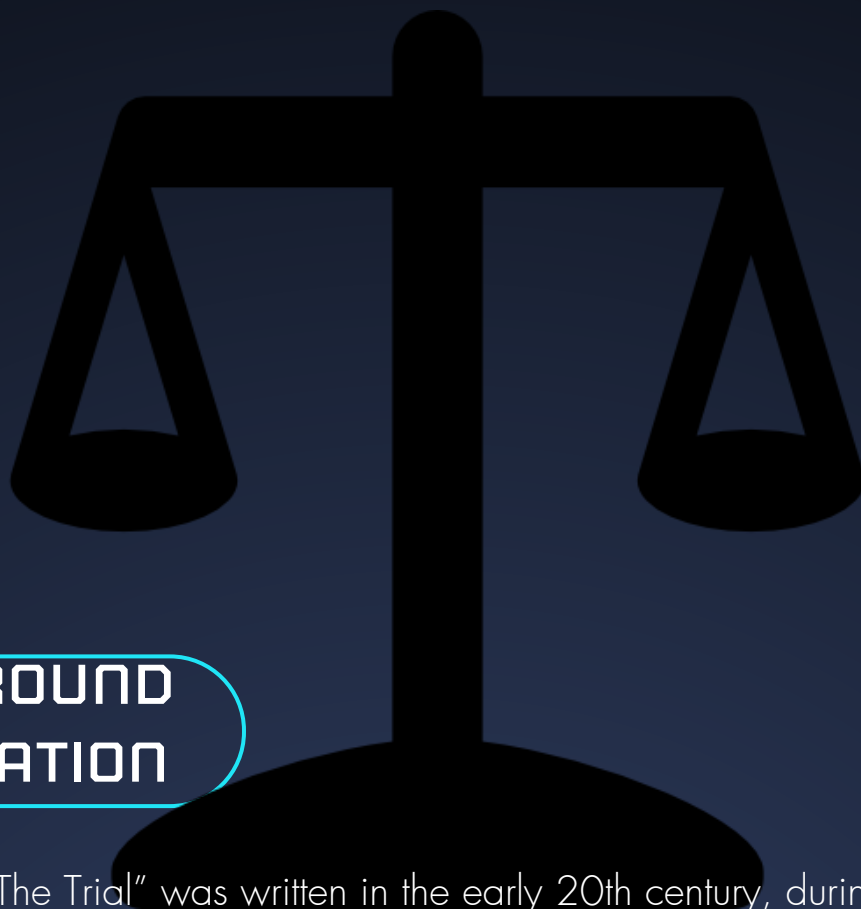


# AUTHOR'S STYLE

By Wencheng Xue



## BACHGROUND INFORMATION

Franz Kafka's "The Trial" was written in the early 20th century, during World War 1, a time of political turmoil. Kafka lived in Prague, where bureaucratic systems, and authoritarian governments were a large threat to a person's freedom.

## Political Fears

One of Kafka's primary political dystopian fears in "The Trial" is the dehumanizing power of bureaucracy, where the individuals are caught in a labyrinthine legal system that operates without transparency or accountability. This fear is epitomized in the protagonist, Josef K. 's situation, as he is arrested, and put on trial by an ominous and inaccessible government, for a crime that is never disclosed to him.

## CHARACTERS AND SETTING

"The Trial"'s setting and characters illustrate Kafka's concerns about structures of power and the disintegration of personal freedom. The court's mysterious methods of conducting examinations, represented by the Examining Magistrate and the enigmatic court painter Titorelli, showcase Kafka's view of authority as arbitrary and inscrutable. Josef K.'s failed attempts to navigate the system, where he is repelled by its mechanisms, highlight an individual's powerlessness in the presence of mysterious institutions.

## THEMES, PLOT, TONE

t Kafka's own feelings of anxiety added depth to the novel's moods, as the absurdity of modern experience, and its drawing of a dystopia governed by a faceless, conflicted power has rooted it in the cultural psyche, not least through its critique of oppressive systems and the disintegration of individual freedoms.

THE TRIAL