

**Arts and Commerce College , Ashta
Tal- Walwa, Dist- Sangli.**

A Presentation on
“A Survey of English Literature”

PRESENTED BY

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M.A.B.Ed. SET NET

How to study Literature?

- Analytical approach - The elements of fiction include plot, character, setting, point of view, theme, symbol, allegory, style, and tone.
- Thematic approach - What is the story, the poem, the play, or the essay about?

The Anglo-Saxon period (449-1066)

- Historical background - Three conquests: Roman conquest in 43 AD; Anglo-Saxon conquest in 449; Norman conquest in 1066 43 AD, Roman conquered Britain ,making the latter a province of Roman Empire; the withdrawal of Roman troops ,the Teutonic tribes, esp., the Anglos conquered the island and called it Angle-land, then England, their language is Anglo-Saxon old English.
- Literature 1)Pagan: oral sagas: the Song of Beowulf 2) Christian: copied by the monk. The influence of the Christianity upon language and culture.

The Anglo-Norman period (1066—1350)

- Historical background - Norman Conquest of Anglo-Saxon England, under William, Duke of Normandy after the battle of Hastings in 1066, accelerated the development of feudalism in England..

Geoffrey Chaucer

(1340—1400)

- His life - born in a wine merchant family, page to Elizabeth he had broad and intimate acquaintance with persons high and low in all walks of life and knew well the whole social life of his time.
- The Canterbury Tales - It is one of the most famous works in all literature. It begins with a general prologue that explains the occasion for the narration of the tales and gives a description of the pilgrims who narrate the tales, and then follow the twenty-four tales that make up the bulk of the book, plus the separate prologues and the “links that accompany some of” the tales.

Varieties of themes

- Matters of class struggle
- The border wars between England and Scotland
- Conflict between love and wealth
- The cruel effect of jealousy and treachery
- The struggle of young lovers against their feudal families
- Some about supernatural ghost and spirits.

The Renaissance

- It originated in Italy in the 14-th century when the art, literature and ideas of ancient Greece and Rome were discovered and widely studied and came to a flowery in the 15-th century and later spread to France, Germany, Spain, Holland and Belgium and England in the 16-th century.
- The Renaissance period is marked by the rediscovery and study of the classics of ancient Greece and Rome, by challenging religious dogmas and opposing the tyranny of feudal rules.

William Shakespeare

(1564-1616)

- One of the founders of realism in world literature as well as in English literature
- The great successes in character creations in vividness and intensity in emotional and psychological depth
- The psychological probing of the characters inner conflict
- The adroit plot construction conflict
- Skilled in many poetic forms
- A great master of English language
- The summit of the English Renaissance and one of the great writers the world over

The 17-th century

- The contradictions between the feudal system and bourgeoisie
- Elizabeth: 1558-1603
- James I: 1603-1625 political and religious tyranny
- Charles I: 1625-1649
- Cromwell: 1649-1660 commonwealth protector: 1653-1658
- Charles II: 1660-1688 restoration
- James II: 1685-1688
- William of Orange: 1688-1702

Literary Characteristics

- The puritan age/influence: gloom age, Poem: John Milton, metaphysical poets, Prose: john Bunyan
- Restoration/French influence drama: rimed couplet literature: witty and clever, immoral and cynical on the whole

The 18-th Century

- The bourgeoisie and the aristocracy ruled the country together
- Enclosure movement—commercial expansion—colonial expansion—a big industrial and colonial capitalist power
- American war of Independence (1775-1783)
- French bourgeoisie revolution in 1789 clear the mind of man for the coming revolution

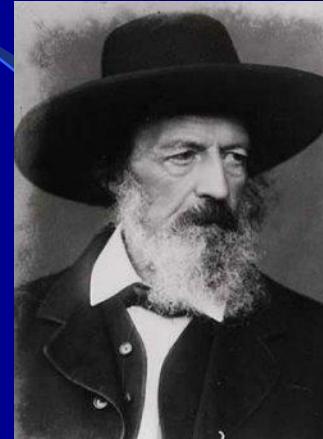
The Victorian Age

1832-1900

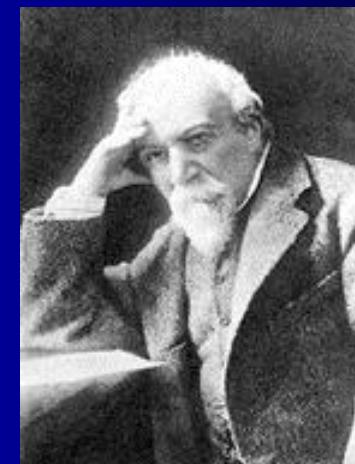


Quotes from the Times...

