

1950 News

SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN PSYCHOLOGY AND IMPORTANT SOCIETAL EVENTS

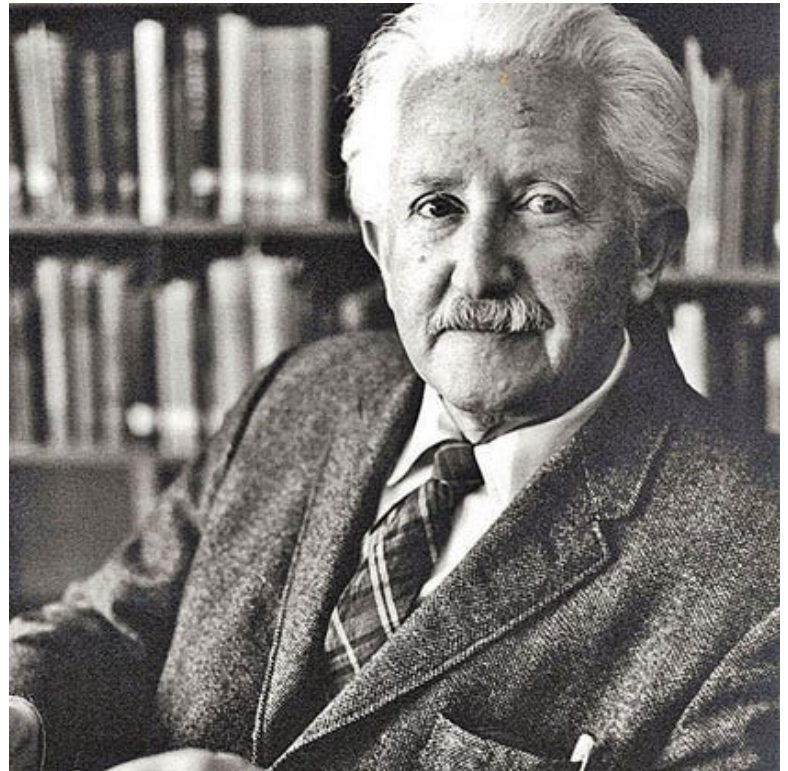
ERIK ERIKSON PUBLISHES NEW BOOK AND INTRODUCES PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT THEORY



THE TOLLUND MAN IS DISCOVERED IN DENMARK

This year on May 6th in Denmark two brothers named Viggo and Emil Hojgaard were digging in a bog with their family and discovered a body. They assumed that the body they found was a person that was killed not that long ago. Specifically, a young boy was lost and had last been seen close to the area that the Hojgaards were digging and so they thought the body they found was that of the missing boy. They waited 2 days until they called the police. After the Hojgaards explained the details of the body/how it was found, the police decided to call the Silkeborg Museum as they suspected that the body was not a recent homicide victim but instead someone that was killed a long time ago. Following an investigation by the police and some of the museum's employees, it was in fact confirmed that the body was mummified and therefore this was an archaeological discovery.

An excavation was then performed, and it was learned that the body came from a male who was sadly hanged in the 4th century. He was named the "Tollund Man" as there is a town called Tollund near the bog in which he was found. Going forward, it is predicted that this big discovery will soon be placed in a museum for public viewing.



This year, psychologist Erik Erikson published a book called "Childhood and Society". In the book, he proposed a new idea/theory on personality development in which he called the "Eight Ages of Man". Each "age" is a stage in development and in each stage, there is a conflict that individuals must resolve. For example, the first stage (which occurs during infancy), is called "Basic Trust vs. Basic Mistrust". During this stage, if all of an infant's needs are met by caregivers, then the infant will gain the feeling of trust and therefore resolve the conflict of the stage. Individuals will then continue to go through each of the other stages as they get older. This new theory on personality development is very important as it goes against Sigmund Freud's theory. Specifically, Freud stated in his theory that personality development is complete by adolescence, but Erikson has now proposed that personality continues to develop across the entire lifespan. Also, Freud focused on the effects of instincts/the unconscious on personality, but Erikson is now stating in his theory that personality has many social influences. It will be interesting to see which theory is believed more by the public as time goes on. Erikson is challenging Freud's theory, and therefore it is definitely possible that Erikson's theory will keep gaining attention and increasing in popularity. It is also possible that psychologists will continue to develop new personality development theories as this topic seems to be popular nowadays.



