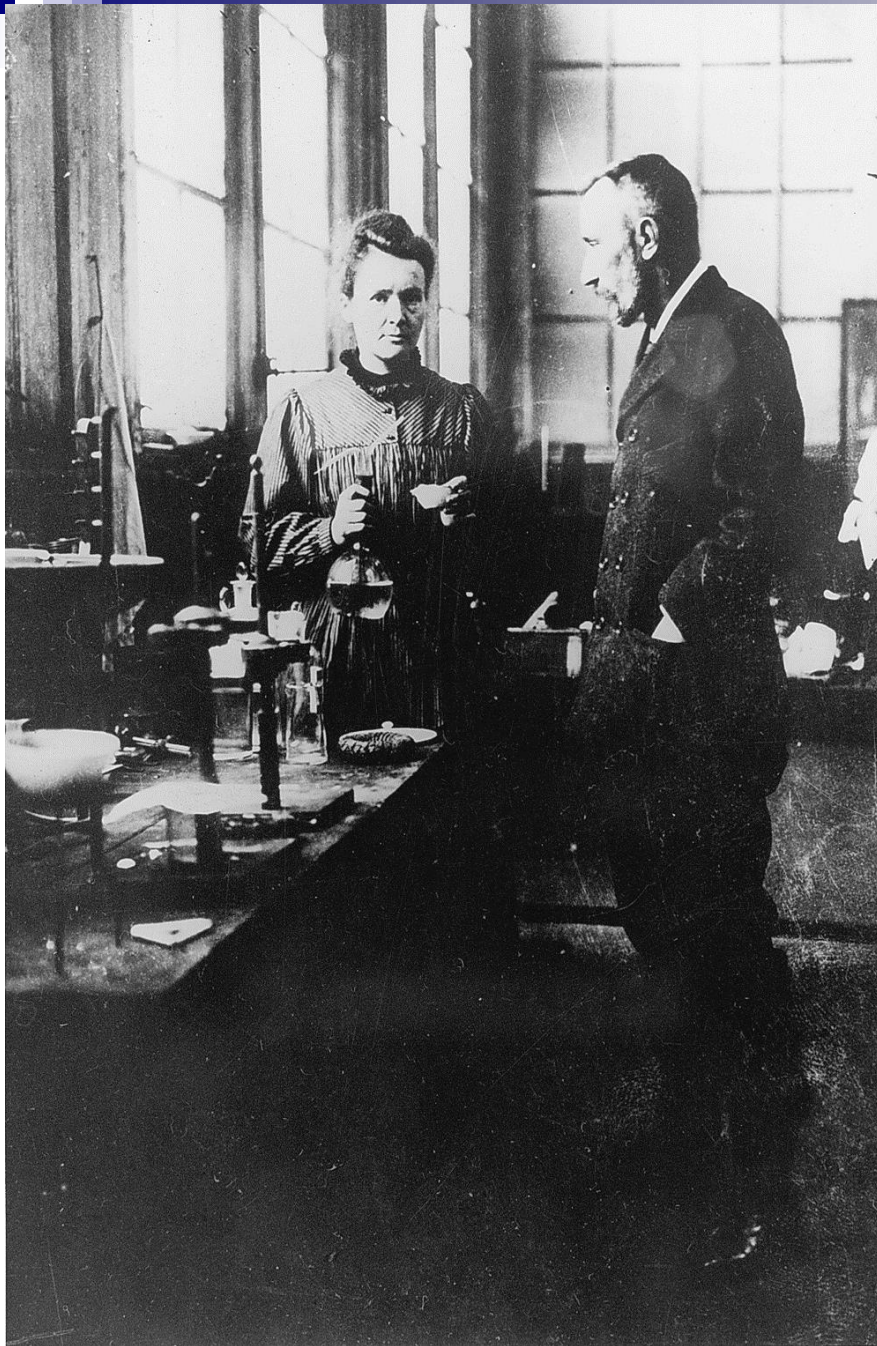
# Late 19th Century and Islam

- Anti-Islamic thought
  - Islam considered to be a religion incapable of developing scientific ideas
  - Europeans championed the superiority of the white race and Christianity
  - Eventually some Christian missionaries become more sympathetic to Muslims
- the **Salafi** movement along with some Islamic leaders want to modernize Islam, but reject Western principles / its effects are still felt today