- “Youth is a blunder; manhood a struggle; old age a regret” Benjamin Disraeli, Coningsby
- “‘Tis better to have loved and lost/
Than never to have loved at all”
Alfred, Lord Tennyson, “In
Memoriam, A.H.H.”
- A man’s reach should exceed his
grasp,/ Or what’s a heaven for?”
Robert Browning, “Andrea del
Santo”

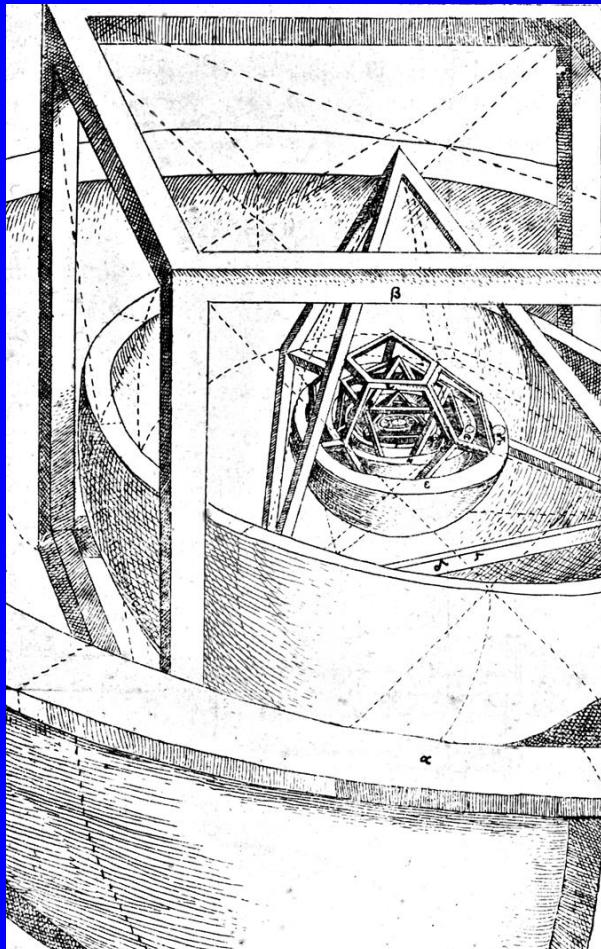


Tennyson



Browni
ng

General Info About the Time



- Enormous changes occurred in political and social life in England and the rest of the world
- The scientific and technical innovations of the Industrial Revolution, the emergence of modern nationalism, and the European colonization of much of Africa, the Middle East, and the Far East changed most of Europe
- Far-reaching new ideas created the greatest outpouring of literary production the world has ever seen

Queen Victoria (1819-1901)

Reign: 1837-1901

- She had the longest reign in British history
- Became queen at the age of 18; she was graceful and self-assured. She also had a gift for drawing and painting
- Throughout her reign, she maintained a sense of dignity and decorum that restored the average person's high opinion of the monarchy after a series of horrible, ineffective leaders
- 1840-Victoria married a German prince, Albert, who became not king, but Prince-consort
- After he died in 1861, she sank into a deep depression and wore black every day for the rest of her life



The Growth of the British Empire

- England grew to become the greatest nation on earth
- Empire included Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Singapore, South Africa, Kenya, and India
- England built a very large navy and merchant fleet (for trade and colonization)



The Growth of the British Empire (continued)

- Imported raw materials such as cotton and silk and exported finished goods to countries around the world
- By the mid-1800s, England was the largest exporter and importer of goods in the world. It was the primary manufacturer of goods and the wealthiest country in the world
- Because of England's success, they felt it was their duty to bring English values, laws, customs, and religion to the “savage” races around the world

