

Philosophers of the West

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SOCRATES (400 BC)



- He taught universal principles of truth, beauty, and goodness.
- He postulated that the real knowledge is within everyone that needs to be brought into consciousness.
- His Socratic method consists of inquiry that forced his students to think more deeply concerning the meaning of truth, peace and justice.

PLATO (c. 428 – c. 347 BC)



- He argued that education is unchanging since true knowledge does not change in every place and time.
- His educational ideas is found in his book *The Republic* in which he mentioned that a society must be governed by highly intelligent philosopher-king, the soldiers serve as second class in the republic to defend the nation, and the workers are the lowest class who till the land and prepare food for all.

- Thus, each class would be instructed differently based on their needs, tasks, and capabilities.

RENE DESCARTES 1596 - 1650

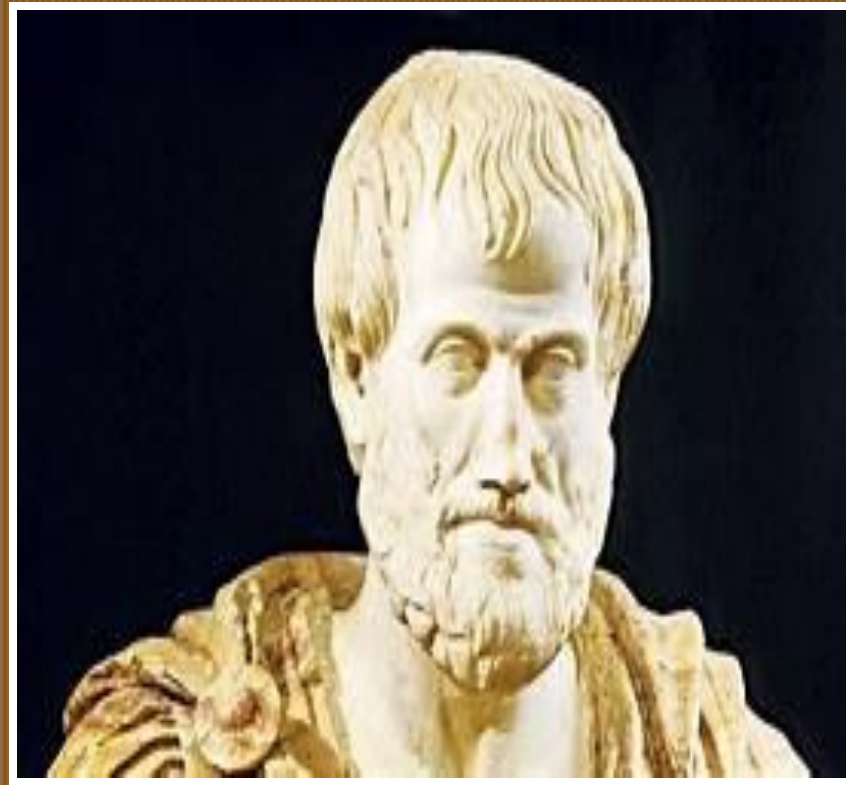


- Being one of the famous philosophers, he's known as the **Father of Modern Philosophy**, and created analytical geometry, based on the Cartesian coordinate system – and we are all taught this today in schools across the world.
- He discovered many scientific points, such as refraction and reflection, and espoused dualism, which is the power of the mind over the body, or “mind over matter.”
- His most famous quote is “I think, therefore, I am.” This French philosopher died in 1650.

- Descartes asserts that education, particularly the study of mathematics and science, occurs most successfully at the individual level as well.
- He states that “just as one can plan and build one’s own house, one can plan and administer one’s education” (Bicknell, 2003, p.31).
- In addition, he says that “science, like architecture and town planning, is best accomplished by an individual” (Bicknell, 2003, p.31).

