

Ephesians Series

Lesson #161

August 14, 2022

Dean Bible Ministries

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The Decline and Fall of the Impact of the Christian Worldview

Ephesians 4:17–21



EPHESIANS

THE WEALTH, WALK
& WARFARE
OF THE BELIEVER

Eph. 4:17, “This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind,

Eph. 4:18, “having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;

Eph. 4:19, “who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

~NKJV

Eph. 4:20, “But you have not learned Christ in such a way,

~RD

Eph. 4:21, “if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus:”

Eph. 4:1, “I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the high position to which you were called,”

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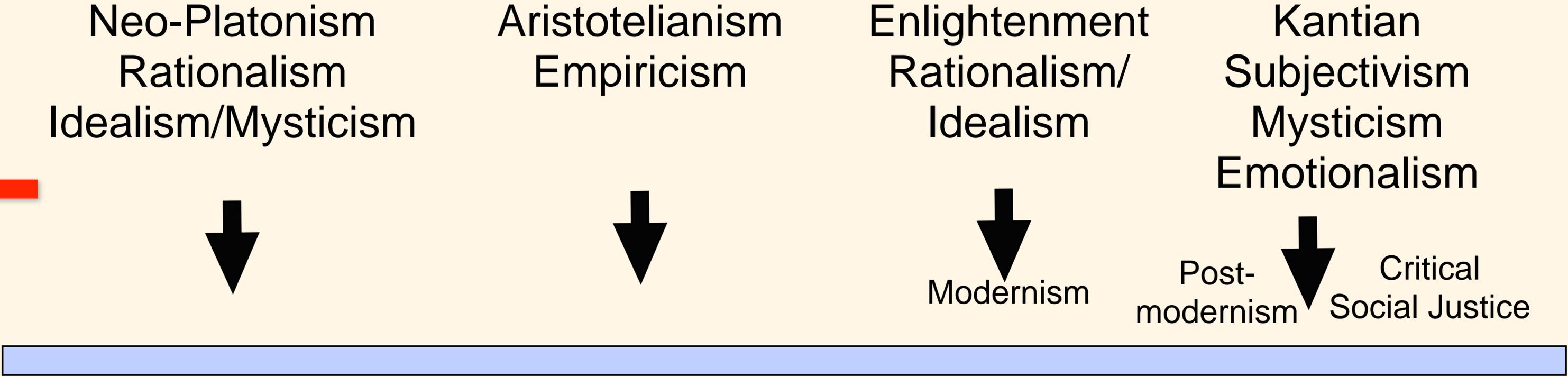
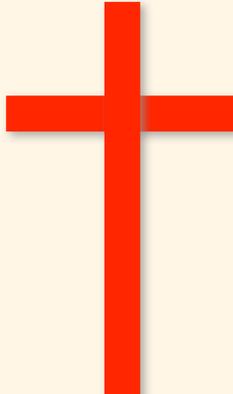
Eph. 4:17–18a, “This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, because their understanding is darkened as a result of being alienated from God ...”

2 Cor. 10:4, “For the weapons of our warfare are not those of the sin nature, but mighty in God for the demolition of strongholds [fortifications], ~RD

2 Cor. 10:5, “by dismantling the arguments [imaginative rationalizations] and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, by bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,” ~RD

Rom. 12:2, “And do not be pressed into the mold of the thinking of the world, but be transformed by the renewing of your thinking, that you may demonstrate that will of God is good and acceptable and perfect.” ~RD

Worldviews in the Church Age



Neo-Platonism
Rationalism
Idealism/Mysticism

Aristotelianism
Empiricism

Enlightenment
Rationalism/
Idealism

Kantian
Subjectivism
Mysticism
Emotionalism

Modernism

Post-
modernism

Critical
Social Justice

100

1200

1600

1900

2000?

