A black and white close-up photograph of an elderly man with white hair and glasses, identified as Kurt Goldstein. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a neutral expression. He is wearing a dark suit jacket over a light-colored shirt.

THEORIES OF PERSONALITY

KURT GOLDSTEIN'S

# ORGANISMIC THEORY

Presented by: Jovelyn Longakit



# REPORT HIGHLIGHTS



- Life of Kurt Goldstein
- What is Organismic Theory?
- Core Tenets of Organismic Theory
- Self-Actualization
- The Role of Adaptation
- Healthy and Pathological States
- Clinical Foundations: Brain-Injured Soldiers
- Holism vs. Reduction
- Impact on Modern Psychology



# LIFE OF KURT GOLDSTEIN

- He was born on November 6, 1878 in Kattowitz (now Katowice, Poland).
- At the University of Breslau (now Wroclaw) and Heidelberg, he studied philosophy and literature.
- He studied medicine under Carl Wernicke, who stimulated his interest in aphasia, graduating M.D. in 1903
- In 1906, he moved to Königsberg, where he worked in psychiatry and neurology, and became acquainted with the Würzburg school of experimental psychology, which emphasizes “imageless thought.”
- In 1933, Goldstein was denounced by the Nazis by an assistant and charged with leftist sympathies and Jewishness.
- From 1940 to 1945, he served as a clinical professor of Neurology at Tufts University, Medford, Mass.
- In 1965, Goldstein suffered a stroke with right hemiplegia and global aphasia.
- He died on September 19, 1965.