# Science towards the 20th century – the physics revolution

- few scientists believed they could portray the “truth” about physical reality, instead offering hypothesis or symbolic models of nature
- x-rays and radiation – major steps in the study of the atom and radioactive materials
- **Max Planck – quantum theory of energy** – energy is a series of discrete quantities rather than a continuous stream
- **Albert Einstein – theory of relativity** – time and space do not exist separately, but rather as a combined continuum
- **Werner Heisenberg – uncertainty principle** – behavior of subatomic particles is a matter of statistical probability rather than of exactly determinable cause and effect



Marie Curie (1869–1934) and Pierre Curie (1859–1906) were two of the most important figures in the advance of physics and chemistry. Marie was born in Poland but worked in France for most of her life. She is credited with the discovery of radium, for which she was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1911.

Ullstein Bilderdienst



# Realist and Naturalist Literature of Early 20th Century

- **realist and naturalist** writers brought scientific objectivity and observation to their work portraying the hypocrisy and brutality of the bourgeois life
- famous early realist writers included; **Charles Dickens, Honore de Balzac, and George Eliot**
- **Gustave Flaubert and Emile Zola**
  - Flaubert in *Madame Bovary* (1857) describes colorless and hapless search of love by a woman
  - Zola wrote of alcoholism, prostitution, adultery, and labor strife
- **Henrik Ibsen and George Bernard Shaw**
  - Ibsen in his works strips away the illusory mask of middle-class morality
  - Shaw defended Ibsen and wrote against romanticism and false respectability



Emile Zola of France was the master of the realistic novel.

*Emile Zola*, 1840–1902. Französischer Schriftsteller. Gemälde von Edouard Manet, 1868. Original: Paris, Louvre. Photograph: Lauros–Giraudon. © Bildarchiv Preussischer Kulturbesitz, Berlin

# Modernism Literature of Early 20th Century

- **modernism** – critical of middle class society, but more concerned with beauty than social issues
- **Keynesian economics – John Maynard Keynes** claimed governments spent their way out of depressions by running deficits to encourage employment and the production of goods
- famous modernist writers
  - **Virginia Woolf** – portrayed individuals seeking to make their way in a world with most 19th century social and moral certainties removed
  - **Thomas Mann** – explored social experience of middle class Germans



Virginia Woolf charted the changing sentiments of a world with most of the nineteenth-century social and moral certainties removed. In *A Room of One's Own*, quoted in the document selection on p. 823, she also challenged some of the accepted notions of feminist thought, asking whether women writers should bring to their work any separate qualities they possessed as women, and concluding that men and women writers should strive to share each other's sensibilities.

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Marcel Proust's multivolume *In Search of Time Past*, (*A la Recherche du Temps Perdu*) which was published between 1913 and 1927, was one of the most significant modernist novels.

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# Modern Art

## ■ Impressionism

- concentrated on modern life, using light, color, and the momentary, largely unfocused visual experience of the social landscape
- famous impressionists included; **Edward Manet, Claude Monet, Pierre-Auguste Renoir and Edgar Degas**

## ■ Post-Impressionism

- form and structure, rather than the impression of the movement marked these works
- famous post-impressionists included; **Georges Seurat, Paul Cezanne, Vincent Van Gogh, and Paul Gauguin**

## ■ Cubism

- instead of painting as a window to the real world, painting was an autonomous realm of art itself with no purpose beyond itself
- famous cubists were **Georges Braque and Pablo Picasso**





Édouard Manet (1832–1883), *A Bar at the Folies-Bergère*, 1882.

Oil on canvas, 96 x 130 cm. Signed dated. Courtauld gift 1932. Courtauld Institute Gallery, London





Georges Seurat, "A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte," 1884–86.