Early Church
Early Medieval Church

Medieval
Church

Reformation
Post-Reformation
Church

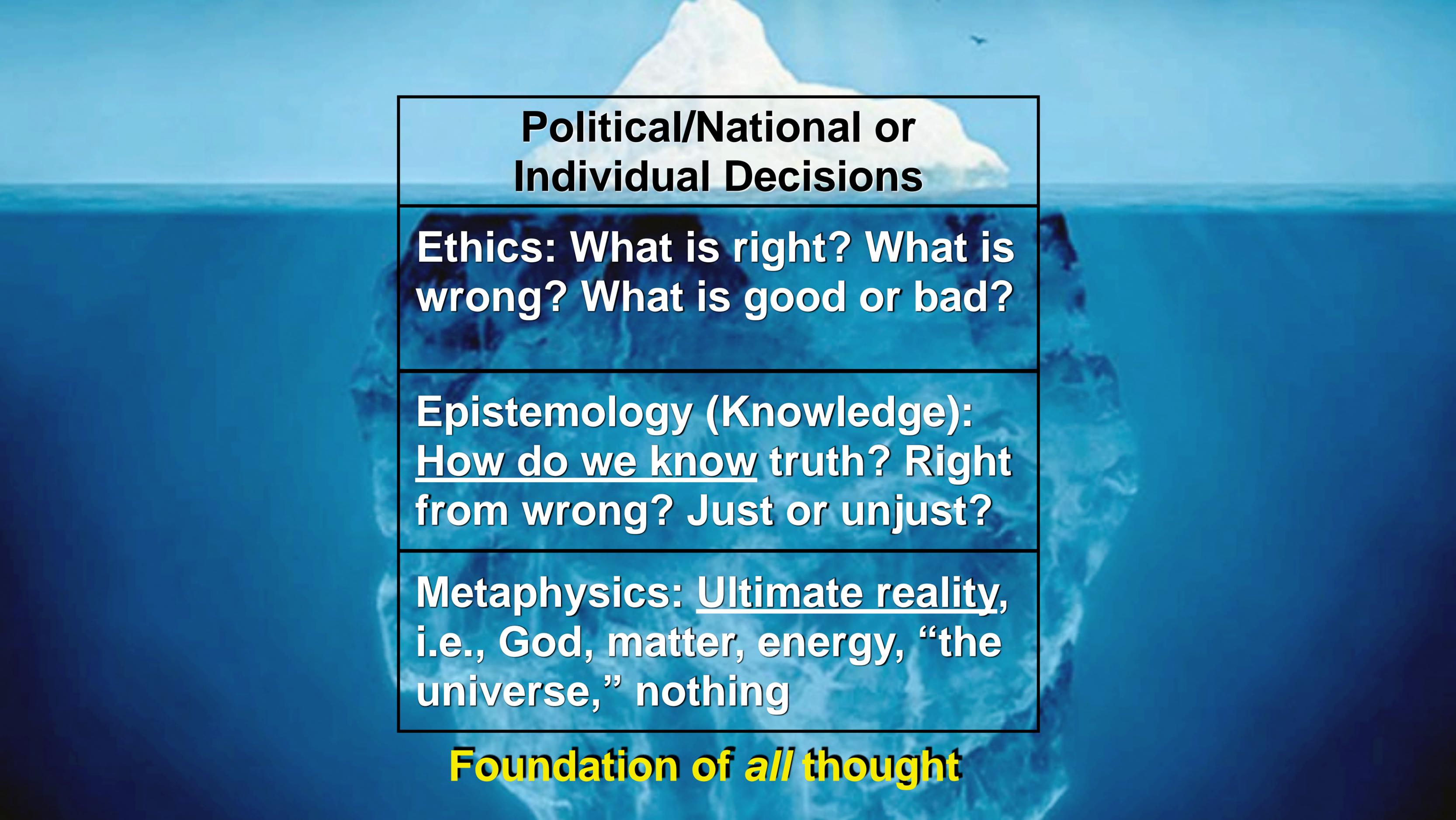
Modernist
Liberal
Church

**Incremental Ascendancy of
Christian Thought**

**Incremental Decline of
Christian Thought**

The Basis of Knowledge

	SYSTEM	STARTING POINT	METHOD
Autonomous Systems of Perception	RATIONALISM	Innate ideas, autonomous reason; <u>Faith</u> in human reasoning ability	Independent use of logic & reason
	EMPIRICISM	Sense perceptions; External experience; Scientific method; <u>Faith</u> in human ability	Independent use of logic & reason
