

# Modernism & Imperialism Notes

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## *Spielvogel Chapter 24*

- I. Things were not as simple as they used to think
  - A. move away from mechanical universe (new discoveries in physics)
    1. Marie Curie (1867-1934) – radiation coming from within atom
      - a. Atom is NOT solid
    2. Max Planck (1858-1947) – radiation comes in irregular patterns called “quanta”
      - a. Natural world is not constant like a machine
    3. Albert Einstein (1879-1955) – theory of relativity
      - a. Even time/space are variable
  - B. Philosophy abandons basic notions of progress and good/evil
    1. Friedrich Nietzsche (German 1844-1900)
      - a. Western bourgeois society was incapable of creativity
        - It’s Christianity’s fault – leads to intellectual slavery
      - b. Steps to renew Western society
        - Realize that God is dead (killed by Europeans; no longer possible to believe in cosmic order)
        - Believe in “the superman”
          - Man is something to be surpassed
          - “Beyond” good vs. evil
          - Will end equality, democratic gov’t, militarism
          - Called “Will to Power” – the strongest is the one who overcomes the rules of society, realizing that truth and morality do not exist
    2. Georges Sorel (French 1849-1922)
      - a. Advocated violent action as the only way to achieve socialism
      - b. Advocated a “general strike”
        - Believed the strike would inspire workers to take action and revolt
        - Afterwards, thought workers should be ruled by small group of elites (incapable of ruling themselves – too stupid)
    3. Social Darwinism
      - a. Darwin’s ideas of organic evolution applied to society
        - “survival of the fittest”
      - b. invented by Herbert Spencer (1820-1903)
      - c. When the weak die off, society gets stronger
        - Economics – the more ruthless, the more fit they are
        - Nationalism – war separates the weak from the strong
        - Racism (Germany is a great example)
          - Believed that Aryan (European) race created Western culture

- Must fight to save it from lesser races (Jews, Negroes, Orientals)
  - The lighter your skin, the better your race/nation
  - Gender – men better than women (stronger)
  - Criminology – potential crooks identifiable from appearance
- C. invention of psychology – delving further into the mysteries of the mind
  1. Sigmund Freud (Austrian 1856-1939)
    - a. Developed idea of psychoanalysis
    - b. *The Interpretation of Dreams* (1900)
      - Human behavior is determined by unconscious
      - Repression – keeping unfortunate past events in the unconscious
      - Repressed memories affect our current behavior
      - Repressed memories surface during dream interpretation and hypnosis
    - c. Humans struggle with aspects of their minds
      - Id – desire for pleasure & avoid pain (“pleasure principle”)
      - Ego – the seat of reason, realizes people must use self-control to live in a society (“reality principle”)
      - Superego – represents the moral values of society
        - Imposed by society in general and parents in particular
- D. Art reflects complications of reality – Modernism
  1. Literature
    - a. Naturalism – believes literature should be realistic
      - Like realism, but extra pessimism
      - Leo Tolstoy (Russia 1828-1910) – *War and Peace*
        - Napoleon’s invasion of Russia - Fatalistic view of history
      - Fyodor Dostoevsky (Russia 1821-1881)
        - Believe major problem of his age was loss of spiritual belief
    - b. Symbolists – reacted against realism
      - Known for poetry
      - Objective knowledge of world was impossible
      - W.B. Yeats
  2. Art
    - a. Impressionism – mid to late 1800s
      - Art is to give an impression of reality, not a depiction of reality
        - Emphasis on light & color
      - Claude Monet – French p. 679
    - b. Post-impressionism – late 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries
      - Add geometric design, retain focus on light & color
      - Begin modern art
      - Paul Cezanne – French p. 680
      - Vincent van Gogh – Dutch p. 681
    - c. Cubism – early 20<sup>th</sup> century