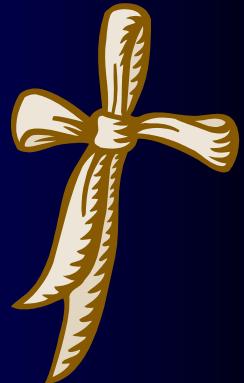
The Industrial Revolution

- Factory systems emerged
- The shift in the English economy moved away from agriculture and toward the production of manufactured goods
- Great Exhibition of 1851-Prince Albert-housed in the Crystal Palace (made of glass and iron) exhibited hydraulic presses, locomotives, machine tools, power looms, power reapers, and steamboat engines

Social and Political Reform

- 1832-First Reform Act-extended the vote to most middle-class men
- 1833-Britain abolished slavery/Factory Act-regulated child labor in factories
- 1834-Poor Law-Amendment applied a system of workhouses for poor people
- 1871-Trade Union Act-made it legal for laborers to organize to protect their rights

Religious Movement in Victorian England

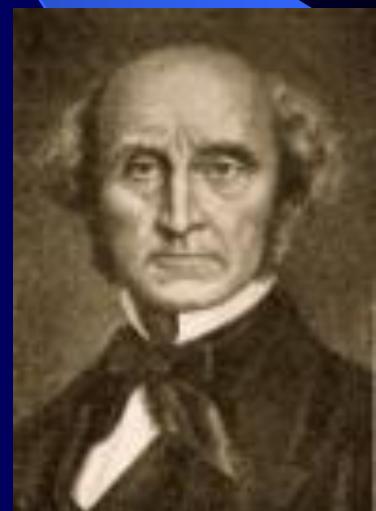


- Evangelical Movement: emphasized a Protestant faith in personal salvation through Christ. This movement swept through England. Led to the creation of the Salvation Army and YMCA.
- Oxford Movement (Tractarians): sought to bring the official English Anglican Church closer in rituals and beliefs to Roman Catholicism



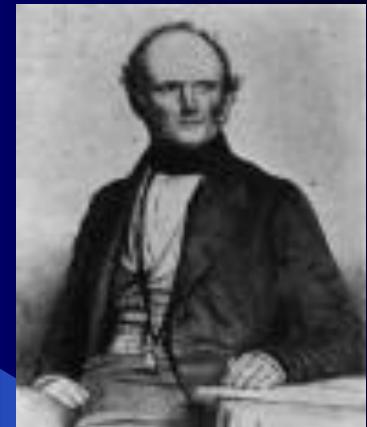
Other Thoughts...

- John Stuart Mill (1806-1873)- philosopher who created two ideas
- Utilitarianism: the object of moral action was to bring about the greatest good for the greatest amount of people
- Liberalism: governments had the right to restrict the actions of individuals only when those actions harmed others, and that society should use its collective resources to provide for the basic welfare of others. Also encouraged equal rights for women

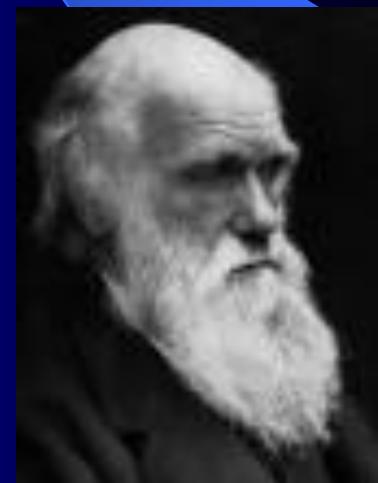


Other Thoughts..

- Charles Lyell (1797-1875):
- Showed that geological features on Earth had developed continuously and slowly over immense periods of time
- Charles Darwin (1809-1882):
Introduced the survival of the fittest theory



Lyell



Darwin

Other Thoughts...

