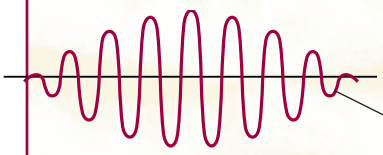
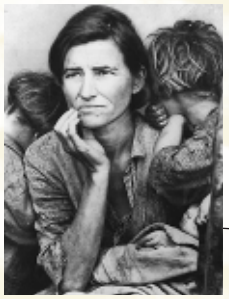
1920

1926

$$p = \frac{h}{\lambda}$$

Erwin Schrödinger uses the wave-particle model for light and matter to develop the theory of wave mechanics, which describes atomic systems. About the same time, **Werner Heisenberg** develops a mathematically equivalent theory called *quantum mechanics*, by which the probability that matter has certain properties is determined.





1929 – The New York Stock Exchange collapses, ushering in a global economic crisis known in the United States as The Great Depression.

1930

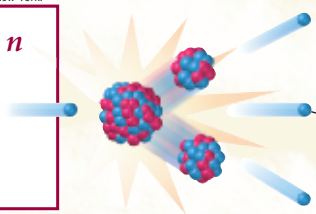
Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid. © 2007 Estate of Pablo Picasso/Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York.

1937 – **Pablo Picasso** paints *Guernica* in outraged response to the Nazi bombing of that town during the Spanish Civil War.

1938

$$^{1}_{0}n + {}^{235}_{92}\mathrm{U} \rightarrow {}^{141}_{56}\mathrm{Ba} + {}^{92}_{36}\mathrm{Kr} + 3\,{}^{1}_{0}n$$

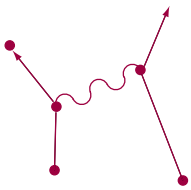
Otto Hahn and **Fritz Strassman** achieve nuclear fission. Early the next year, **Lise Meitner** and her nephew **Otto Frisch** explain the process and introduce the term *fission* to describe the division of a nucleus into lighter nuclei.



1940

1939 – World War II begins with the Nazi invasion of Poland.

1942



Shin'ichiro Tomonaga proposes an important tenet of quantum electrodynamics, which describes the interactions between charged particles and light at the quantum level. The theory is later independently developed by **Richard Feynman** and **Julian Schwinger.**

1950

1948 – **Martin Luther King, Jr.** graduates from Morehouse College and enters Crozer Theological Seminary where he becomes acquainted with the principles of **Mohandas Gandhi**. During the next two decades he becomes one of the most forceful and articulate voices in the US civil rights movement.