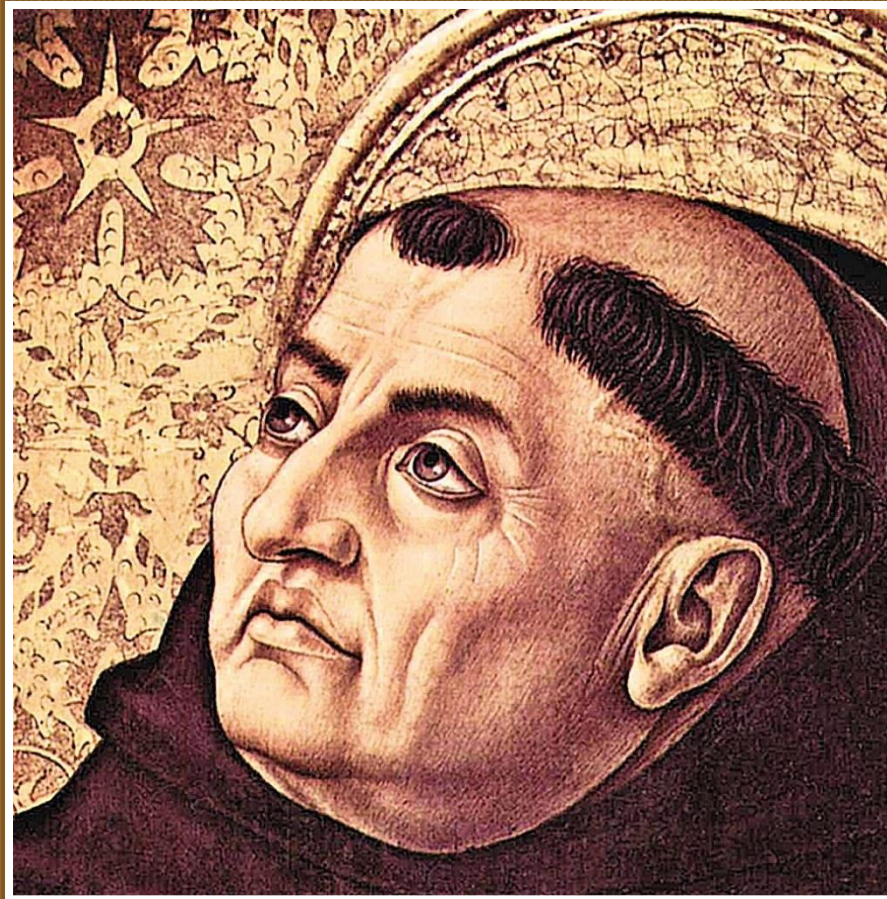
- However, neither science nor architecture can work alone, leading to the acknowledgement of the contributions other individuals in some foundational aspect.

ARISTOTLE (384 – 322)



- He taught that human being is rational, capable of discovering the natural laws that govern the whole universe.
- A man then knows how to reason out and make decision, and lead a moderate life away from the extremes.

THOMAS AQUINAS (1225 – 1274)



- He was a Dominican theologian who reconciled the authority of faith epitomized by the Judeo-Christian scriptures with Greek reason represented by Aristotle.
- Teaching is a sacred vocation in which the teacher combines faith, love and learning in his daily life.

FRANCIS BACON (1561-1626 CE)



- He distinguishes between duty to the community, an ethical matter, and duty to God, a purely religious matter. Any moral action is the action of the human will, which is governed by reason and spurred on by the passions; habit is what aids men in directing their will toward the good.
- No universal rules can be made, as both situations and men's characters differ.

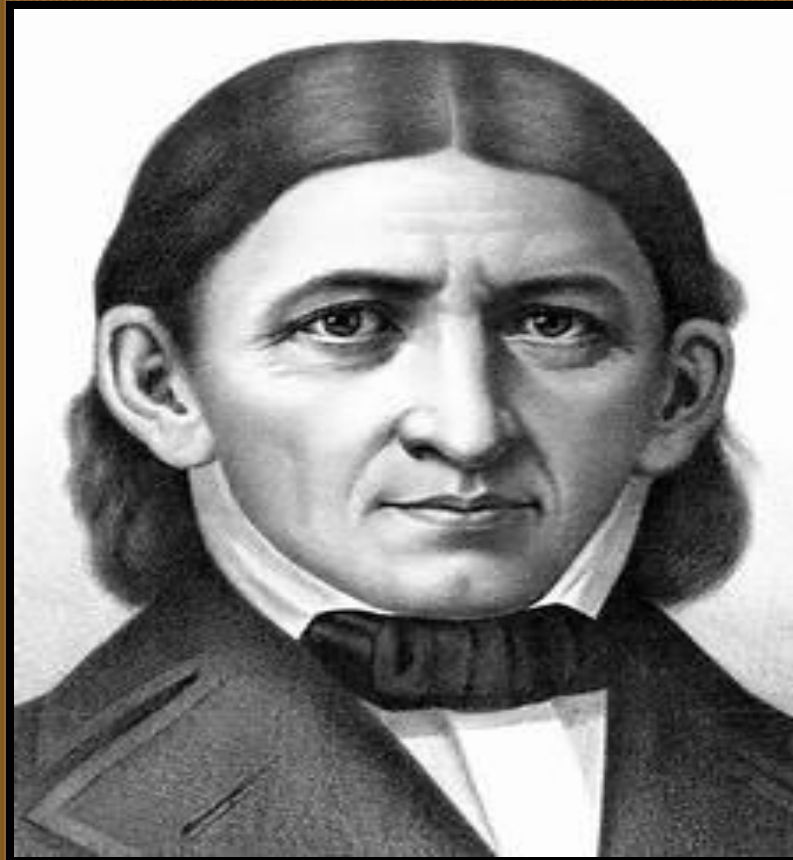
- Bacon distinctly separates religion and philosophy, though the two can coexist. Where philosophy is based on reason, faith is based on revelation, and therefore irrational.