	MYSTICISM	Inner, private experience; Intuition; <u>Faith</u> in human ability	Independent, nonlogical, nonrational, nonverifiable
Divine Viewpoint	REVELATION	<u>Faith</u> in the objective revelation of God	Biblically dependent use of logic and reason

An iceberg floating in a vast blue ocean under a clear sky. The iceberg's tip is visible above the water, while the much larger submerged part is visible below. The water is a deep, clear blue, and the sky is a lighter, pale blue.

Political/National or Individual Decisions

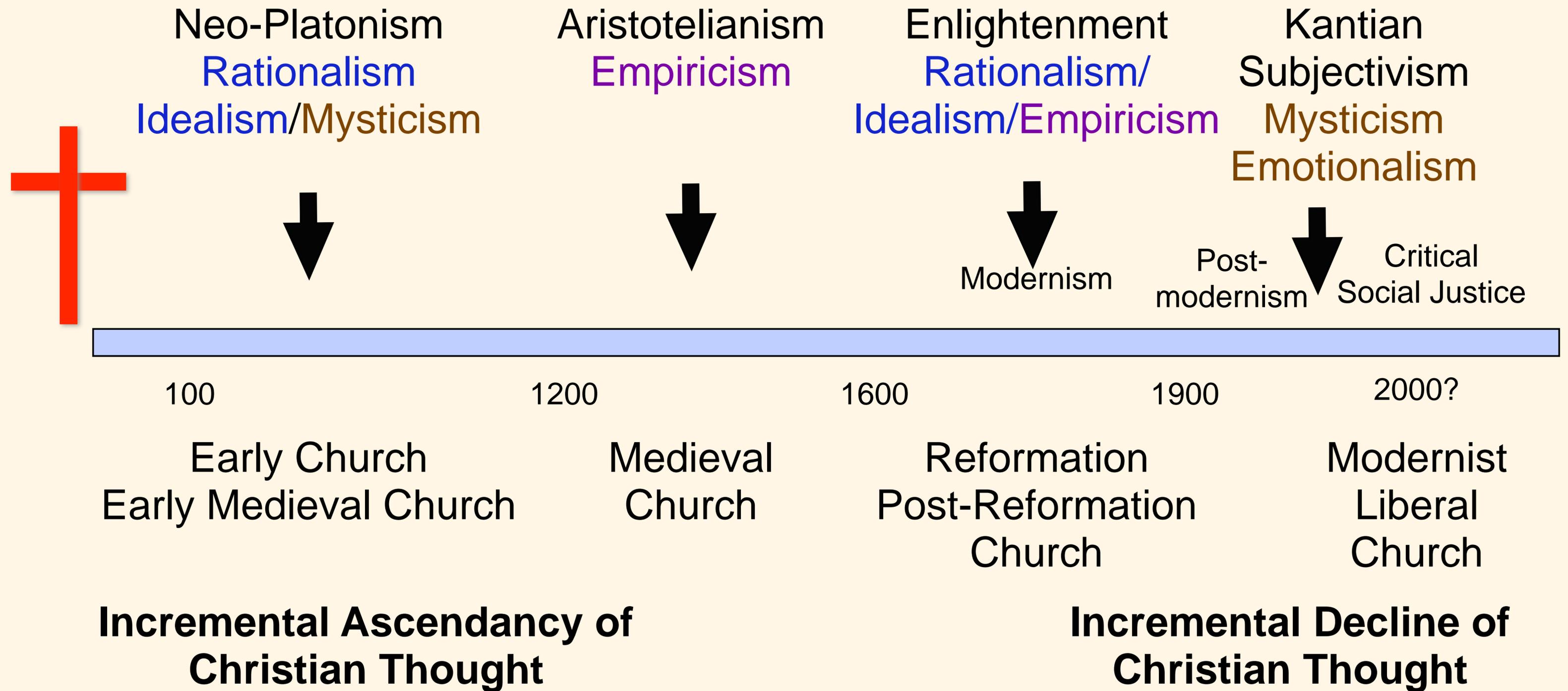
Ethics: What is right? What is wrong? What is good or bad?