- Herbert Spencer (1820-1903): Applied Darwinism to human society: as in nature, survival properly belongs to the fittest, those most able to survive. Social Darwinism was used by many Victorians to justify social inequalities based on race, social or economic class, or gender
- Adam Smith- 18th century economist, held that the best government economic policy was to leave the market alone—to follow a laissez faire or “let it be” policy of little or no gov’t intervention

Victorian Literature

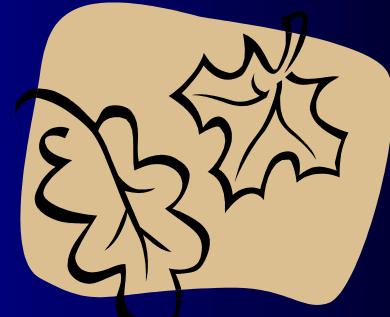
- Four types of writing were popular during the Victorian Era:
- Realist
- Naturalist
- The Novel
- Poetry



Realism

- The attempt to produce in art and literature an accurate portrayal of reality
- Realistic, detailed descriptions of everyday life, and of its darker aspects, appealed to many readers disillusioned by the “progress” going on around them.
- Themes in Realist writing included families, religion, and social reform

Naturalism



- Based on the philosophical theory that actions and events are the results not of human intentions, but of largely uncontrollable external forces
- Authors chose subjects and themes common to the lower and middle classes
- Attentive to details, striving for accuracy and authenticity in their descriptions

The Novel

- Emily Bronte: Wuthering Heights
- Charlotte Bronte: Jane Eyre
- Charles Dickens: Many of his novels were published in serial form. His comic and sentimental descriptions of the lives of people in diverse occupations and social classes made Dickens the most popular Victorian novelist. A Christmas Carol, Great Expectations, David Copperfield



Emily



Charlotte
Bronte



Charles
Dickens

Poetry

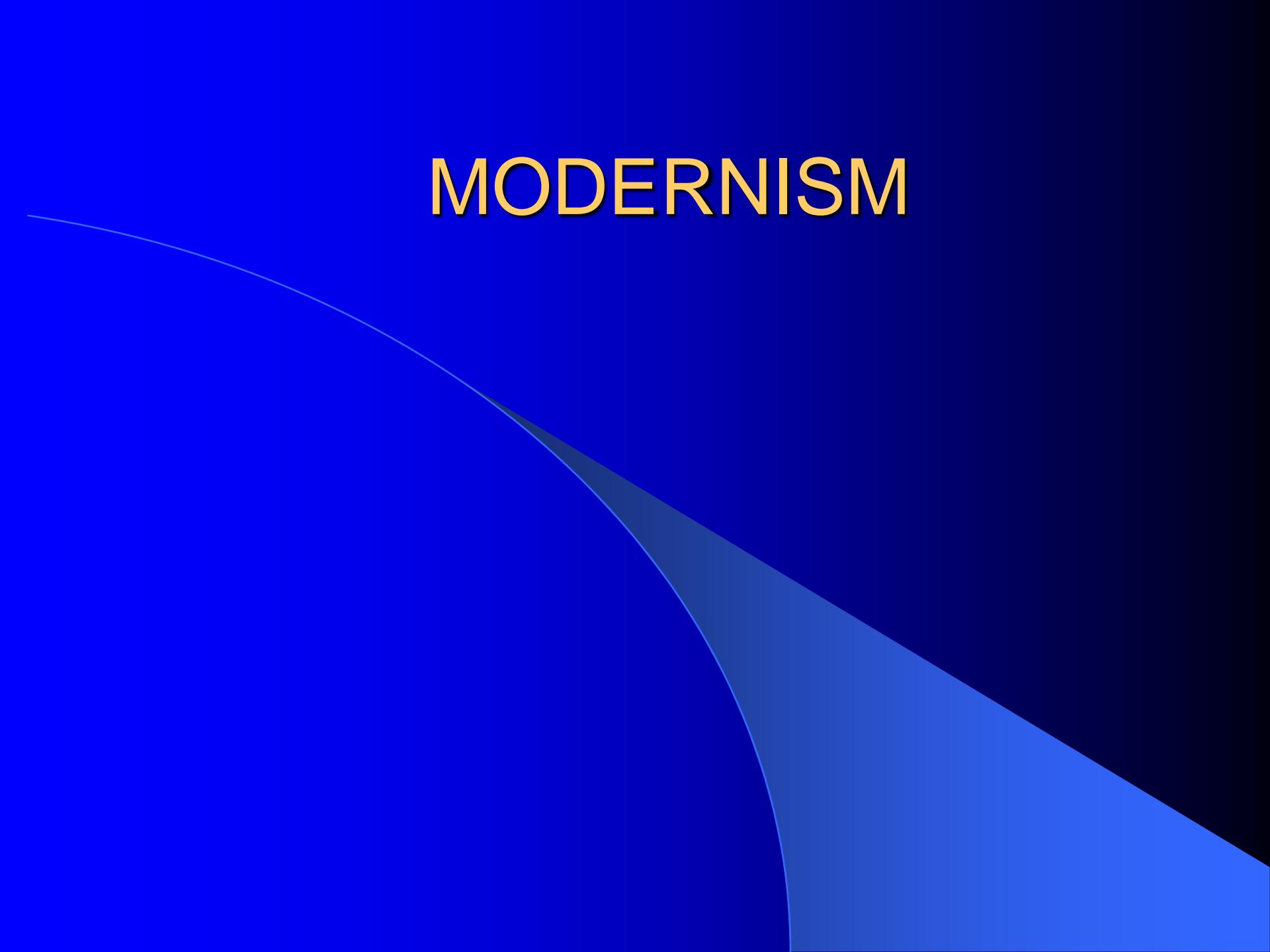
- Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809-1892): Most popular Victorian poet. He wrote narrative poems
- Robert Browning (1812-1889): raised the dramatic monologue to new heights—making it a vehicle for deep psychological probing and character study
- Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806-1861): with Robert, one of literature's greatest love affairs. Wrote love sonnets valued for their lyric beauty