THE KOREAN WAR BEGINS

The Korean war started this June as North Korea invaded South Korea by mostly striking at their border, and the war still ongoing currently. The Soviet Union helped North Korea in the process of the invasion.

Troops from Russia then came in to join the North Koreans while the Americans joined South Korea. The South Korean National Assembly has asked the United States army to remain in South Korea. The response of the United States has not been discussed. As for the causes of the war, it seems that everything began at the end of the second world war when Korea was divided, and the Japanese empire disintegrated. The division was supposed to be short-term, but after some time it appeared that uniting the two sides would be a difficult process and could not be accomplished. Then, at the beginning of 1949, an individual named Kim Il-sung (a major in the Soviet army) told Joseph Stalin, the head of the Soviet, that they should invade the South soon. Stalin believed that the troops were not ready to invade and therefore declined the suggestion. However, earlier this year, North Korea gained equipment and so they were prepared to invade. On June 25th, they attacked, and the war started. Currently, it has been 6 months since the war began. Going forward, we cannot know for certain, but it seems for now that this war is unfortunately going to continue for some time.

DISGUISED ROBBERS BREAK INTO A BRINK'S

Another major societal event from this year was the Brink's Robbery. This is currently the biggest robbery that has ever taken place in the United States and therefore the incident has caught the attention of many. On January 17th in Boston, Massachusetts multiple men came into a Brinks (a company that issues security) armed and took cash and cheques that added up to over \$2.7 million. These men came in covered in garments that would disguise them. Before taking the money, they bound together the hands of staff members and put tape over their mouths. They were in and out very quickly and did not make much noise. The police were called, and they reached Brinks very quickly, but there was barely any evidence and therefore they could not decipher who committed the crime. All that was left at the facility was the tape and rope used on the employees and a hat. Additionally, the only witnesses were the employees but even they could not provide a detailed description as the robbers had masks on. To this day, the thieves are yet to be found. Police are still investigating, but at this point in time it is unsure if the criminals will ever be caught.

THE ORGANIC ACT OF GUAM IS SIGNED BY UNITED STATES PRESIDENT HARRY TRUMAN

This act allows those living on Guam Island to become citizens of the United States.



THE AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION PUTS OUT STANDARDS FOR PREDOCTORAL INTERNSHIPS

The APA agreed to publish the first standards for those doing clinical psychology predoctoral internships. The standards can be seen in this year's November issue of the American Psychologist journal.

NEW MULTIPLE-STORE USE CREDIT CARD IS CREATED IN THE UNITED STATES

Two men named Ralph Schneider and Frank McNamara invented the "Diner's Club Card". This card is remarkable because instead of having to use a different card at every store, individuals can now use this one credit card at numerous stores!



KAREN HORNEY PUBLISHES NEW BOOK

Psychologist/neo-Freudian Karen Horney published a book this January called "Neurosis and Human Growth: The Struggle Towards Self-Realization". In this book, she talks about neurosis and how it differs from typical human development. It is different because when an individual experiences neurosis, they are moving away from who they truly are, which occurs when there is too much focus on trying to live up to society's expectations. Horney suspected that the growth of neurosis begins during youth. Specifically, throughout childhood, some individuals may live in high expectation environments/with caregivers that do not provide sufficient parenting (insufficient parenting leads to basic anxiety which then leads to the growth of neurosis as a coping mechanism for the anxiety). The child then grows up with the belief that they need to spend a lot of time pretending to be someone that they are not to satisfy others.