Epistemology (Knowledge): How do we know truth? Right from wrong? Just or unjust?

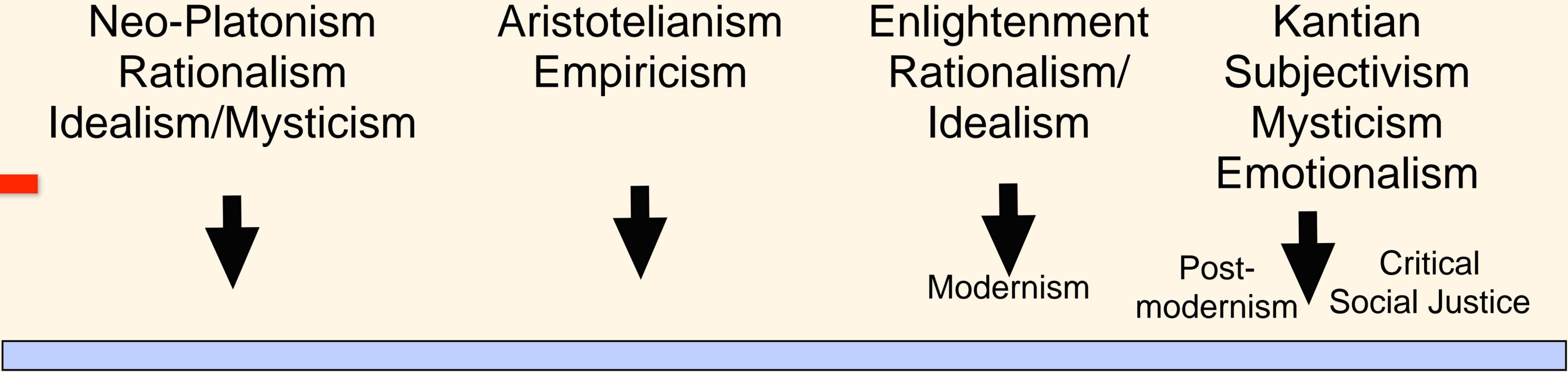
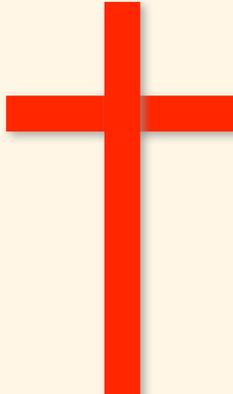
Metaphysics: Ultimate reality, i.e., God, matter, energy, “the universe,” nothing

Foundation of *all* thought

Worldviews in the Church Age



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Origen, Augustine,
Rise of Missions: Patrick,
Ulfilas, Boniface, Iona,
Columba,
King Alfred

