

Intellectuals of the 19th Century

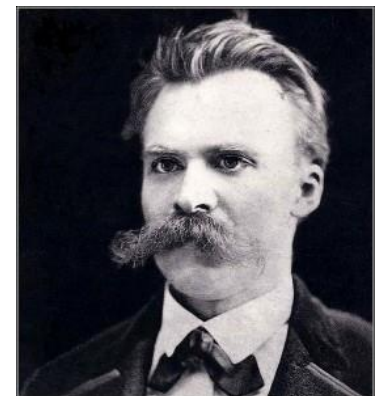
Immanuel Kant

- Prussian
 - o 1724-1804
- Philosopher
 - o Metaphysics
 - **Critique of Pure Reason**
 - Published 1781
 - Attack on Leibnizian metaphysics
 - o Humans can arrive at truths about entities which they have no experience
 - Imagination
 - God, Immortality
 - Freedom of thought
 - o Thought formed by experiences and surroundings
 - Ex. How likely is someone to be critical of Christianity if they grew up in an all Christian environment?
 - Stresses need for empiricism in thought and science
- Set tone for philosophers of 19th century
 - o Study of thought and the human condition



Friedrich Nietzsche

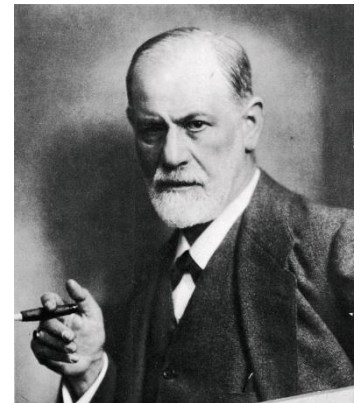
- German
 - o Highly pessimistic
 - o Chair of Classical Philology at University of Basel
 - o Many of his writing re-wrote to promote German nationalism
- 1844-1900
 - o Died of either syphilis or brain cancer
- Philosopher
 - o Challenged Christianity
 - ***The Antichrist, Curse on Christianity***
 - Published 1888
 - Criticizes Christianity for replacing noble values of Rome
 - o Weaker people rising up
 - **“Gott ist tot”**
 - Made suffering tolerable by interpreting it as God’s intention and as an occasion for atonement
 - Challenged idea of personal immortality
 - Thought it conceited that people believed their lives had any bit of cosmic significance
 - o Apollonian and Dionysian
 - Apollonian
 - Celebration of creativity and thought
 - Dionysian
 - Chaos and instinct



- ***The Birth of Tragedy***
 - Published 1872
 - Constant struggle in life between the two
 - Neither ever able to prevail
- Associated with **Nihilism**
 - Do not believe in anything
 - Life has no purpose or meaning
 - Believed world would turn to banner of nationalism instead of religion
 - Conquest in name of nation-state

Sigmund Freud

- Austrian
 - 1856-1939
- Philosopher
 - Psychoanalysis
 - ***The Interpretation of Dreams***
 - Published 1899
 - Unlocks conscious mind
 - With help of cocaine
 - Looking at peoples innermost desires
 - Often perceived people as wild beasts
 - Human Personality
 - Id
 - Instinctive
 - Would be harmful to society
 - Pleasure principle
 - Only interested in instant gratification
 - Ex. Hunger triggers immediate search for food
 - Ego
 - Keeps the Id in check
 - Forces us to act in socially acceptable ways
 - Operates in Conscious, preconscious, and subconscious mind
 - Reality principle
 - Weighs wants of the Id versus socially acceptable norms in order to make a decision
 - Super-Ego
 - The Ego ideal
 - Made up of standards of right and wrong
 - Made up by parents and society
 - The conscience
 - Internal feelings of guilt or remorse
 - Religion
 - ***The Future of an Illusion***
 - Published 1927
 - Explains religion's origins
 - Man is a natural enemy of society
 - "Among these instinctual wishes are those of incest, cannibalism, and lust for killing"



- Religion used as a means of social control
- Religion has ancient power
 - Primal ancestors believed in religion
 - We have “proof” handed to us by antiquity
 - Holy books, relics, etc...
 - Questioning it is taboo
 - Just because you wish it will happen does not make it true
 - Here is the illusion

Charles Darwin

- English
 - 1809-1882
 - HMS Beagle
 - 1831-1836
 - Read book *Principles of Geology*
 - Charles Lyell
 - Suggested fossils were animals that had been here thousands or millions of years before
 - Went against earth made in seven days theory
 - Galapagos Islands
 - Studied variants of island’s finches
 - Ideas of evolution mixed with Malthus’ ideas of population growth
 - **Natural selection**
 - The plants or animals best suited for the environment are most likely to survive
 - **Evolution**
 - Gradual change over time
- Published findings in 1858
 - **On the Origins of Species by Means of Natural Selection**
 - Very controversial
 - Explained humans were just some other animal
 - Contested church’s belief in divine creationism

