

Modernism



Modernism

- It is a term used to describe the cultural and aesthetic scene during the first half of the 20th century.
- Modernism was a revolution in taste, style, and art between (1890-1930) and affected all aspects of life including poetry, novel, drama, music, painting, philosophy, science and politics.
- Modernists were experimenting with different modes of expression.
- Modernism is associated with innovation and novelty and with notions of the artist's freedom from realism, materialism, traditional genre and form.

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- Modernism encouraged a sense of despair and doubt. Scepticism invaded every aspect of life and the Victorian notions of certainty and harmony are rejected.
- Modernism is concerned with aesthetics rather than morality.
- Modernism favoured anti-historicism because truth is not evolutionary and progressive but something requiring analysis.
- Modernism can be taken as a response by artists and writers to several things, including industrialisation, urban society, war, technological change and new philosophical ideas.
- Modernity describes the rise of capitalism, of social study and state regulation, of a belief in progress and productivity leading to mass systems of industry, institutionalisation, administration and surveillance.

- The class system was rocked by the rise of trade unions and the Labour party.



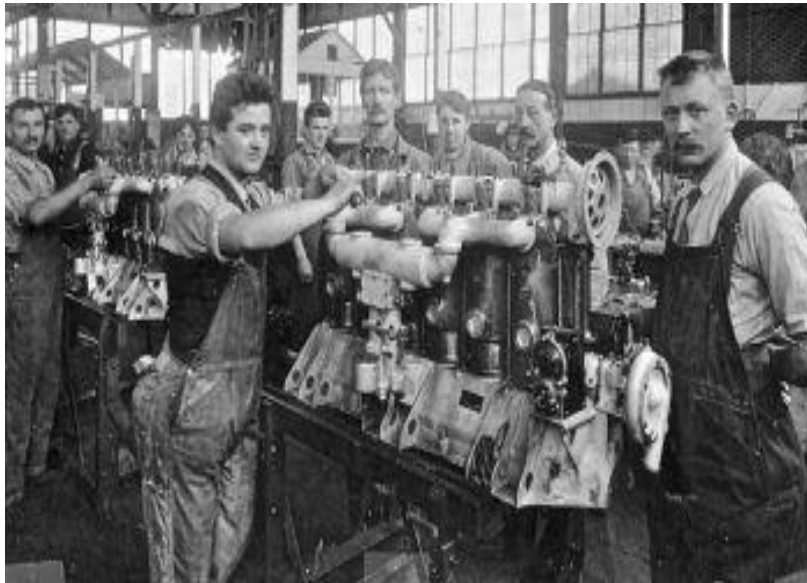
- Beliefs in King and Country, patriotism and duty were betrayed by the carnage of the war.




- Patriarchy was challenged as women went to work outside the home and the suffrage movement gained hold.

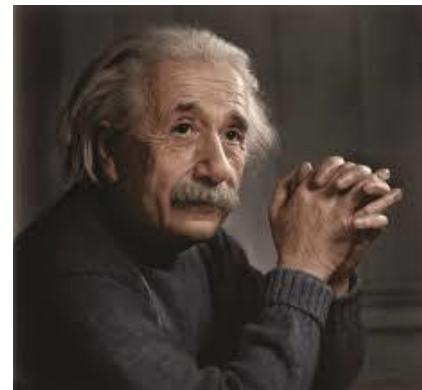
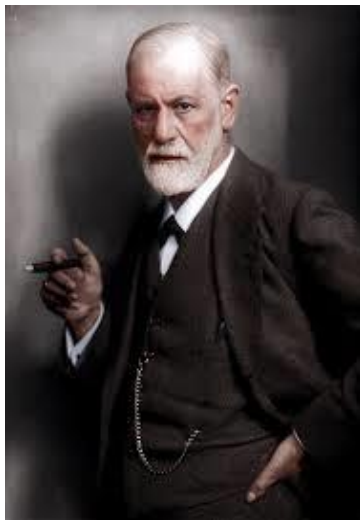
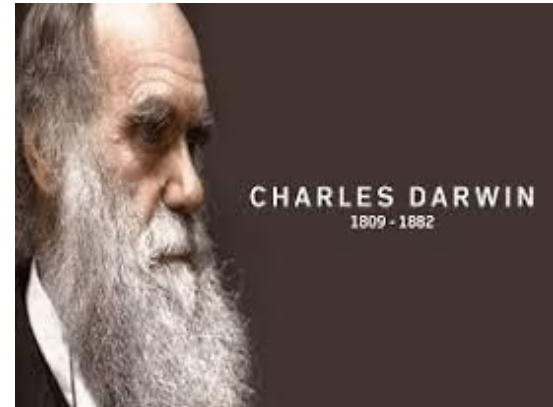


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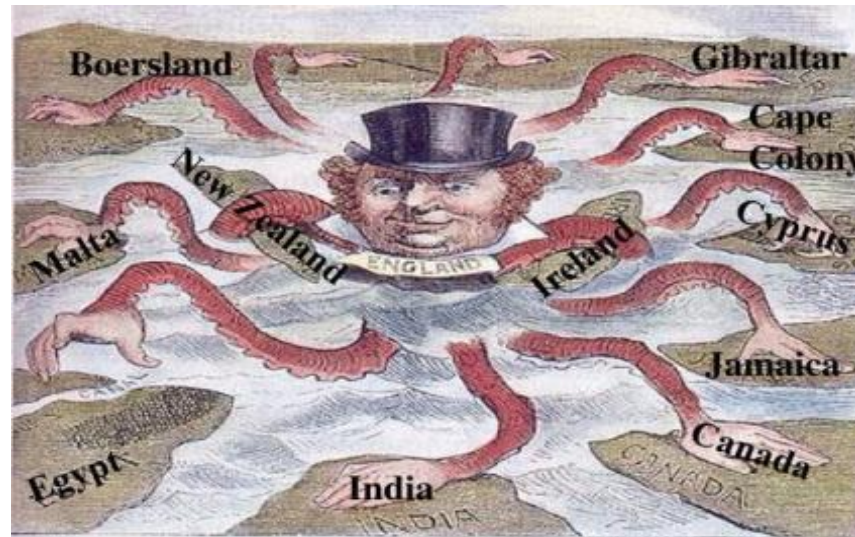


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- Modernist art stressed complexity and difficulty, and also emphasised that culture had changed in response to the machine age.
 - In this spirit, Modernist texts often focus on social, spiritual or personal collapse and subsume history under mythology and symbolism.

- The Western world was transformed and reinterpreted by Marx, Darwin, Freud and Einstein, who respectively changed established social, individual and natural notions



- Imperialism had exposed European sensibilities to alternative cultures, ethics and social structures.



- World War I and the years immediately before and after it, brought about the end of many institutions and beliefs. It resulted in the invention of new weapons, such as submarines, aeroplanes, poison gas and cannons which resulted in thousands of deaths and casualties.

