

An Age of Modernity, Anxiety, and Imperialism

Toward the Modern Consciousness: Intellectual and Cultural Developments

Transformation and shift from belief in the Scientific Revolution and Enlightenment, rational ideas to an appeal to the irrational, alternative views of human nature.

Developments in the Sciences: The Emergence of a New Physics

- Questioning of current scientific systems and beliefs by Marie Curie and Pierre.
 - Discovered element.

The work of Einstein: Albert Einstein invented the relativity theory.

Toward a New Understanding of the Irrational

Nietzsche: Glorified the irrational. Believed that Christianity should shoulder much of the blame for Western civilization's enfeeblement.

Bergson: Popular revolutionary against reason was that it had a limit as it was incapable of arriving at the truth or ultimate reality.

Sorel: Interest in revolutionary socialism. To destroy capitalist society, recommended the use of the general strike (mythic image that had power to inspire workers to take violent, heroic action)

Sigmund Freud and Psychoanalysis

Psychoanalysis: Theories that undermined optimism about the rational nature of the human mind.

Role of the Unconscious: Human behavior was determined by the unconscious, by earlier experiences and inner forces of which people were largely oblivious. Human being's inner life was a battle between id (center of unconscious drives), ego (seat of reason) and superego (locus of conscience and represented moral values).

The Impact of Darwin

Social Darwinism: Amplified by Herbert Spencer. Principle of organic evolution to the social order.

Argument that they evolve and survive based on whether or not they are "fit". Applied this concept to society. → When weak die off, society gets stronger.

- Economics: more ruthless the more fit they are.
- **Racism:** Belief that European race created Western culture and violence must happen to save it from lesser races.

The Attack on Christianity

Anticlericalism: Backlash due to close union of state authorities with established churches. Mainly in liberal nation-states of the late nineteenth century.

Response of the Churches: Outright rejection of modern ideas and forces. Condemnation of nationalism, socialism, religious toleration and freedom of speech and press.

The Culture of Modernity: Literature

Modernism: Changes produced by revolution in physics, psychology, literature and the arts.

Naturalism: Acceptance of the material world as real and felt that literature should be realistic. However, emphasis on pessimism

- Related people: Leo Tolstoy and Fyodor Dostoevsky

Symbolism: New group of writers and a reaction against realism. External world was a collection of symbols that reflected true reality of the individual human mind. Mainly known for poetry.

Modernism in the Arts

Artists tried to represent reality as accurately as possible → seeking new forms of expression.

Impressionism: Preamble to modern painting, a movement that originated in France. Subjects of paintings included streets, rivers and boulevards. Painter: Camille Pissarro.

Post-Impressionism: Emerged in France and soon spread to other European countries. Retained Impressionist emphasis on light and color but revolutionized it even further by focusing on structure and form. Paul Cézanne and Vincent van Gogh.

The Search for Individual Expression: Beginning of 20th century, started that belief that the task of the art was to represent "reality" lost much of its meaning. Idea of Cubism (style that used geometric designs as visual stimuli) and rise of abstract painting.

Modernism in Music

Saw a fascination of folk music to express national identities.

Grieg: Compositions that expressed nationalism in the lyric melodies found in the folk music of his homeland.

Politics: New Directions and New Uncertainties

Growth of Political Democracy:

- Appearance of right-wing politics.
- Election of socialist by workers to make reforms.
- New demands by Women
- Growth of authoritarian governments that refused to meet demands of reformers.

The Movement for Women's Rights

New Professions: Teaching was first opportunity and development of nursing ("Women in white").

The Right to Vote: Millicent Fawcett organized a moderate group who believed that women must demonstrate they would use political power responsibly. Emmeline Pankhurst founded Women's Social and Political Union

Efforts for Peace and idea of **The New Woman** more examples other than Bertha von Suttner, and the

rise of renunciation of traditional feminine roles. Maria Montessori represents New Woman by breaking tradition and following the ideal of the new woman.