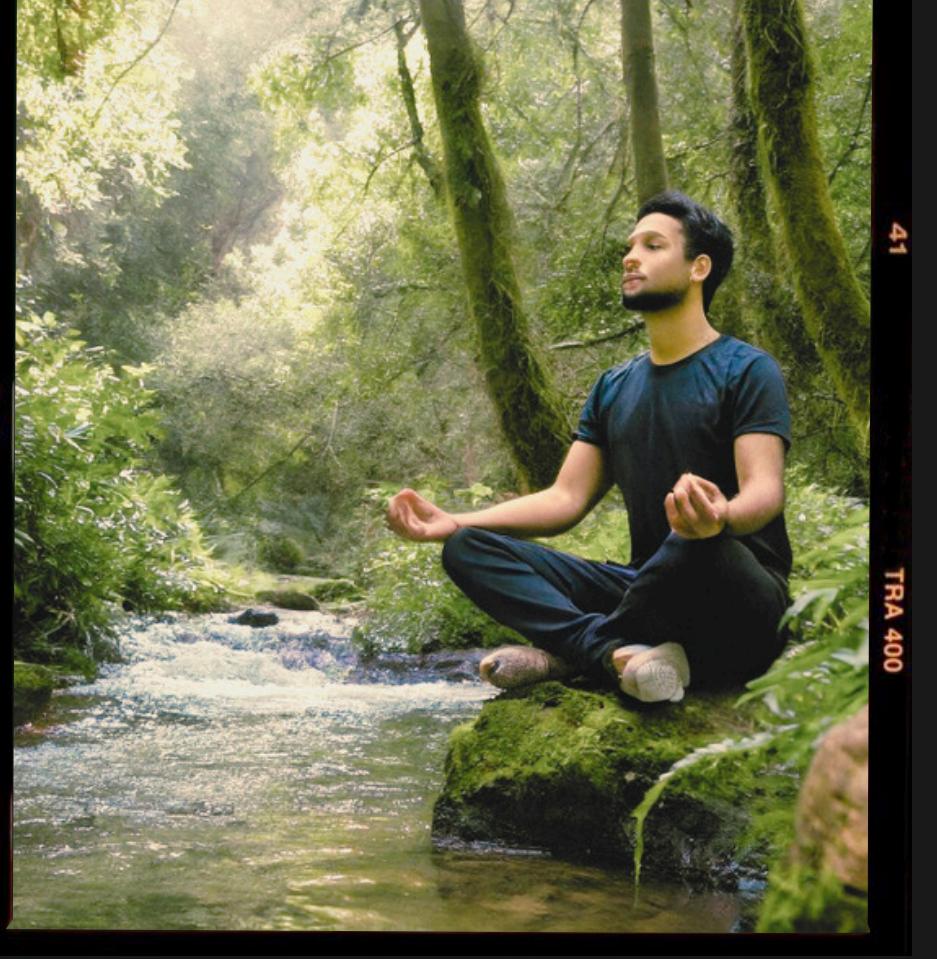




# WHAT IS ORGANISMIC THEORY?

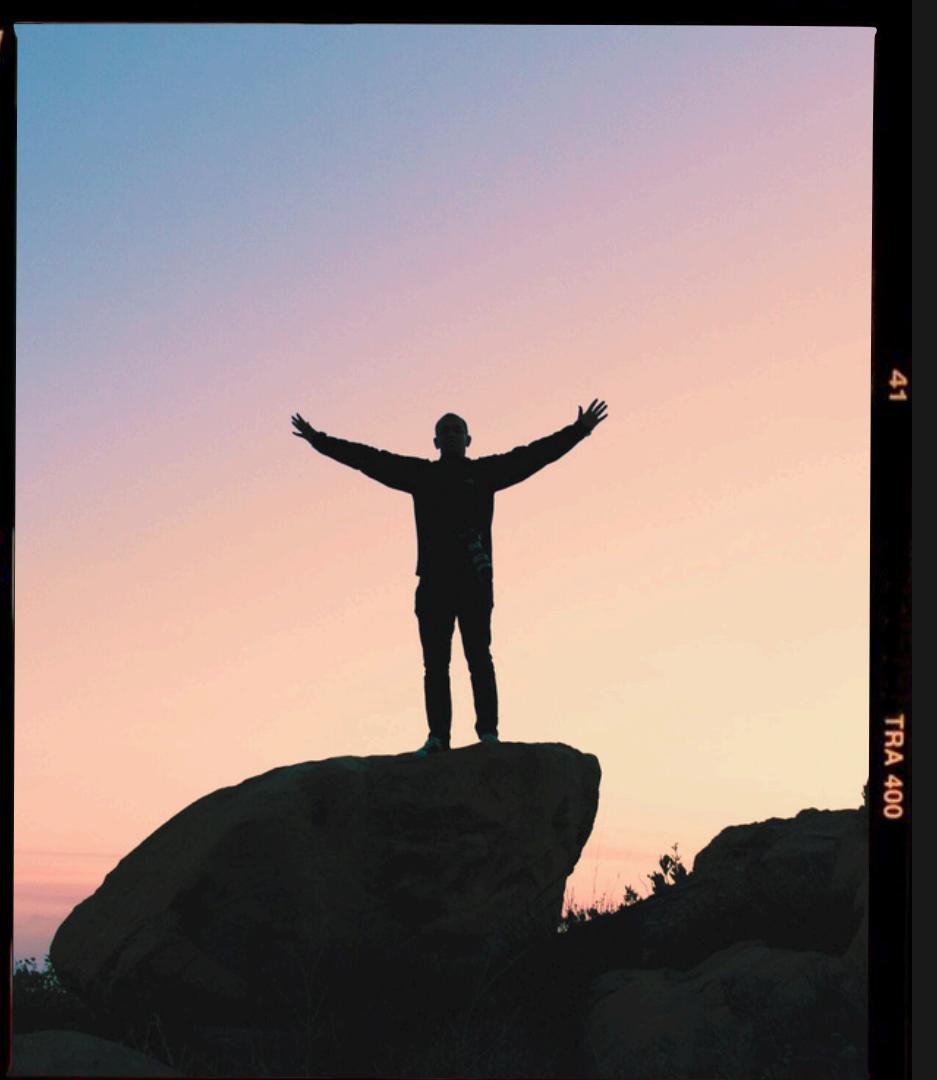
- An approach to psychology that emphasizes the total organism, rejecting distinctions between mind and body.
- It also adopts a microscopic approach that accounts for the organism's interaction with its surroundings.





# HOLISM

- The organism functions as an integrated whole, where all parts are interconnected and cannot be understood in isolation.
- It adopts a microscopic approach that accounts for the organism's interaction with its surroundings.



# SELF-ACTUALIZATION

- An inherent tendency towards self-actualization--the process of realizing its full potential.



# THE ROLE OF ADAPTATION

- Plays a central role in how organisms respond to changes and challenges in their environment.
- Has a flexible response involving the whole system.



