

# What is Postmodernism?

Modernity : one century before and after WW2

In this period :

- Science established facts
- Political theory established the social state
- Secularism overcame religious opinion
- Shame was denied and explained away
- Sweden represents its culmination

Postmodern: from 1980 to the present :

- Emergence of Postindustrial information economy
- Classes aristocracy, middle class and working class replaced by information elite, middle class and underclass
- Nation state challenged by new world views: feminism, multiculturalism, environmentalism
- Scientific certainties called into question
- Replacement of mechanical metaphors with cybernetic ones

- Rejection of modernist ideals of rationality, virility, artistic genius and individualism
- Committed to radical egalitarianism
- Fertile ground: academic departments of literature, art history, sociology, history and political science
- Deconstructionists are its proponents the essence of which is that the actual meaning of the text is to be found in the reader, not in the author: what you interpret from what you have read is the true meaning

- Everything is in the mind of the beholder: relative, forever shifting; anything perceived to be “fact” is the mere disillusion of a cultural bias.
- In the land of the blind, the one-eyed man is king
- In postmodernism, the man in best possession of obscurantist jargonism is professor Chairman of the Department.

- Marxism has morphed into postmodernism
- New academic disciplines: women's studies, Black Studies, Interdisciplinary Studies, global warming