

- Thought collectives

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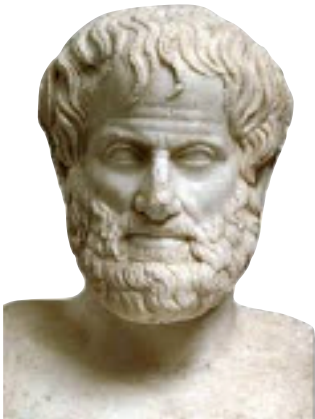
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style

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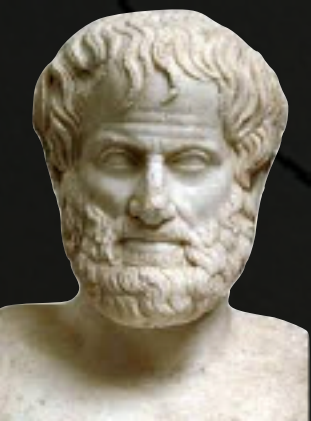
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thought collective



THOUGHT STYLE AND COLLECTIVES

- **Thought collectives** are "a community of persons mutually exchanging ideas or maintaining intellectual interaction."
- They are "the special 'carrier' for the historical development of any field of thought."
- This field of thought itself is defined by Fleck as **thought style**.
- A **thought collective** exists anytime two or more people exchange thoughts, and individuals belong to multiple thought collectives at any given time.



THOUGHT COLLECTIVES

- Fleck divided thought collectives — or *Denkkollektiv* (in the original German) — into **esoteric** and **exoteric**, or inner and outer, ones.
 - **Individuals** belong to many **exoteric** communities but only a few **esoteric** ones.
 - **Esoteric** communities, by definition, are inward-looking and insular.
 - They reinforce the idea that their knowledge is **objective** and factual rather than subjective and in part **cultural**.