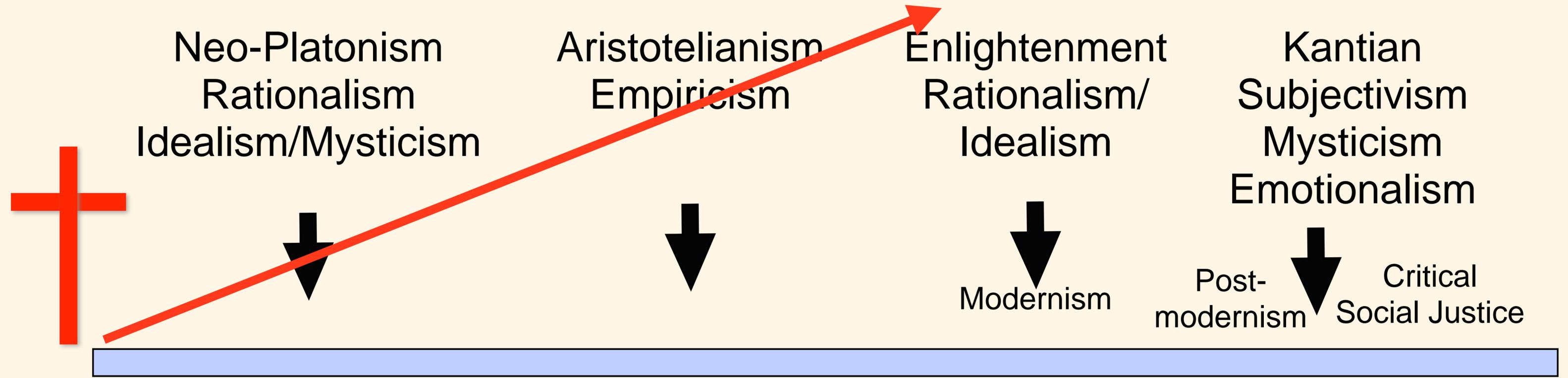
Medieval
Church

Reformation
Post-Reformation
Church

Modernist
Liberal
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**Incremental Decline of
Christian Thought**

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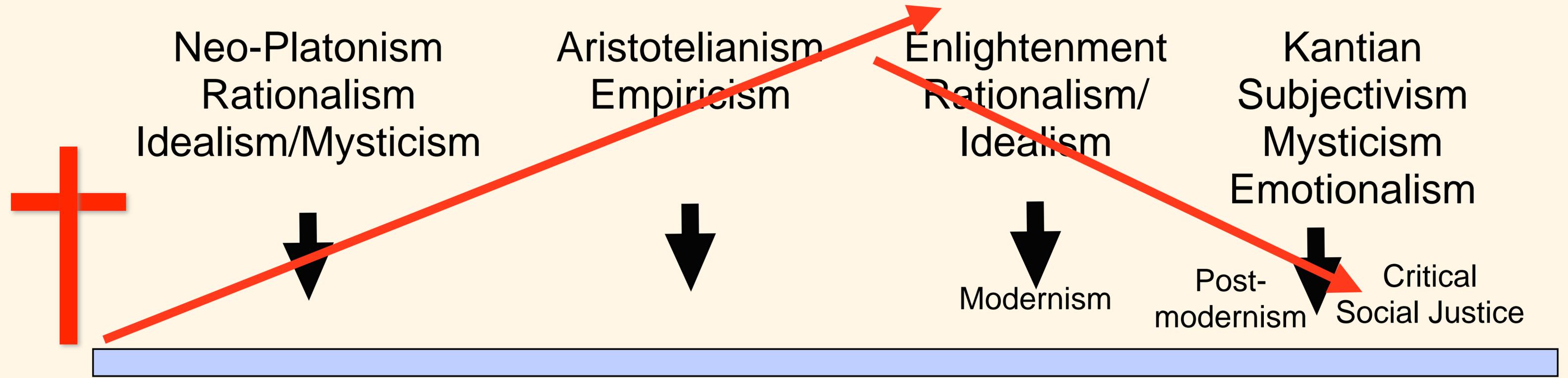
Aquinas
Development of principles of
individual freedom, private
property, the beginnings of back
to the Bible (Wycliffe, Hus)

Reformation
Post-Reformation
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**Incremental Decline of
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Sola Scriptura, Scripture Alone
Transition to a literal interpretation
The high water mark of Western
Civilization, 1600–1800
Seeds of it's own destruction

Reformation
Post-Reformation
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Incremental Decline of
Christian Thought

Transitional Thinkers' Impact on the Decline of Christianity's Influence on Western Worldview

Rationalists (Rene Descartes, *et al*)

Empiricists (John Locke, *et al*)

Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Jonathan Edwards

Immanuel Kant

Karl Marx

Charles Darwin

John Dewey

Enlightenment thinkers, first the rationalists, then the empiricists, shifted the authority for knowledge, for knowing TRUTH, from Revelation to first autonomous interpretation of human reason, then autonomous interpretation of human experience.