- Used geometric designs as visual stimuli to re-create reality in the viewer's mind
  - Way to keep art alive after the invention of the camera
  - Pablo Picasso (from Spain; settled in Paris; 1881-1973) p. 682
- d. Abstract – early 20<sup>th</sup> century
- Avoid representing anything at all – no reference to visual reality
    - Concentrate on color
  - Art should speak directly to the soul
  - Wassily Kandinsky (Russian) p. 682

### 3. Music

- a. Igor Stravinsky (Russian 1882-1971)
- *The Rite of Spring* (1913) – based on Russian folktales
    - Known for pulsating rhythms, sharp dissonances, and unusual dancing
    - First performance caused a riot at the theater on 29 May 1913

## II. Politics: New Directions

### A. Women's Rights Movement

1. Beginning of its organized period
2. Desired civil rights
  - a. Property, divorce, child custody
3. Demand for higher education
  - a. Want admittance to university
  - b. First professional occupation – teaching (low wages = women's work)
  - c. Nursing – the rest of medical profession only for men
4. Political Rights
  - a. Eventually believe that all other rights will come after the right to vote
  - b. Some tried to prove they were responsible enough to have the vote
    - Didn't lead to change
  - c. Move to radicalism – Emmeline Pankhurst (Britain)
    - Middle & upper class women
    - Throw eggs at officials, chained themselves to lampposts, smashed windows, burned buildings & RR cars, hunger strikes
    - One was killed when she jumped in front of the king's racing horse
  - d. Most nations grant women's rights after WWI
5. The "New Woman" – brave and persistent
  - a. Maria Montessori (1870-1952) – good example
    - First Italian woman to receive a medical degree
    - Created schools for intellectually disabled children
      - Learn at own pace through natural and spontaneous activities
    - Thought she could use same approach for all students -- Montessori schools

### B. Jews in Europe

1. Anti-Semitism

- a. Liberal reforms gave more rights to Jews
    - More schooling, property owning, etc. – resented by others
  - b. Cultural and political nationalism & social Darwinism increase intolerance
    - Foreigners among us
    - Idea that they have a disproportionate amount of financial control
2. Dreyfus Affair (France 1894-1906)
- a. Demonstrates a Europe-wide anti-Semitism
  - b. Alfred Dreyfus (wealthy & ambitious Jewish French army officer)
    - Accused of selling military secrets to Germany
    - Military court condemned him to life imprisonment
      - All while a mob outside yelled “death to the Jews”
    - Dreyfus was innocent – evidence emerged after the trial
    - Dreyfus pardoned in 1899 & exonerated in 1906
3. Eastern Europe (3/4 of all Jews live there)
- a. Russia (Ukraine) the most brutal
  - b. Pogroms kill thousands between 1880-1910
  - c. Tens of thousand migrate to U.S., Canada, Palestine
  - d. Zionist movement - Theodor Herzl founds it in 1898
    - Goal to give Jews a Palestinian homeland
- C. Germany – growing tensions
1. Authoritarian, conservative (reactionary), militaristic state governed by an unstable and aggressive emperor (William II)
  2. 1914 – Germany is the strongest power militarily and industrially
  3. Social Democratic Party growing in power (due to industrialization)
  4. Strongly imperialist – felt that they needed to expand to survive
  5. Increasing anti-Semitism
- D. Russian Development and Revolution
1. Russia begins trying to play industrialization catch-up by 1890
    - a. Working class (proletariat) grows in size and power
    - b. 1899-1903 – industrial depression
      - Out of work people desire liberal reforms
    - c. Peasants drafted into army – decrease in farm production
  2. Russo-Japanese War (1904-05)
    - a. Russia beaten soundly, even though social Darwinism says they should win – leads populace to question government
  3. Bloody Sunday – Jan. 1905
    - a. 200,000 protesters go to Winter Palace in St. Petersburg
    - b. Several hundred killed by police
    - c. Leads to widespread strikes and formation of unions
  4. October Manifesto
    - a. In response to formation of first Soviet (council of workers)

