

## "Isms"

### "Isms" (1450-present)

- Humanism (intellectual)
  - Time Period: Renaissance (1450-1600)
  - Italian
    - Promoted a revival in classical literature (Greek and Roman texts)
    - Critically studied classical/ancient texts
    - Focused on the values of secularism and individualism
    - Renaissance man concept
    - Mirandola- "To man it is granted to have whatever he chooses, to be whatever he wills"
  - Civic
    - Heavily focused on and studied Greek and Roman political institutions
    - Education should prepare leaders to be strong in civic affairs
    - Secular model for individual and political behavior
    - Machiavelli- *The Prince*
  - Northern/Christian
    - Looked for practical guidance from biblical, religious precepts of authority
    - Viewed ideas of individualism as components of Christian belief and practice
    - Believed the Church should be reformed
    - Erasmus laid the egg that Luther hatched (Northern Humanism led to Protestant Reformation)
- Mercantilism (economic)
  - Time Period: Exploration era (1450-1700s)
  - Key ideas:
    - The main goal was to have economic self-sufficiency
      - Export more than you import
      - Tariffs were often placed on imports to assist with this
    - Bullionism
      - Build up large reserves of specie (gold and silver)
      - Control as much gold and silver as possible
    - Colonies were used to provide raw materials and markets for the mother country
      - The colony was viewed as the inferior in this relationship
      - The colony exists for the good of the mother country
    - Large trade companies were formed to further the aims of the state
      - British East India Company
      - Dutch East India Company
    - Domestic industries encouraged
    - Government plays an active role in the economy

- Absolutism (political)
  - Time period: 1600s
  - Key features
    - Divine Right of Kings
    - Sovereignty of the country was embodied in the person of the ruler (“I am the state”)
    - Monarchs are not subordinate to national assemblies
    - Monarchs control the nobility
    - Monarchs control the bureaucracy of the state
    - Monarchs try to establish one religion
    - Monarchs build large standing armies
    - Monarchs use the arts to demonstrate power
  - Key Examples:
    - Louis XIV of France
    - Peter the Great of Russia
  - Theorists:
    - Bishop Bossuet
    - Jean Bodin
    - Thomas Hobbes
- Constitutionalism (political)
  - Time period: starts in the 1600s
  - Key Features:
    - Government power is limited by law
    - Institutions, such as the British parliament, place a limit on the power of a monarch or ruler
    - Concept of a social contract between the government and people
  - Key Example:
    - England/Britain (Glorious Revolution-1688, English Bill of Rights)
  - Key Theorist:
    - John Locke
- Enlightened Despotism (political)
  - Time period: 1700s, early 1800s if Napoleon is counted
  - Key Features:
    - This was a central absolutist administration that focused on Enlightened reforms for the people.
    - This was advocated by figures like Voltaire
    - Despots should foster the arts, education, and sciences
    - Despots should reform society:
      - Religious toleration
      - Streamlined legal codes
      - Increased access to education
      - Reduction or elimination of torture/death penalty
  - Key Examples:
    - Frederick the Great (Prussia)
    - Joseph II (Austria)
    - Catherine the Great (Russia)

- Capitalism (economic)
  - Time period: starts in the 1700s
  - Key Features/Ideas:
    - Laissez-faire approach to the economy (hands-off)
    - Economy is governed by the natural laws of supply and demand
    - Competition encourages producers to manufacture more efficiently
    - Government regulation/control interferes with the natural laws that guide the economy
    - Challenged mercantilist beliefs in Europe
  - Key Theorist:
    - Adam Smith
- 19<sup>th</sup> Century “Isms”
  - Many of these developed as a response to industrial and political revolutions in Europe.
  - Liberalism (Classical Liberalism) (Political)
    - Movement emerged out of the French Revolution
    - Emphasized:
      - Popular sovereignty
      - Individual rights
      - Enlightened self-interest
    - Debated the extent to which all groups in society should actively participate in its governance
      - Classical liberals were generally in favor of the extension of the franchise to middle class individuals, but not lower classes.
    - Believed in equality before the law
    - Property should be protected
    - Generally supported laissez faire economic principles
    - Most wanted a constitution for their country to protect rights
    - Key Figures:
      - John Locke
      - Jeremy Bentham
      - John Stuart Mill
  - Conservatism (political)
    - A major reaction to the French Revolution and liberalism
    - Supported traditional political and religious authorities
    - Believed that only traditional monarchical institutions could maintain order
    - Were generally opposed to change
    - Congress of Vienna represented a triumph of conservatism
    - Klemens von Metternich and Edmund Burke are good examples of conservative figures