Regarding how neurosis differs from typical/healthy human growth, Horney states that for someone to be considered a healthy individual, they need to accept responsibility, comprehend their true self, and act for themselves. In terms of human growth, Horney says that this can only occur in a healthy way if the individual experiences the goodwill of others, warmth, a favorable environment and healthy friction. It is clear that the criteria for healthy development are practically the exact opposite of the criteria for neurosis. This shows how a person experiencing neurosis is very different from a person going through typical development. Overall, as Horney is currently a popular psychologist/neo-Freudian, it is predicted that this book and all of the information in it about human development will catch the attention of many and contribute to psychology/psychoanalysis in multiple ways.



A NEW DISNEY MOVIE CALLED "CINDERELLA" PREMIERES



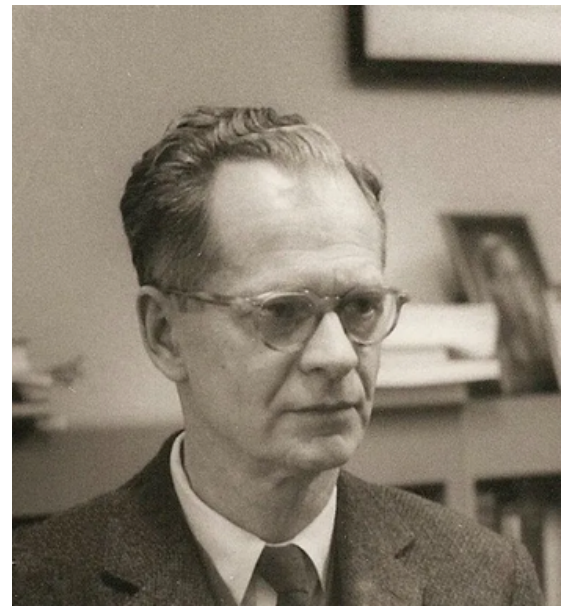


CHINA PASSES “THE NEW MARRIAGE LAW”

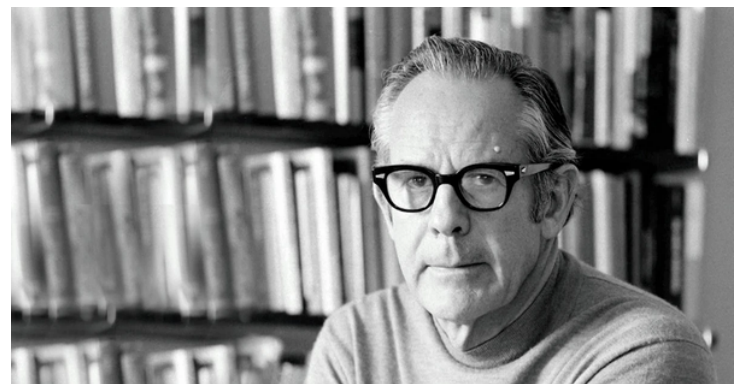
On May 1st of this year, “The New Marriage Law” was put into effect in China. This law provides women legal equality to men and states that marriages should be formed on monogamy, free will, and equal rights for men and women.

Arranged marriages are no longer allowed and therefore it is predicted that individuals will overall be more content in their relationships as they are able to choose who they want to be with.

Another notable aspect of the law is that it explains between-generation connections. Family members now have to persistently support and form strong relationships with other family members across generations. Finally, it is important to note that this law led to the elimination of age discrimination/patriarchy impacts that have been occurring for the past 30 years. Overall, the application of this law is a step forward in the right direction regarding gender equality and it is anticipated that new laws promoting equal rights for men and women will continue to be implemented in many countries across the world.



AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGIST B.F. SKINNER PUBLISHES “ARE THEORIES OF LEARNING NECESSARY?”



ROLLO MAY PUBLISHES NEW BOOK

Psychologist Rollo May published his new book this year called “The Meaning of Anxiety”. In the book, he explains his belief that all humans need anxiety, and that experiencing anxiety has many benefits.

THE AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION SUGGESTS THAT THEIR MEMBERS SHOULD DECLINE ANY JOB OFFERS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA