

# THE GIANT EHAP REVIEW OUTLINE!

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## Twentieth Century Culture

### Influences on Twentieth Century Culture

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- In the twentieth century, small movements in new directions from prior decades became dominant in many fields. Psychology, literature and art probed the irrational and surreal.
- **Sigmund Freud's** discoveries had huge influence and implications. Freud stated that the mind was divided into the unconscious, the subconscious, and the conscious, and that people were driven by the *id* (instinctual urges residing in the unconscious), which is controlled by the *ego*, which is told to do so by the *superego* (conscience imposed by society). He also found that all memories were kept, in some form, and that repression of memories from the conscious mind led to neuroses. Freud invented *psychoanalysis* to cure patients of their neuroses.
- From Freud's discoveries, many inferred that greater candor in society would lead to a happier population (although Freud himself did not think so). **Carl G. Jung** broke from Freud and developed a theory of the collective unconscious (a common bond between whole peoples expressed in rituals).

### Movements in Literature

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- **Surrealism** → the surrealists applied Freudian ideas directly and believed art had to penetrate the subconscious. Both an artistic and literary movement, surrealism explored inner thoughts and dreams.
- Other writers, though not necessarily surrealists, explored human irrationality. For example: **Marcel Proust** (who wrote *Remembrance of Things Past* and focused on interior monologue and the expression of the narrator's feelings), **Franz Kafka** (who wrote descriptions of twisted fantasies), **James Joyce** (who wrote *Ulysses*, which told a day in the life of the average Dubliner on epic proportions) and **Virginia Woolf** (who was a political activist and feminist w/*A Room of One's Own*).
- In general, novelists turned away from the clear, chronological narratives of the past and focused more on controversial issues and the exploration of dreams and fantasies.

### Movements in Art

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- In all the arts, the new thing was to shock the audience by presenting absurd things, etc. The **Dadaists** were excellent and this, and used their bizarre routines to infuriate the proper Paris bourgeoisie. The **Futurists** in Italy were obsessed with speed, and the **Fauvres** in France and the **Expressionists** in Germany aimed to wildly break conventions.
- In painting, the **Cubists** and **Expressionists** confused people with their strange designs, often incorporating violence and amorality. This scared most people.

### Movements in Philosophy

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- The big philosophical work of this time was by **Oswald Spengler** and was called the *Decline of the West*. He treated civilizations as living organisms and stated that WWI was the beginning of the end for Western Civilization. **Jose Ortega y Gasset** was just as pessimistic in *The Revolt of the Masses*, for he stated that the masses would use their rising power to destroy civilization's achievements.
- In *Principia Mathematica*, **Bertrand Russell** and **Alfred Whitehead** stated that philosophers should only worry about things that were precise and empirically demonstrable. **Ludwig Wittgenstein** agreed in his related system of local positivism, and, in *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus* he tried to limit thought by insisting on symbolic logic. These new analytic philosophers emulated science, and tried to get rid of any statements that did not have a precise meaning. Philosophy became more specialized.

### Advances in Science

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- By this time, science had become incomprehensible to the average person. It became increasingly specialized, and even though people generally knew the implications of the theories, they did not really understand them. Many laws were overturned during this time, as well.
- **Albert Michelson** and **Edward Morley** in 1887 started one line of new thinking by challenging the theory that the universe was filled w/a substance called ether. **Albert Einstein** followed up on this (and then some) in his *Theory of Relativity*, which stated that space and time were not absolute.
- Physicists were also finding a new understanding of matter. In 1895, **Wilhelm Roentgen** discovered x-rays, and two years later **J.J. Thomson** proved that the electron existed. Researchers like **Pierre** and **Marie**

- Curie** explored radioactivity and further proved the divisibility of the atom. **Ernest Rutherford** followed up on this by associating radioactivity w/the breakdown of big atoms.
- This led to quantum physics, or the attempt to explain why Newton's laws didn't work for subatomic particles. **Max Planck** challenged Newton in 1902 by showing energy was emitted in quanta and had many properties of matter, and in 1919 Rutherford changed an atom by bombarding it w/subatomic particles. But they could find no unified theory to explain the subatomic world.
  - **Werner Heisenberg** then came up with the *Uncertainty Principle*, which stated they really couldn't know anything for sure. By this time Newtonian physics (in some cases) and the old conception of the atom had been thrown out the window Science became ultra-complicated, and now there were no more popularizers like Voltaire to make it understandable to everyday people.
  - In biology, advances were made in the study of heredity and in the isolation of viruses (which led to new drugs like penicillin). In sociology, the big guys were **Emile Durkheim** (who used statistics to analyze customs) and **Max Weber** (the "ideal type"). They both were concerned w/the customs that held society together and were concerned about what happened when group norms broke down.

### *Popular Culture*

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- There were many new technologies (such as cars, radios, planes, etc.) and lots of excitement in the 1920s. New and daring styles of architecture became popular, as did advertising.
- The big new thing was the movies. Movies took full advantage of the trend towards distortion in time and perspective. They also became super popular as well as very profitable. All sorts of people, from the rich to the poor, attended the movies, although movies became more specialized to each country with the introduction of sound in 1929. Politics was sometimes there, too.