- Socialism (economic, political, social)
  - Called for a fair distribution of society's resources and wealth
  - Evolved over time from Utopian socialists to scientific Marxism
  - Different types:
    - Utopian (Robert Owen, Saint-Simon)
    - Marxist
    - Revisionist
    - Know Lenin's differences from Marx
  - Refer to socialism notes for specific details/information
- Anarchism (political)
  - Viewed all forms of governmental authority as unnecessary
  - Government should be overthrown and replaced with a society based on voluntary cooperation
  - Key example: Mikhail Bakunin
- Nationalism (political, intellectual)
  - Unleashed by Napoleon
  - Encouraged loyalty to the nation
  - Belief that a certain self-defined people should govern themselves within their own historically sanctioned boundaries
  - Often associated with:
    - Romantic idealism
    - Liberal reform
    - Political unification
    - Racism with a concomitant anti-Semitism (Dreyfus Affair)
    - Chauvinism
    - Pan-Slavism
  - Heavily inspired revolutions between 1820-1848
  - Key figures:
    - Fichte
    - Herder
    - Mazzini
- Zionism (political/intellectual)
  - View this as Jewish nationalism
  - This emerged as a response to growing anti-Semitism
  - Believed that a Jewish state should be created in the Holy Land in Ottoman controlled territory
  - Key Figure:
    - Theodore Herzl

- Romanticism
    - Time Period: 1800-1850
    - Key Beliefs and Features:
      - Emotion and faith over reason
      - Emphasized the beauty of nature
      - Emphasized the individual and the solitary genius/hero
      - Rejected science based on physics and saw the universe as alive and constantly changing
      - Faith was an important part of the human experience
      - Supported popular revolutions for liberty and nationalism
      - Idealized the past, especially the Middle Ages
      - Encouraged personal freedom and flexibility
      - Humanitarian movements were created to fight slavery, poverty, and industrial evils
      - Inspired German pietism and Methodism
      - Heavily into the bizarre and supernatural
    - Broke with Neoclassical forms of art and with rationalism
    - Key Figures
      - Artists:
        - Goya
        - Delacroix
        - Friedrich
      - Composers
        - Beethoven
        - Tchaikovsky
        - Wagner
        - Verdi
      - Writers
        - Goethe
        - Wordsworth
        - Byron
        - Hugo
- Positivism (intellectual)
  - Time period (mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century)
  - Key Beliefs:
    - This was the philosophy that science alone provides knowledge
    - Emphasized the rational and scientific analysis of nature and human affairs
    - Represented a change after the revolutions of 1848
    - Goes along with realism
      - Remember, Europeans shift from a romanticized/idealized view to a realistic/realpolitik approach after 1848 in politics
  - Key figure: Auguste Comte

- Imperialism
  - Time Period: late 1800s
  - Key features:
    - This was the takeover of areas in Africa and Asia by European powers.
    - Sometimes referred to as “New Imperialism”
    - Closely associated with Social Darwinism
  - Refer to notes for more specific information
- Feminism
  - Time Period: First Wave (1800s and early 1900s), Second Wave (1960-1980s)
  - Key Features:
    - First Wave
      - The big item to remember here was the women’s suffrage movement
        - Figures like Emmeline Pankhurst advocated for the right to vote for women.
        - Remember, the right to vote was not granted until after WWI in many countries
      - Women also pressed for legal and economic rights as well as improved working conditions
        - Think of Josephine Butler here
    - Second Wave
      - Women still faced various inequalities, so new movements for increased rights for women occurred in the post WWII era.
        - Simone de Beauvoir
        - Arguments for reproduction rights
      - Women began to gain high political office and increase their representation in legislative bodies
        - Think of Margret Thatcher
- Fascism (political)
  - Time Period: 1920s and 1930s
  - Key Features/Beliefs:
    - Glorification of the state
    - Single party/single ruler
    - Condemns democracy
    - Supports the ideas of capitalism and owning of private property
    - Corporate state structure
    - Aggressive nationalism
    - Social Darwinism
    - Desire for peace shows weakness
    - Glorification of war
    - Emphasizes inequalities among humans
  - Key Examples:
    - Hitler and Nazi Germany
    - Mussolini and Italy

- Communist States (political)
  - Time Period: 20<sup>th</sup> century
  - Key Features/Beliefs:
    - Worldwide dictatorship of the proletariat and a transition to a classless society
    - One party under the control of an organization like the Politburo. Dictatorship is not the final goal.
    - Condemns capitalism for exploiting workers
    - Government controls all means of production
    - Economy is centralized under the communist party
    - Spread of communism for the benefit of the world's working class
    - Condemns imperialism and advocates a world without nationalism with the workers united
    - Peace is the ultimate goal
    - Violent revolution to bring about the "dictatorship of the proletariat". War is not the end but merely the means.
    - Emphasizes the perfectibility of society. Mankind is basically good.
  - Key Example: Soviet Union