- Demand elected city government
- b. Nicholas II issued Manifesto, promised freedom of press, speech, assembly
  - Also formed the Duma, a legislative assembly
- c. By 1907, the Tsar had already curtailed the power of the Duma
  - But at least it existed

### III. Imperialism

- A. Definition – economic, political, & cultural domination of one country over other weaker countries or colonies
- B. Influences/Justifications/causes
  1. Nationalism – 1880s – expansion increases national prestige
    - a. Made possible with superior military technology/numbers
  2. Religious revival – Send in the missionaries
    - a. When they are killed (which happened occasionally), good excuse to send in the army
  3. Scientific Interest (anthropology, biology, geology)
    - a. Rudyard Kipling's *White Man's Burden* – Europe's "responsibility" to "civilize" the "savages"
  4. Industrialism - economics
    - a. Raw materials
      - Many available only in tropical regions (rubber, petroleum, coffee, tea, etc.)
    - b. Easier to secure commodities with legal means of keeping order
    - c. Could more easily open mines, create monopolies
- C. Creating Empires
  1. Participation in Imperialism
    - a. France, Britain, Russia, Portugal, Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, Germany, Japan, U.S.
    - b. No clear logic behind race for colonies
      - Once started, quickly turned into a frantic rush
    - c. No thought given to value or disruption of indigenous cultures
  2. Scramble for Africa
    - a. Leopold II (Belgium) hired Henry Stanley to explore the Congo and claim it
      - That's the Stanley that found Dr. David Livingstone
    - b. Other European countries don't want to be left out
    - c. Bismarck had called for Berlin Conference of 1885 to avoid war
      - Conference set rules for "Scramble for Africa"
        - All unclaimed territory open for grabs
        - Must settle, not just arrive
        - All other nations must be informed of occupation
    - d. Between 1885-1914, most of African continent had been claimed by European nations
  3. Boer War (1899-1902)
    - a. Fought over control of South African gold and diamond production

- b. British fight descendants of Dutch colonists (Afrikaners)
- c. Include them in British social hierarchy after defeat

#### IV. International Rivalry and the Coming of War

##### A. Bismarck's System of Alliances

1. Geared to protect Germany – some secret – some not
2. Decline of Ottoman Empire opens Balkans for independence
3. Berlin Congress of 1878 (dominated by Bismarck) makes Romania, Montenegro, Serbia independent
  - a. Bosnia put under Austrian control
4. Bismarck creates the Triple Alliance (1882) with Austria and Italy for defense against France and her allies
  - a. Also signs secret treaty with Russia (Reinsurance treaty -1887)
5. Consequence – alliances like a delicate spider web with Bismarck at the center, holding it all together
  - a. Until Bismarck gets fired by a madman

##### B. New Direction, New Alliances

1. Kaiser Wilhelm II terminates the Reinsurance treaty with Russia
2. Russia allies with France
  - a. Sets Prussia/Germany up for a two-front war (Bismarck's greatest fear)
3. Kaiser's militaristic posturing frightens France, Britain, and Russia into an alliance against Germany, Austria, and Italy
  - a. Actually brought on by the first Moroccan Crisis (1905-1906)
    - Germany threatened French activity in Morocco in an attempt to drive a wedge between France & Britain – has opposite effect
4. Balkan Crisis (1908-09)
  - a. Austria annexes Bosnia
  - b. Angers Serbia – had hopes for a empire of southern slaves
    - Austria took it precisely to keep that from happening
  - c. Russia embarrassed at not being strong enough to defend Serbia
5. First Balkan War – 1912
  - a. Serbia, Bulgaria, Montenegro, Greece declare war on Ottomans – defeat them
6. Second Balkan War – 1913
  - a. Above countries fight amongst themselves for new acquired territory
  - b. Serbia hopes to get some of Albania (gain seaport)
  - c. Austria insures Albania gets independence – Serbia even angrier (landlocked)
  - d. Result: Everyone is ticked off at everyone else
7. Before he left office, Bismarck said:
  - a. "Some d--- thing in the Balkans is going to set off another war."