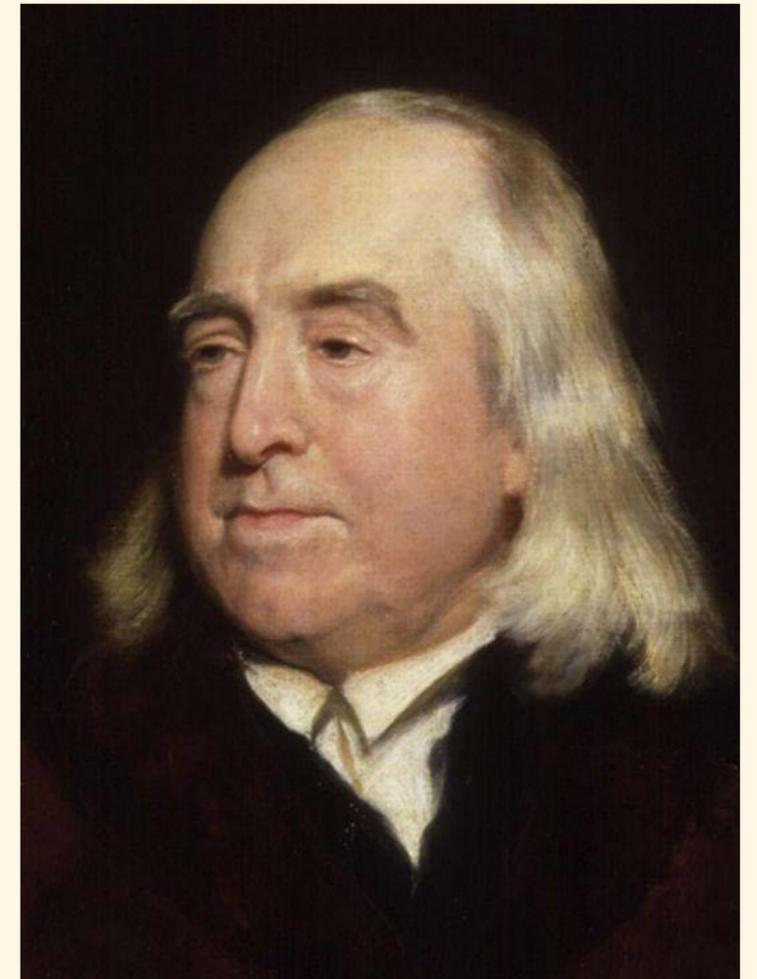
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The thinking of Satan is composed of two main elements:

- Autonomy: the arrogance of independence from God.**
- Antagonism: hatred of God, the Word of God, the people of God.**

“Bentham exercised a profound influence on the party of progress for nearly two generations. He was the father of Philosophical Radicalism, which did so much to free the minds and bodies of the English people, and which counted among its swordsmen historians like Grote, philosophers like Mill, wits like Sydney Smith, journalists like Fonblanque, and politicians like Roebuck.”

