Intellectuals of the 19th Century

Immanuel Kant
- Prussian
  - 1724-1804
- Philosopher
  - Metaphysics
    - Critique of Pure Reason
      - Published 1781
      - Attack on Leibnizian metaphysics
        - Humans can arrive at truths about entities which they have no experience
          - Imagination
          - God, Immortality
      - Freedom of thought
        - Thought formed by experiences and surroundings
          - Ex. How likely is someone to be critical of Christianity if they grew up in an all Christian environment?
    - Stresses need for empiricism in thought and science
      - Set tone for philosophers of 19th century
        - Study of thought and the human condition

Friedrich Nietzsche
- German
  - Highly pessimistic
  - Chair of Classical Philology at University of Basel
  - Many of his writing re-wrote to promote German nationalism
- 1844-1900
  - Died of either syphilis or brain cancer
- Philosopher
  - Challenged Christianity
    - The Antichrist, Curse on Christianity
      - Published 1888
      - Criticizes Christianity for replacing noble values of Rome
        - Weaker people rising up
      - “Gott ist tot”
      - Made suffering tolerable by interpreting it as God’s intention and as an occasion for atonement
      - Challenged idea of personal immortality
        - Thought it conceited that people believed their lives had any bit of cosmic significance
        - Apollonian and Dionysian
          - Apollonian
            - Celebration of creativity and thought
          - Dionysian
            - Chaos and instinct
- **The Birth of Tragedy**
  - Published 1872
  - Constant struggle in life between the two
    - Neither ever able to prevail
  - Associated with Nihilism
    - Do not believe in anything
    - Life has no purpose or meaning
    - Believed world would turn to banner of nationalism instead of religion
      - Conquest in name of nation-state

**Sigmund Freud**
- Austrian
  - 1856-1939
- Philosopher
  - Psychoanalysis
    - **The Interpretation of Dreams**
      - Published 1899
      - Unlocks conscious mind
        - With help of cocaine
        - Looking at peoples innermost desires
          - Often perceived people as wild beasts
    - Human Personality
      - Id
        - Instinctive
          - Would be harmful to society
        - Pleasure principle
          - Only interested in instant gratification
            - Ex. Hunger triggers immediate search for food
      - Ego
        - Keeps the Id in check
          - Forces us to act in socially acceptable ways
        - Operates in Conscious, preconscious, and subconscious mind
        - Reality principle
          - Weighs wants of the Id versus socially acceptable norms in order to make a decision
    - Super-Ego
      - The Ego ideal
        - Made up of standards of right and wrong
          - Made up by parents and society
      - The conscience
        - Internal feelings of guilt or remorse
  - Religion
    - **The Future of an Illusion**
      - Published 1927
      - Explains religion’s origins
        - Man is a natural enemy of society
          - “Among these instinctual wishes are those of incest, cannibalism, and lust for killing”
Religion used as a means of social control

- Religion has ancient power
  - Primal ancestors believed in religion
  - We have “proof” handed to us by antiquity
    - Holy books, relics, etc...
  - Questioning it is taboo
  - Just because you wish it will happen does not make it true
    - Here is the illusion

Charles Darwin
- English
  - 1809-1882
- HMS Beagle
  - 1831-1836
  - Read book *Principles of Geology*
    - Charles Lyell
    - Suggested fossils were animals that had been here thousands or millions of years before
      - Went against earth made in seven days theory
  - Galapagos Islands
    - Studied variants of island’s finches
      - Ideas of evolution mixed with Malthus’ ideas of population growth
  - Natural selection
    - The plants or animals best suited for the environment are most likely to survive
  - Evolution
    - Gradual change over time
- Published findings in 1858
  - On the Origins of Species by Means of Natural Selection
    - Very controversial
      - Explained humans were just some other animal
      - Contested church’s belief in divine creationism