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## HEALTHY AND PATHOLOGICAL STATES

### HEALTHY STATE

- Refers to the condition where the organism maintains equilibrium and optimal functioning.



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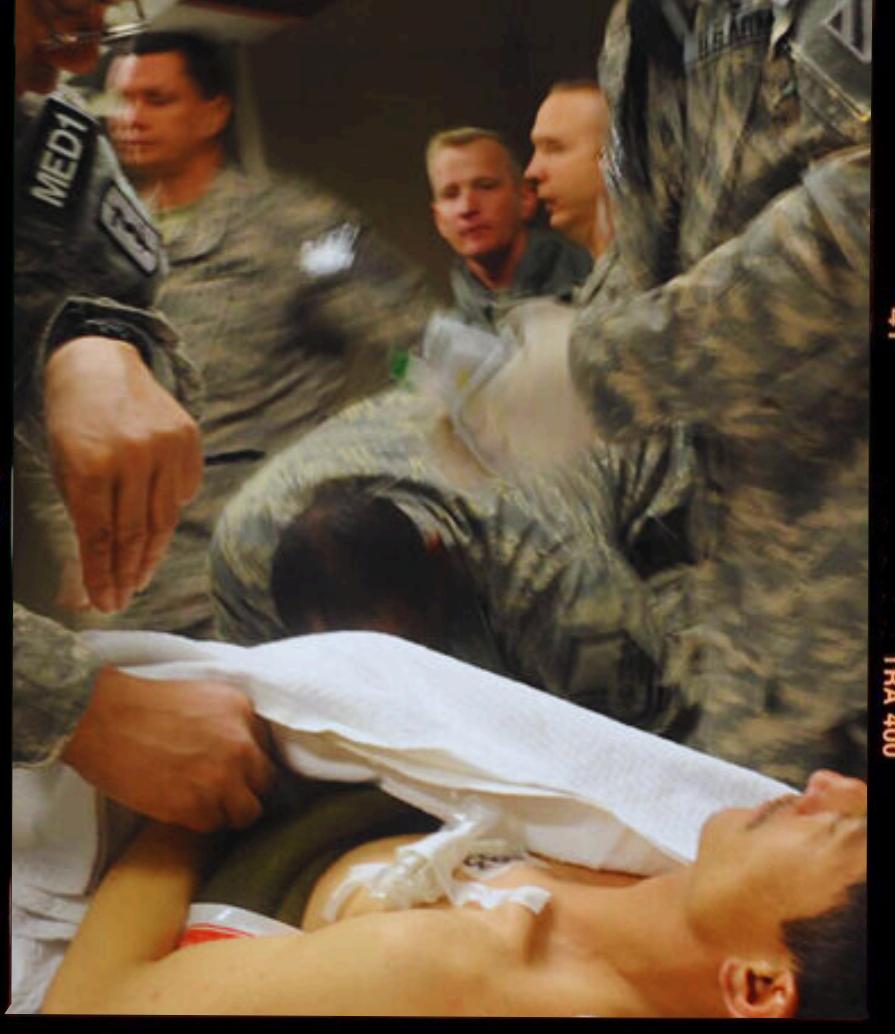
### PATHOLOGICAL STATE

- Refers to a condition where the organism experiences disequilibrium or disruption in its normal functioning.



# CLINICAL FOUNDATIONS: BRAIN-INJURED SOLDIERS

- Goldstein's work with brain-injured soldiers shaped his views.
- Demonstrated the organism's capacity for adaptation and compensation.



## HOLISM VS. REDUCTIONISM

- Goldstein opposed reductionism.
- Advocated for a holistic approach.
- The whole organism must be understood, not isolated parts.



# GOLDSTEIN'S IMPACT ON MODERN PSYCHOLOGY



- Influenced Humanistic Psychology (e.g., Maslow, Rogers)
- Influences in neuropsychology and holistic health.
- Foundation for resilience and positive psychology.



# THANK YOU!





## Question #1

- What is the core idea behind Goldstein's Organismic Theory?

QUESTION

## Question #2

- How does Goldstein's concept of self-actualization differ from Maslow's?

## Question #3

- Can you think of an example of adaptation in your life, like how we adjust to challenges?

## Question #4

- What does Goldstein mean by a pathological state?

## Question #5

- Why is it important to look at people holistically, according to Goldstein?