Interesting Facts

- 1848: Women begin attending University of London
- 1850: Life Insurance introduced
- 1851: Gold discovered
- 1860: Florence Nightingale founds school for nurses
- 1876: Alexander Graham Bell patents the telephone
- 1877: Thomas Alva Edison patents the phonograph
- 1886: Wimbledon opens
- 1888: Jack the Ripper stalks London's East End
- 1901: Queen Victoria dies

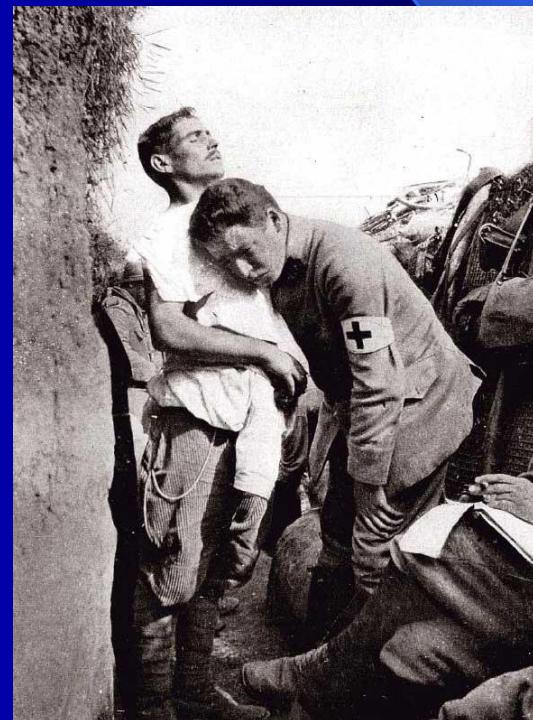
MODERNISM



Causes of the Modernist Temper

- WWI
- Urbanization
- Industrialization
- Immigration
- Technological Evolution
- Growth of Modern Science
- Influence of Austrian Sigmund Freud (1856-1939)
- Influence of German Karl Marx (1818-1883)