ROUSSEAU (1712 – 1778)



- Man by nature is good and virtuous.
- Development of the child according to his inherent endowments
- The child is the most important component of the school system.
- Use of instinctive tendencies as the starting point in any educational pursuit
- Everything is good as it comes from the hand of the author of nature.

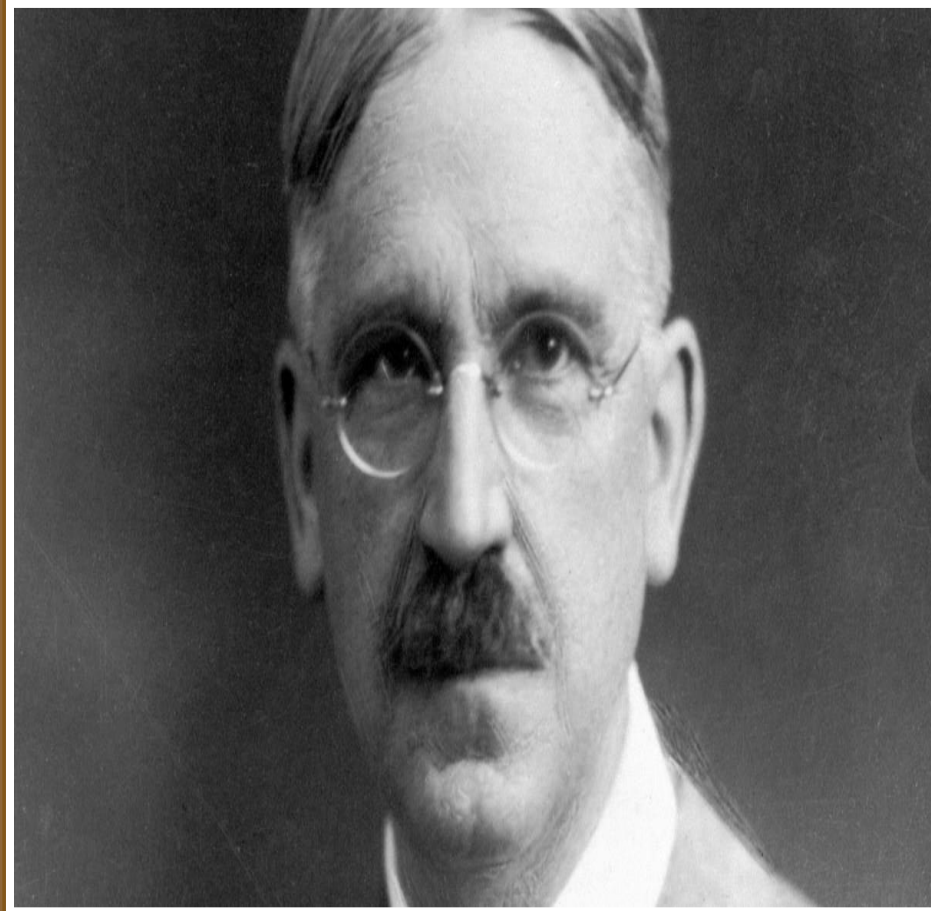
FROEBEL (1782 – 1852)



- “Father of Kindergarten”
- Creative expression should be encouraged
- Education should be accompanied with spirit of informality and joy.
- Self-activity as a means of development
- Individual differences should be respected.
- Knowing is the rethinking of latent ideas.
- Values are eternal.

- Play, spontaneous activity should be utilized to promote self-realization.
- A subject matter curriculum emphasizing the great and enduring ideas of culture
- Social development

JOHN DEWEY (1859 – 1952)



- Learning by doing
- Education is life, not preparation for life.
- Education is a social process.
- Education is growth and a continuous reconstruction of experience.
- The center of education is the child's own social activities.
- The school is primarily asocial institution.

JOHN LOCKE (1632 – 1704)



- “Tabular rasa” or “blank slate” theory – A child is born with a blank mind that is neither good or bad.
- Education can help shape the pupil according to the disposition of the teacher.
- Emphasized formal discipline as well as moral and physical education
- Methods of instruction should consider habit formation through drill and exercise, memorization and reasoning.

References

- <https://www.newfoundations.com/GALLERY/DesCartes.html#:~:text=Descartes%20asserts%20that%20education%2C%20particularly%20the%20study%20of,and%20administer%20one%E2%80%99s%20education%20%E2%80%9D%20%28Bicknell%2C%202003%2C%20p.31%29.>
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