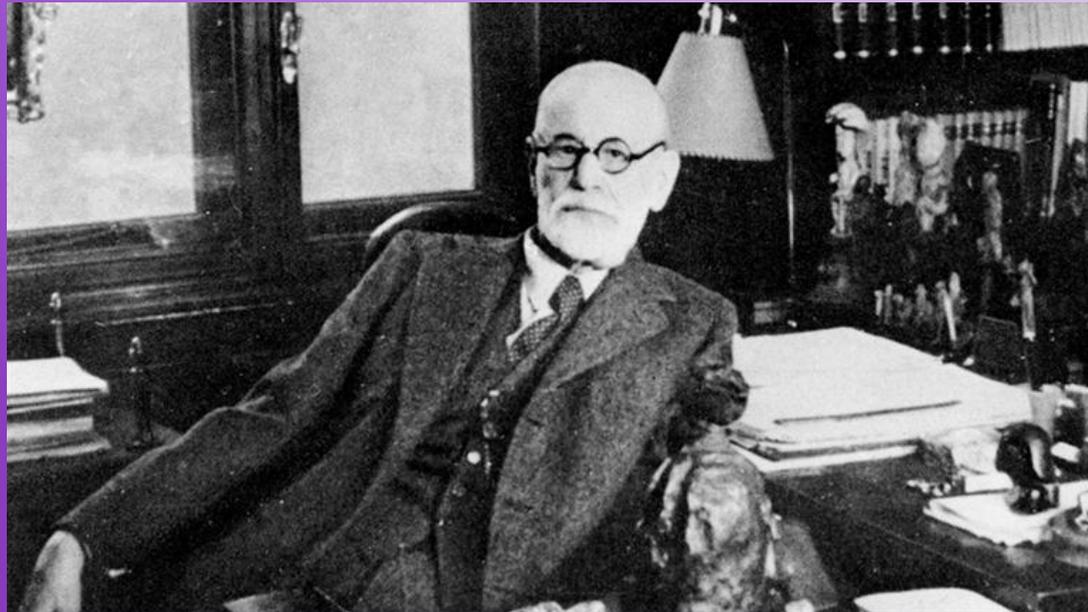


MODERN IDEAS AND UNCERTAINTY

Chapter 11 Section 4

By: Jason Hauck



I. The Culture of Modernity

A. Western novelists and poets who followed the naturalist style believed that literature should be realistic and address social problems.

1. They explored the role of women in society, alcoholism, and urban slums in their work.

B. The symbolist writers had a different idea about what was real.

1. They believed the external world, including art, was only a collection of symbols reflecting the true reality—the human mind.

- a. Art, should function for its own sake, not criticize or seek to understand society.

Water Lilies

C. Impressionism was a movement that began in France in the 1870s, when a group of artists rejected indoor studios and went to the countryside to paint nature directly.

1. Claude Monet painted pictures that captured the interplay of light, water, and sky.



D. In the 1880s, a new movement, known as postimpressionism, arose in France and soon spread.

1. For Vincent van Gogh, art was a spiritual experience.

- a. He was especially interested in color and believed that it could act as its own form of language.
- b. Van Gogh believed that artists should paint what they feel.

E. One reason for the decline of realism in painting was photography, which became popular after George Eastman created the Kodak camera in 1888.





F. Pablo Picasso created a new artistic style—cubism.

1. Cubism used geometric designs to re-create reality in the viewer's mind.

G. Modernism in the arts revolutionized architecture and gave rise to functionalism.

1. Functionalism was the idea that buildings, like the products of machines, should be functional, or useful. All unnecessary ornamentation should be stripped away.



II. Uncertainty Grows

A. Throughout much of the 1800s, Westerners believed in a mechanical conception of the universe that was based on the ideas of Isaac Newton.

1. The universe was viewed as a giant machine.
2. Time, space, and matter were objective realities.
3. Matter was thought to be made of atoms.