WWI



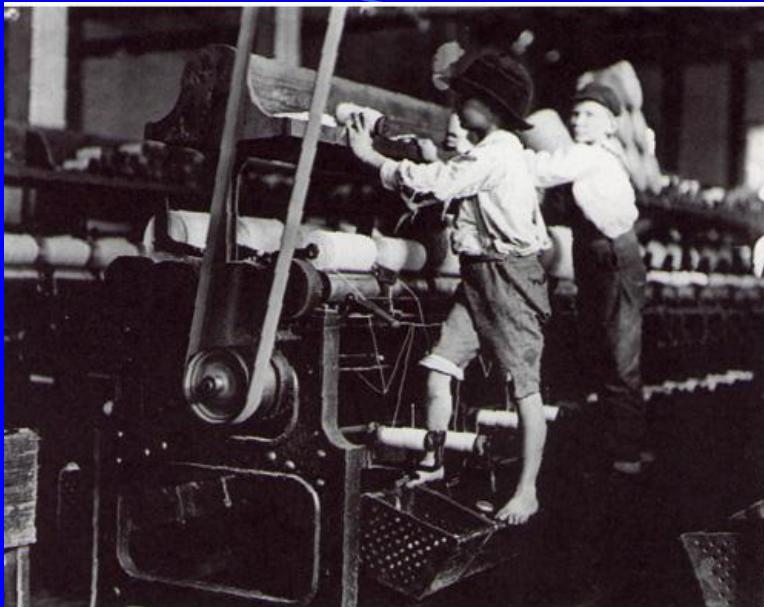
URBANIZATION



Looking North along Mulberry St., c 1900



INDUSTRIALIZATION



Replacing bobbins on machinery

Kids At Work, Russell Freedman, Scholastic, 1994. Photo by Lewis Hine



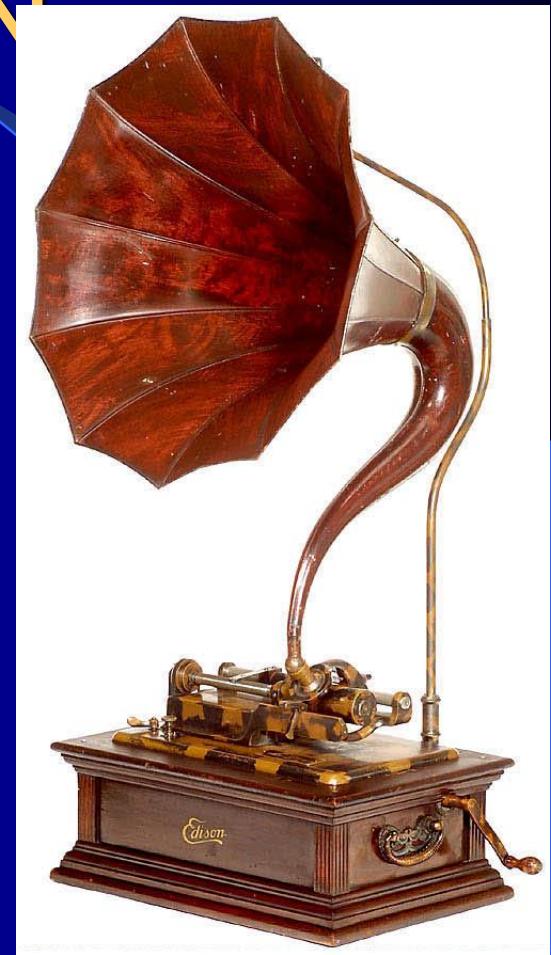
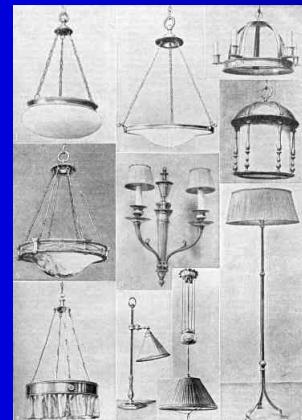
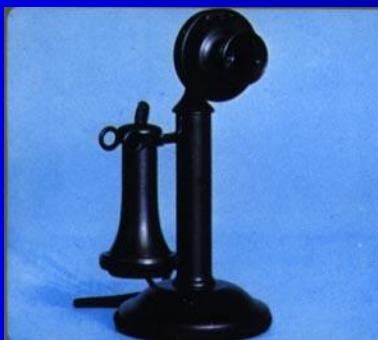
Winding Large Rotating and Stationary Armatures

IMMIGRATION

Oscar Handlin states, “Once I thought to write a history of the immigrants in America. Then I discovered that the immigrants *were* American history.”

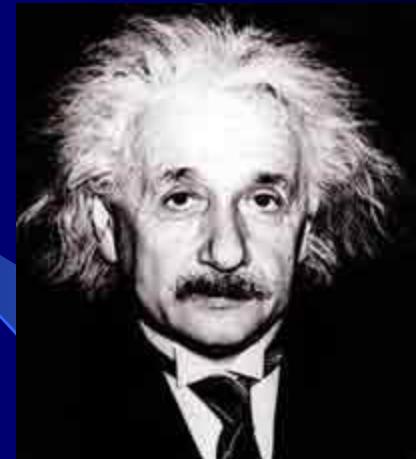


TECHNOLOGICAL EVOLUTION



GROWTH OF MODERN SCIENCE

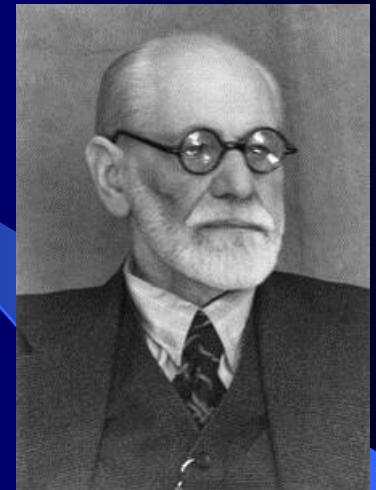
Scientists became aware that



- the atom was not the smallest unit of matter
- matter was not indestructible
- both time and space were relative to an observer's position
- some phenomena were so small that attempts at measurement would alter them
- Some outcomes could be predicted only in terms of statistical probability
- the universe might be infinite in size and yet infinitely expanding

SIGMUND FREUD (1856-1939)

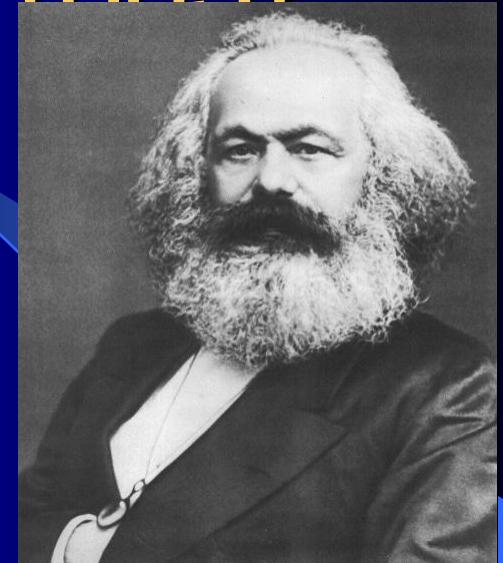
Invented the use of psychoanalysis
as a means to study one's
“unconscious”



KARL MARX (1818-1883)

“The history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles.”

“The development of Modern Industry, therefore, cuts from under its feet the very foundation on which the bourgeoisie produces and appropriates products. What the bourgeoisie therefore produces, above all, are its own grave-diggers. Its fall and the victory of the proletariat are equally inevitable.”



INFLUENCES OF FREUD AND MARX

- Modernist writers concerned themselves with the inner being more than the social being and looked for ways to incorporate these new views into their writing.
- Modernist writers looked inside themselves for their answers instead of seeking truth, for example, through formal religion or the scientific presuppositions that realism and naturalism rested upon.
- Marxism instructed even non-Marxist artists that the individual was being lost in a mass society.
- Although Marx provided an analysis of human behavior opposed to Freud's, both seemed to espouse a kind of determinism that, although counter to long-standing American beliefs in free will and free choice, also seemed better able to explain the terrible things that were happening in the twentieth century.
- Some modern writers believed that art should celebrate the working classes, attack capitalism, and forward revolutionary goals, while others believed that literature should be independent and non-political.

SHIFTS IN THE MODERN NATION

- from country to city
- from farm to factory
- from native born to new citizen
- introduction to “mass” culture (pop culture)
- continual movement
- split between science and the literary tradition (“science vs. letters”)