Oil on Canvas. x (2.07 x 3.08 m). Helen Birch Bartlett Memorial Collection. Photograph © 2005, The Art Institute of Chicago. All Rights Reserved





## Georges Braque, Violon et Palette (Violon et Palette), 1909–1910.

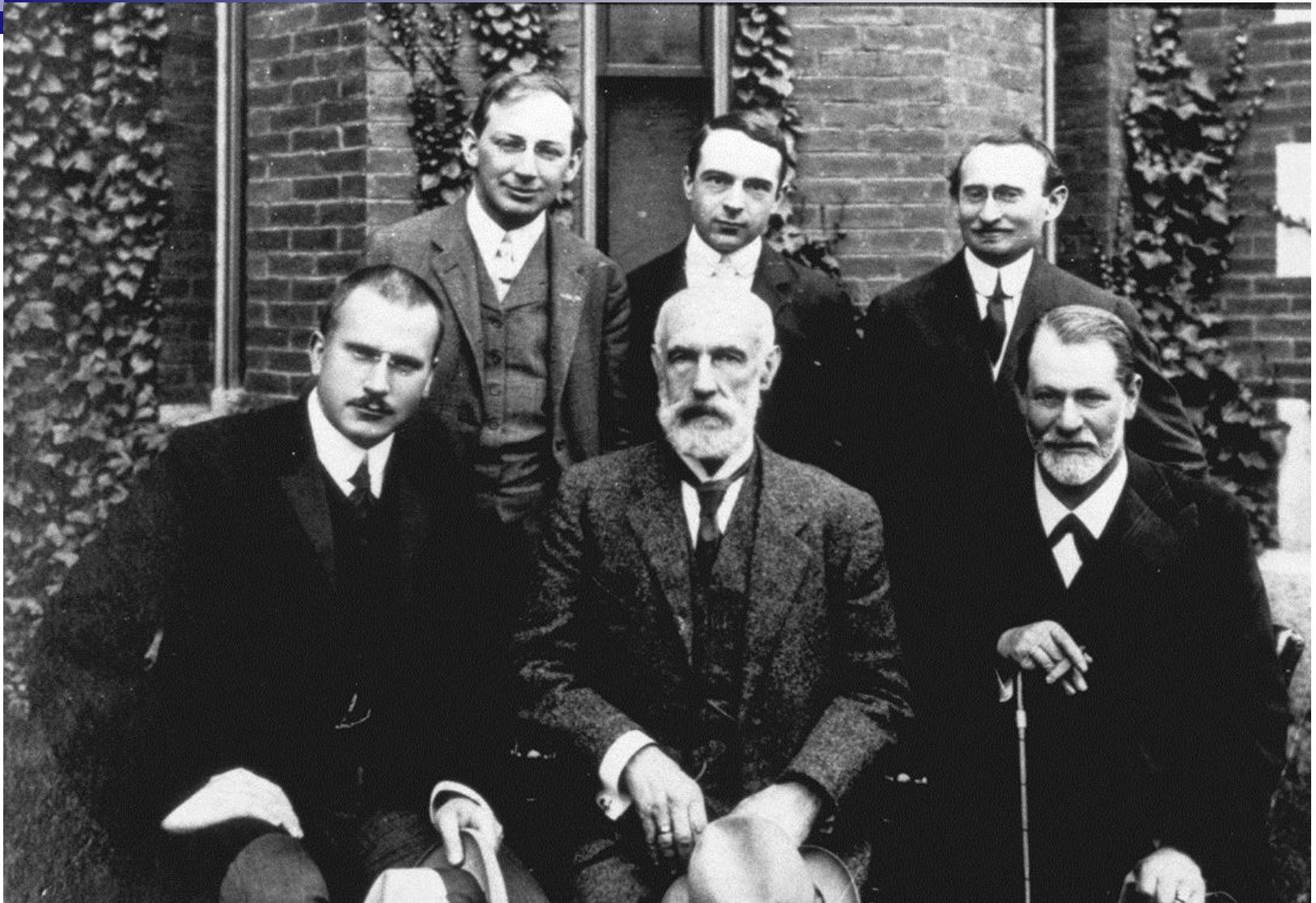
Autumn 1909. Oil on canvas. 91.7 × 42.8 cm (36 1/8 × 16 7/8 inches). Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, 54.1412. Photograph by Lee B. Ewing © The Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation, New York. © 2004 Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York/ADAGP, Paris