~G. W. Foote, *Infidel Deathbeds*, 17 (Foote was an admirer and also an early progressive)



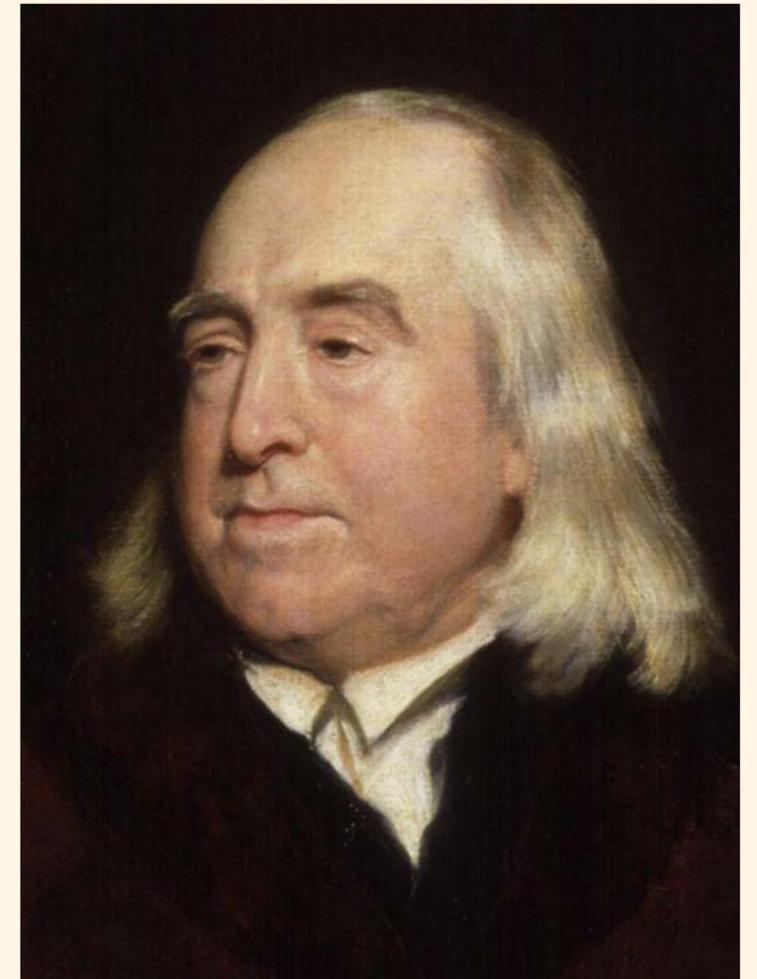
**Jeremy
Bentham
1748–1832**

1. God: Atheist. Rejected the existence of God. Thus no authority higher than mankind. God was an invisible being, who is capricious and insane.

“Religion has inflicted the deepest injury upon humanity.”

Human reason was the highest authority.

Deifies each individual, thus laying the foundation for each one doing what is right in his own eyes.