Jews in the European Nation-State

Rise of Antisemitism in the Austrian Empire and Germany: Blaming of Jews for the corruption of German nature. Idea that one could not be both a German and a Jew.

Persecution of Jews in Eastern Europe: Jews were admitted to secondary schools and forced to live in certain regions of the country.

The Zionist Movement: Jewish Nationalism movement. Key figure in growth of Zionism was Theodor Herzl. Aimed to group at Palestine and establish it as a home.

The Transformation of Liberalism

Great Britain: Liberals were forced to adopt significant social reforms due to pressure of Trade unions and the Labour party. Rise of the Fabian Socialists who stressed the need for workers to use their right to vote to capture the House of Commons. → Favored evolution toward a socialist state by democratic means.

- However, The Liberals abandoned laissez-faire and voted for social reforms. Caused transformation of the idea of Liberalism.
- Main person regarding Liberals in House of commons is Lloyd George.

Italy: Amount of stability achieved when Giovanni Giolitti served as prime minister and was a master of transformism (system in which old political groups were transformed into new gov coalitions).

France: Travails of the Third Republic

- In 1890s, Third Republic experienced another crises which was evidence of the renewed Anti-Semitism in Europe.
- Dreyfus Affair
 - Found guilty by military court of selling army secrets
 - However, Dreyfus was innocent.
 - Led to a change in government → Moderate republicans lost to radical republicans.
 - Church and State were officially separated in 1905.

Growing Tensions in Germany

- New Imperial Germany begun by Bismarck continued as an "authoritarian, conservative, military-bureaucratic power state".
- By 1914, Germany became strongest military and industrial power on the Continent.
 - More growth due to industrialization.
- Conflict between modernization and traditionalism.

Industrialization and Revolution in Imperial Russia

- Upsurge of industrialization
 - Socialist thought and socialist parties developed due to this.
 - The Marxist Social Democratic Party

Revolution of 1905: Middle class of business and professional people longed for liberal institutions and liberal political system. Nationalists were dissatisfied and Peasants were suffering from lack of land and laborers felt oppressed by their working and living conditions.

Failure of the Revolution: Constitutional monarchy proved short-lived and Nicholas II rolled back reforms.

Rise of United States

- Shift from agrarian to a mighty industrial nation.
- Growth of Canada:** Problems of national unity and was difficult to achieve. However, Wilfred Laurier was able to reconcile French-speaking Canadians and English-speaking majority.

The New Imperialism

- Economic, political, and cultural domination of one country over other weaker countries or colonies.

Causes of the New Imperialism

- Existence of competitive nation-states.
- Role of Social Darwinism and Racism:** Social Darwinists believed that the struggle between nations determines the ones who are fit. Superior races dominate inferior races.
- Religious Motives:** Notion of the "white man's burden", belief that superiority of their civilization obligated them to impose modern industries.
- The Economic Motive:** Demand for natural resources → Creation of economic imperialism.

The Scramble for Africa

South Africa: British established themselves in South Africa by taking control of Cape Town. Conflict between British and the Boers.

Boer War (1899 - 1902): British won, however cost of Boer war demonstrated the increased military and monetary investment is needed for British Empire to sustain.

Impact on Africa: By 1914, Britain, France, Germany, Belgium, Spain and Portugal carved up the entire African continent.

Imperialism in Asia

The British in Asia: BEIC was responsible for subjugated India. Revolt of Sepoys was crushed and Parliament transferred the company's powers to the London government.

The Russians in Asia: Logical outgrowth of Russia's traditional territorial aggrandizement. Gradual movement into Siberia. Russians also moved south and wanted to diminish the Ottoman Empire.

China: Rivalry among great powers prevented the complete dismemberment of the Chinese Empire.

Japan and Korea: Japan avoided Western intrusion and managed to avoid China's fate. Korea largely excluded Westerners as well.

Southeast Asia: Britain established control over Burma and France played a role in subjugated

Indochina.

American Imperialism: Pacific islands was scene of great power competition and witnessed entry of US onto the imperialist stage.