B. These views were seriously questioned at the end of the nineteenth century.

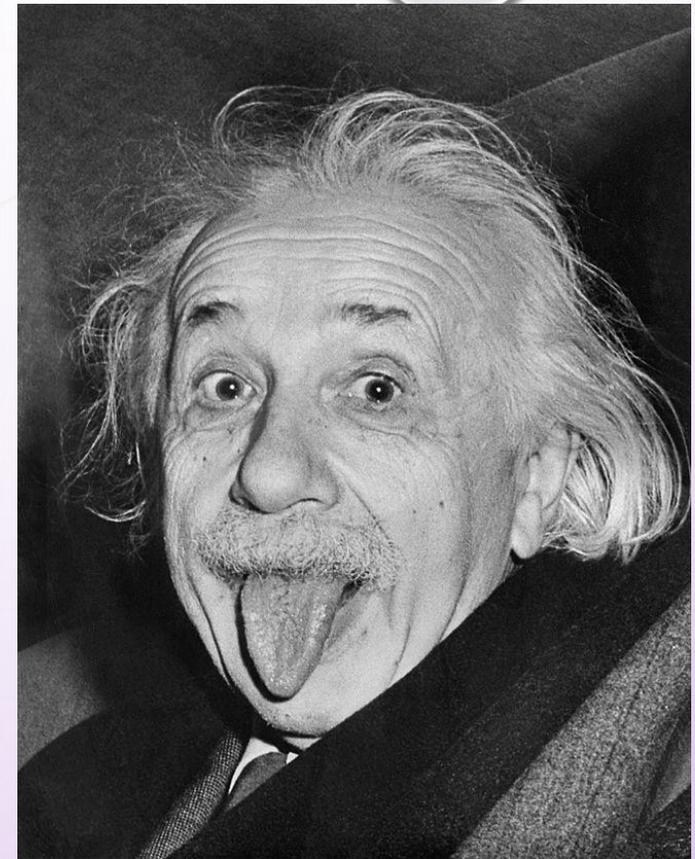
1. Marie Curie discovered that radium gave off energy, or radiation.
 - a. Atoms were not just material bodies but small, active worlds.