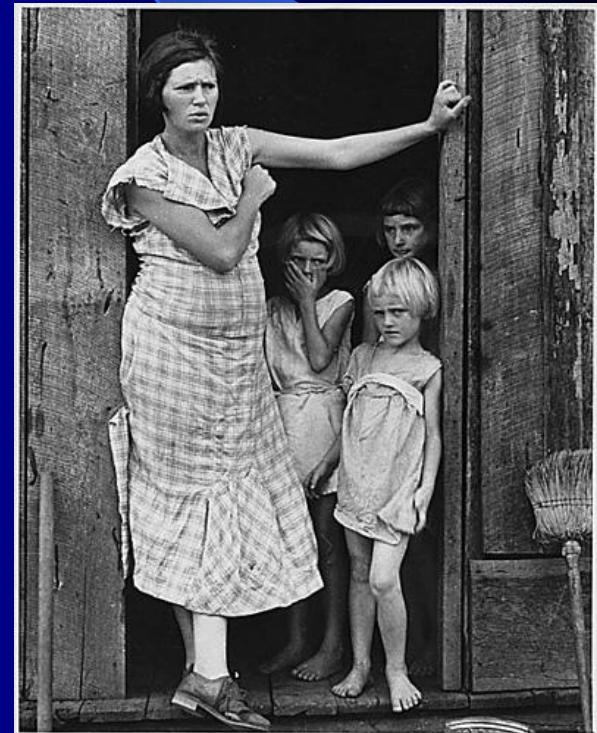
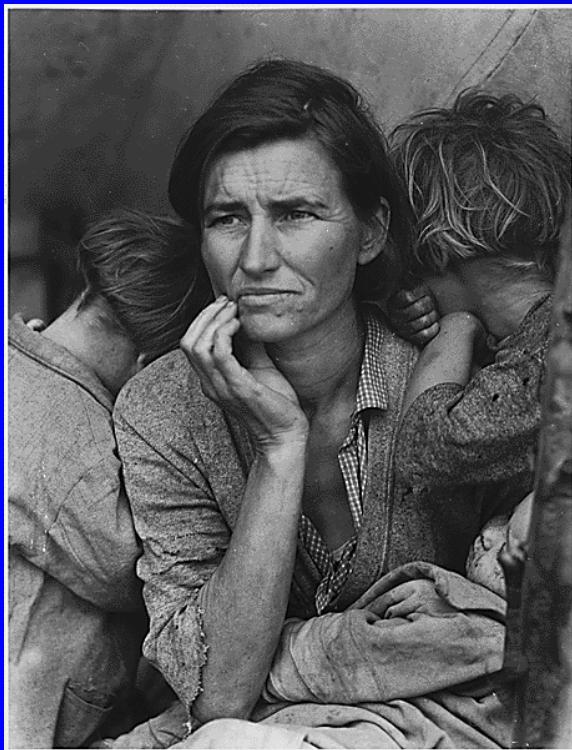
1920's: THE JAZZ AGE

To F. Scott Fitzgerald it was an “age of miracles, an age of art, an age of excess, an age of satire.”



1930's: THE DEPRESSION

“True individual freedom cannot exist without economic security and independence. People who are hungry and out of a job are the stuff of which dictatorships are made.” – Franklin D. Roosevelt



THE SPIRIT OF MODERNIST LITERATURE

- Conviction that the previously sustaining structures of human life, whether social, political, religious, or artistic, had been either destroyed or shown up as falsehoods or fantasies. Therefore, art had to be renovated.
- Modernist writing is marked by a strong and conscious break with tradition. It rejects traditional values and assumptions.
- “Modern” implies a historical discontinuity, a sense of alienation, loss, and despair.
- It rejects not only history but also the society of whose fabrication history is a record. Poetry tended to provide pessimistic cultural criticism or loftily reject social issues altogether.
- Writers exhibited a skeptical, apprehensive attitude toward pop culture; writers criticized and deplored its manipulative commercialism.
- Literature, especially poetry, becomes the place where the one meaningful activity, the search for meaning, is carried out; and therefore literature is, or should be, vitally important to society. Imaginative vision is thought to give access to an ideal world, apart and above reality, or to contain alternative, higher values than those reigning in the statehouse and the marketplace, which could enrich life. Furthermore, modernists believed that we create the world in the act of perceiving it.

CHARACTERISTICS OF MODERNIST WRITING

- A movement away from realism into abstractions
- A deliberate complexity, even to the point of elitism, forcing readers to be very well-educated in order to read these works
- A high degree of aesthetic self-consciousness
- Questions of what constitutes the nature of being
- A breaking with tradition and conventional modes of form, resulting in fragmentation and bold, highly innovative experimentation
- A variety in content because with a stable external world in question, subjectivity was ever more valued and accepted in literature
- Along with the social realist and proletarian prose of the 1920s and 1930s came a significant outpouring of political and protest poetry.

Thank You