**Age of Anxiety**

**(1880-1940)**

Objectives

1. Analyze why there was a shift (starting in the late 19th c.) from an optimistic worldview that embraced rationality and progress to a pessimistic worldview characterized by feelings of irrationality and crisis.
2. Explain how changes in philosophy, Christianity, physics, psychology, and literature reflected anxiety in Western thought, ca. 1880-1940.
3. Identify the characteristics of modernism in architecture, art, literature, and music. Provide examples of modern architecture, art, literature, and music, and analyze what made them new and revolutionary.
4. Explain how the emerging consumer society and mass culture of the interwar years changed people’s everyday lives. Trace the development and explain the significance of movies and radio between ca. 1900 and the 1930s.
5. Identify the obstacles to lasting peace that European leaders faced in the postwar era, ca. 1919-1939 (but especially the immediate postwar era, 1919-1923).
6. Identify the signs of hope for a lasting peace, in foreign and domestic affairs, that emerged in the mid- to late-1920s.
7. Analyze the causes and consequences of the Great Depression.

Terms and People

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| **PHILOSOPHY**  Friedrich Nietzsche  nihilism  Henri Bergson  logical positivism  Ludwig Wittgenstein  existentialism  Jean-Paul Sartre  **CHRISTIANITY**  Christian existentialism  Soren Kierkegaard  Karl Barth  Gabriel Marcel  **PHYSICS**  Marie Curie  Max Planck  Albert Einstein / theory of special  relativity  Ernest Rutherford  Werner Heisenberg / uncertainty  principle  **PSYCHOLOGY**  Sigmund Freud  id / ego / superego | **MODERNISM IN ARCHITECTURE, ART, LITERATURE & MUSIC**  modernism  ***Architecture***  functionalism  Walter Gropius / Bauhaus  ***Art***  impressionism: ex. Monet, Degas  postimpressionism/expressionism:  ex. Van Gogh  cubism: ex. Picasso  futurism: ex. Marinetti  Dadaism: ex. Duchamp[[1]](#footnote-0)  surrealism: ex. Dali  ***Literature***  stream-of-consciousness technique  James Joyce / *Ulysses*  ***Music***  Igor Stravinsky / *The Rite of Spring*  atonal music  **CONSUMER SOCIETY**  “modern girl” | **POSTWAR POLITICS & ECONOMICS (1919-1939)**  John Maynard Keynes, *Economic*  *Consequences of the Peace* (1919)  Weimar Republic  Ruhr (French occupation, 1923)  hyperinflation (Germany, 1923)[[2]](#footnote-1)  Dawes Plan (1924)  Locarno Pact (1925)  Kellogg-Briand Pact (1928)  Social Democratic Party (SPD,  Germany)  Labour Party (Britain)  Great Depression (1929)  Franklin Delano Roosevelt  New Deal  Social Democrats (Scandinavia)  Popular Front (France) |

1. Duchamp is not named in the textbook, but his *Mona Lisa (LHOOQ)* work is described. Here is a link to the image: <https://www.nga.gov/images/decor/dadainfo_fs.shtm> [↑](#footnote-ref-0)
2. The term “hyperinflation” does not appear in the textbook, but it is the most apt term to use to describe the extreme extent of inflation that Germany suffered in 1923. Ex. cost of a loaf of bread in Germany: 160 marks (1922) vs. 2 billion marks (1923). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)