# Friedrich Nietzsche

- questioned rational thinking, Christianity, democracy, nationalism, science and progress-"A casual stroll through the lunatic asylum shows that faith does not prove anything." "Faith: not wanting to know what is true."
- in *The Birth of Tragedy* (1872) urged the non-rational aspects of human nature are as noble as rational characteristics
- declared the death of God
- critical of racism and anti-Semitism
- sought the heroism he saw in the Greek Homeric age-"Overman" & "Übermensch"

# Psychoanalysis – Freud and Jung

- **Sigmund Freud's** early theories
  - early studies were on psychic disorders
  - theorized that human beings are sexual from birth through adulthood
  - sexuality as one of the bases of mental order and disorder
- Freud and dreams – argued that unconscious drives and desires contribute to conscious behavior
- Freud's later thought – internal mind is based on the struggle of three entities
  - **id** – amoral, irrational, driving instincts of sexual gratification
  - **superego** – the external moral imperatives and expectations imposed on the personality put on by society and culture
  - **ego** – mediates the impulses of the id with the morals of the superego
- **Carl Jung** – Freud's student who goes away from his teacher's theories and believes collective memories along with personal experience constitute a human being's soul / saw value in religion



In 1909 Freud and his then-devoted disciple Carl Jung visited Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts, during Freud's only trip to the United States. Here Freud sits on the right holding a cane. Jung is sitting on the far left.




# Retreat from Rationalism in Politics

## ■ Max Weber

- saw bureaucratization as the basic feature of modern social life
- people develop their own self-worth from large organizations
- non-economic factors might account for developments in human history

## ■ **Collective Behavior** – the belief in the necessity of collectively shared ideals in society / proponents of this theory differed from Weber



**Racism** – the pseudoscientific theory that biological features of race determine human character and worth

- **Count Arthur de Gobineau** – in his four volume *Inequality of the Human Races* (1853-1854) argued the white Aryan race was being weakened by inferior yellow and black races
- **Houston Stuart Chamberlain** – anti-Semite who believed through genetics a superior race could be developed
- late-century nationalism – new nationality defined itself through race and blood opposed the ideas of liberalism and socialism and led to racism throughout Europe and North America against African and Native-Americans



# Anti-Semitism and Zionism

- anti-Semitism seen in Vienna with the Christian Socialist Party, in Germany with the ultraconservative chaplain **Adolf Stoecker**, and the Dreyfus affair in France
- **Zionist** movement – the movement to found a separate Jewish state led by **Theodor Herzl** / Herzl's ideas eventually lead to the birth of the state of Israel



Theodor Herzl's visions of a Jewish state would eventually lead to the creation of the state of Israel in 1948.

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# Antifeminism in Late-Century Thought

- Famous intellectuals; Charles Darwin, T.H. Huxley, Karl Vogt, Sigmund Freud, Auguste Comte, Emile Durkheim, Max Weber, Herbert Spencer all believed women were born inferior to men
- distinguished woman psychoanalysts; **Karen Horney** and **Melanie Klein** challenged, especially Freud's view on women that they would be mothers destined to lead unhappy mental lives

# New Feminism – Sexual Morality

- feminists were outraged by **Contagious Diseases Act** (1864), which in Britain gave the police permission to force women to undergo examinations for venereal diseases (Act was repealed in 1886)
- Austrian feminists combated the government regulation of prostitution
- in Germany, feminists form **Mothers' Protection League**, which contended that both married and unmarried mothers required the help of the state for pregnancy and child care



# New Feminism – Women Defining Their Own Lives

- some women became active in socialist circles
- Virginia Woolf – wrote *A Room of One's Own* (1929) – argued that women should have separate intellectual and psychological philosophies than men
- World War I – feminism becomes grouped with sexual immorality, and extreme political radicalism leading to repression by such leaders as Lenin and Stalin



Josephine Butler (1828–1906) was an English reformer who campaigned relentlessly to repeal the Contagious Diseases Acts.

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