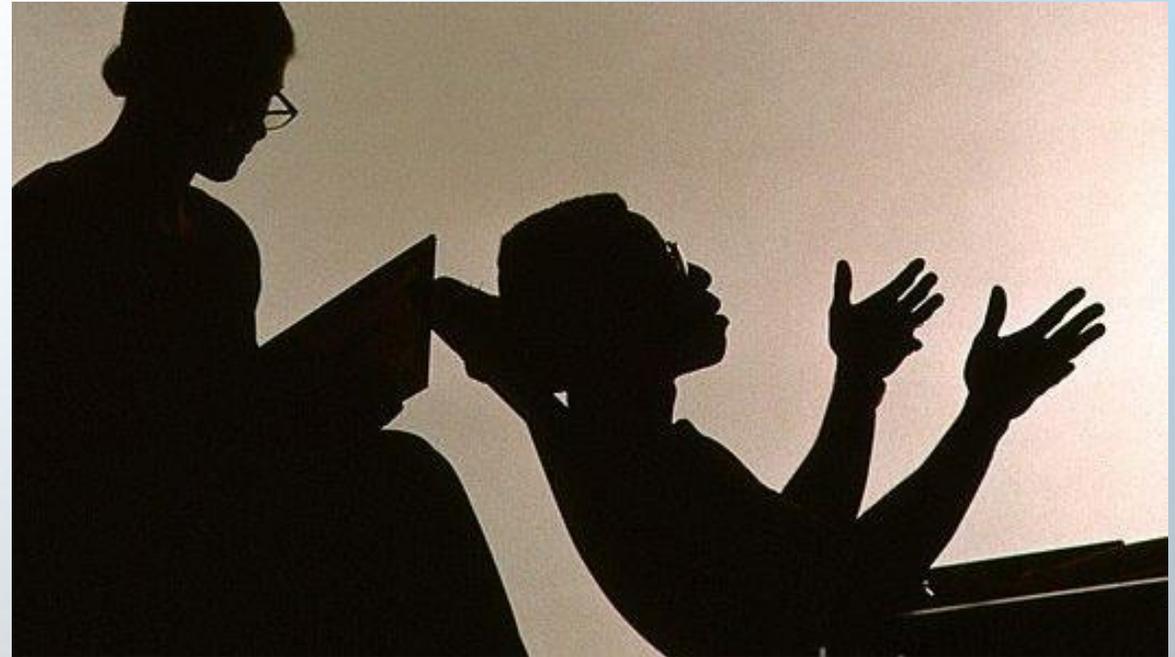
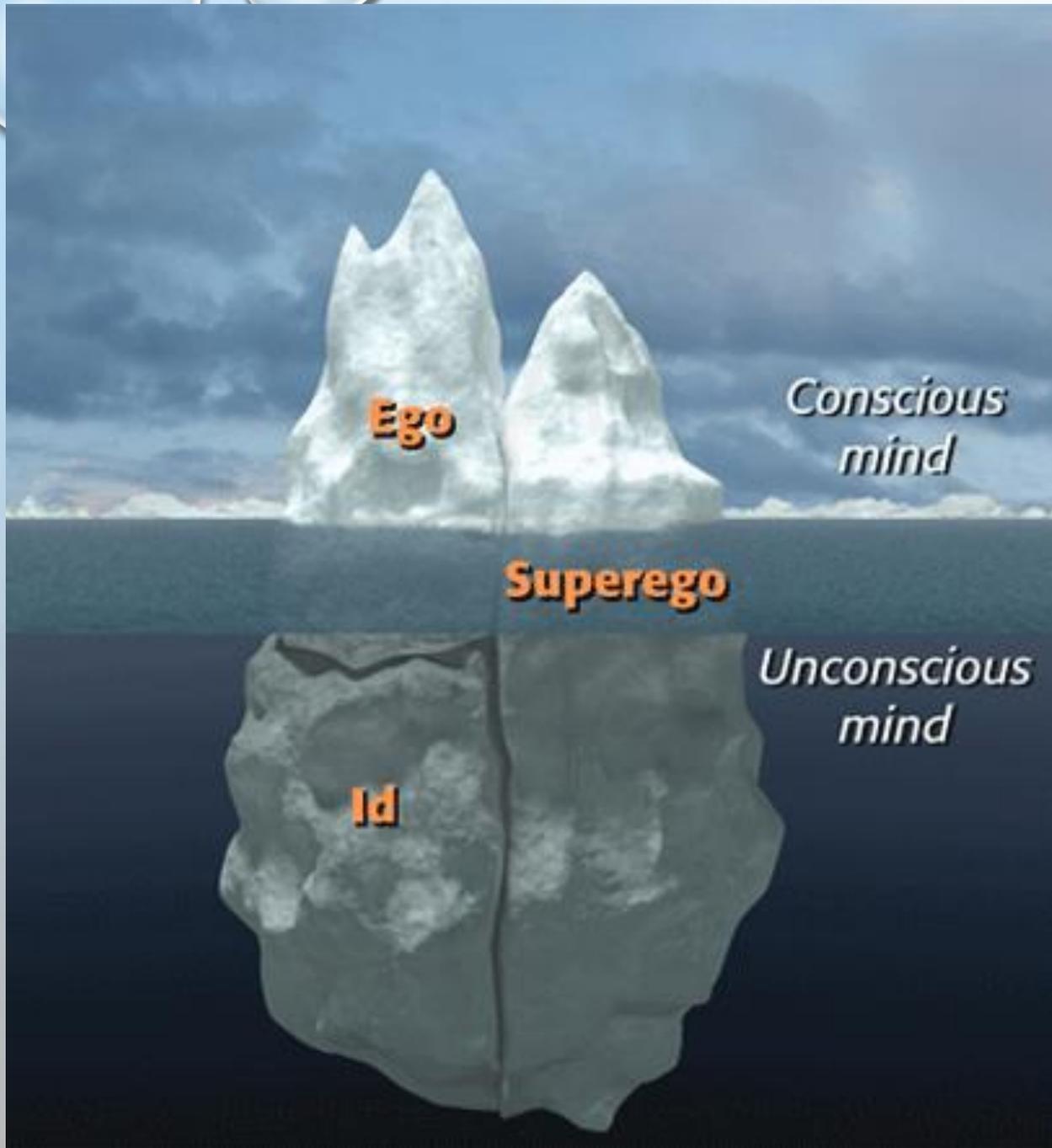
C. Albert Einstein's theory of relativity stated that space and time are not absolute but are relative to the observer.

D. Sigmund Freud, published *The Interpretation of Dreams*.

1. According to Freud, human behavior was strongly determined by past experiences and internal forces of which people were largely unaware.
2. Repression of such experiences began in childhood, so he developed Psychoanalysis to help heal his patients.

$E=MC^2$





III. Extreme Nationalism

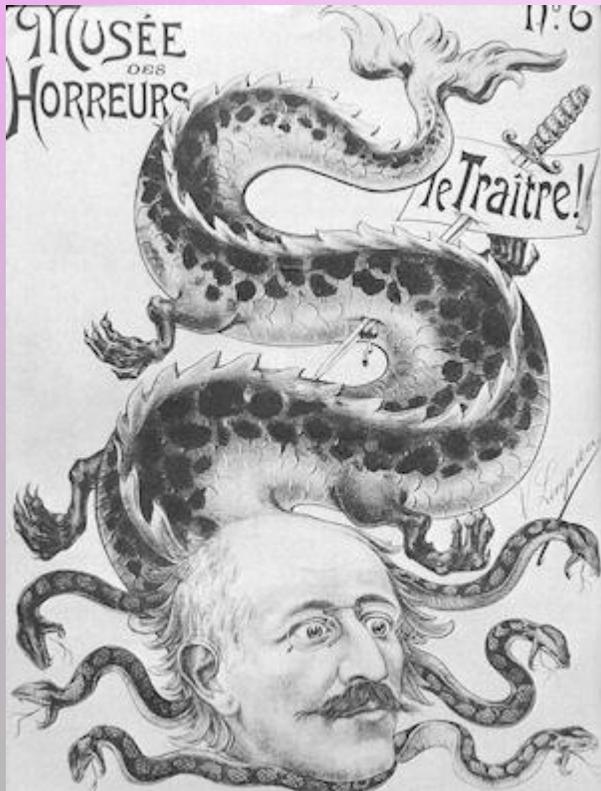
A. Nationalism became more intense in many countries in the late 1800s.

1. Social Darwinism was the radical belief that Darwin's theory of natural selection could be applied to modern human societies.

a. A British philosopher, Herbert Spencer, argued that social progress came from "the survival of the fittest."

B. Extreme nationalists also used Social Darwinism.

1. They said that nations, too, were engaged in a "struggle for existence" in which only the fittest nations would survive.



C. The growth of extreme nationalism and racism also led to the growth of anti-Semitism.

1. In 1894, a military court found Alfred Dreyfus, a Jewish captain in the French military, guilty of selling army secrets.
2. After the trial, evidence emerged that proved Dreyfus innocent.
 - a. A wave of public outcry finally forced the government to pardon Dreyfus.

D. The worst treatment of Jews at the turn of the century occurred in Russia.

1. Persecutions and pogroms, or organized massacres, were widespread.
2. Jews, probably about 25,000, immigrated to Palestine, which became home for a Jewish nationalist movement called Zionism.