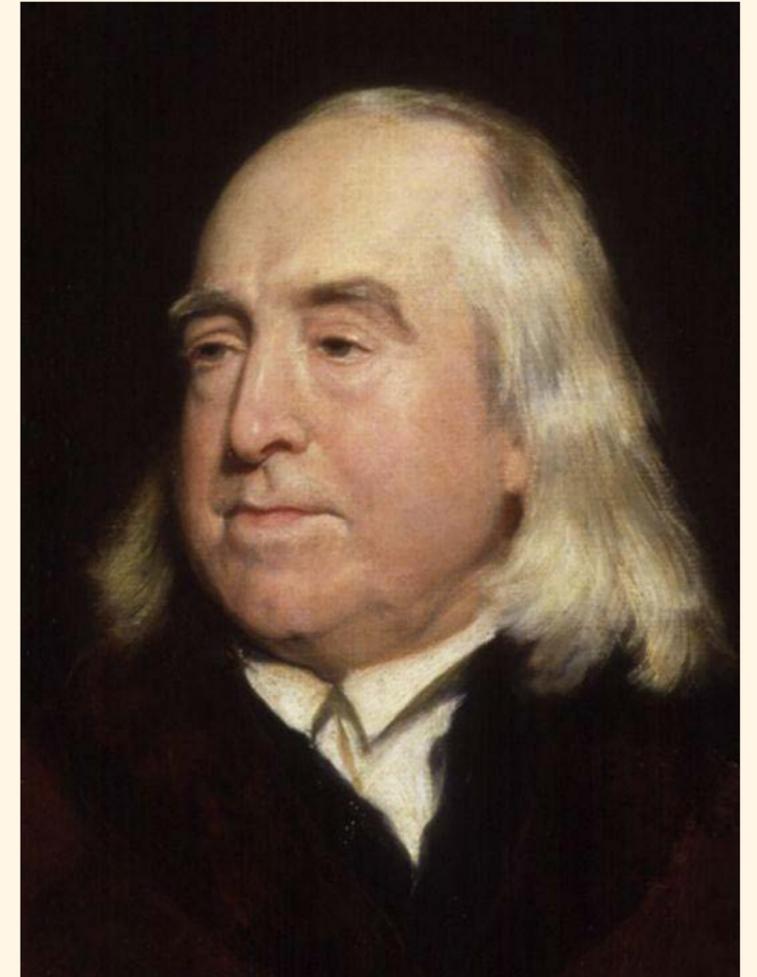


**Jeremy
Bentham
1748–1832**

**1. God: Atheist. Rejected the existence of God.
Thus no authority higher than mankind.**

**2. Rejected the depravity of the human race,
humans are basically good.**

**Thus man can determine what is best in each
situation.**

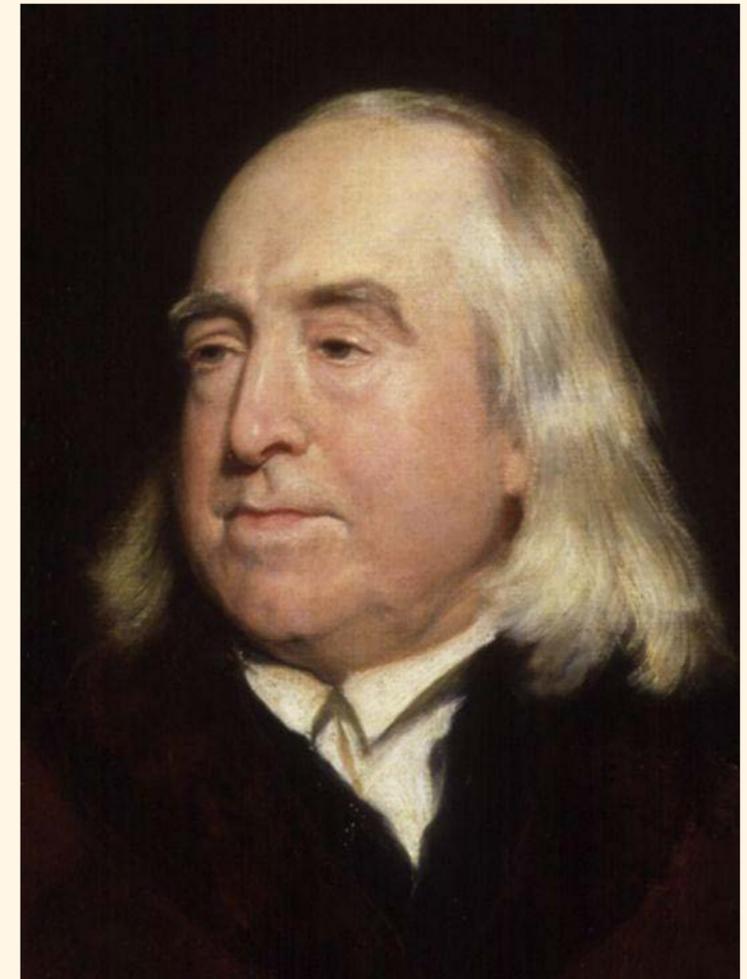


**Jeremy
Bentham
1748–1832**

- 1. God: Atheist. Rejected the existence of God. Thus no authority higher than mankind.**
- 2. Rejected the depravity of the human race, humans are basically good.**
- 3. Intense opposition to any law code based on Christianity.**

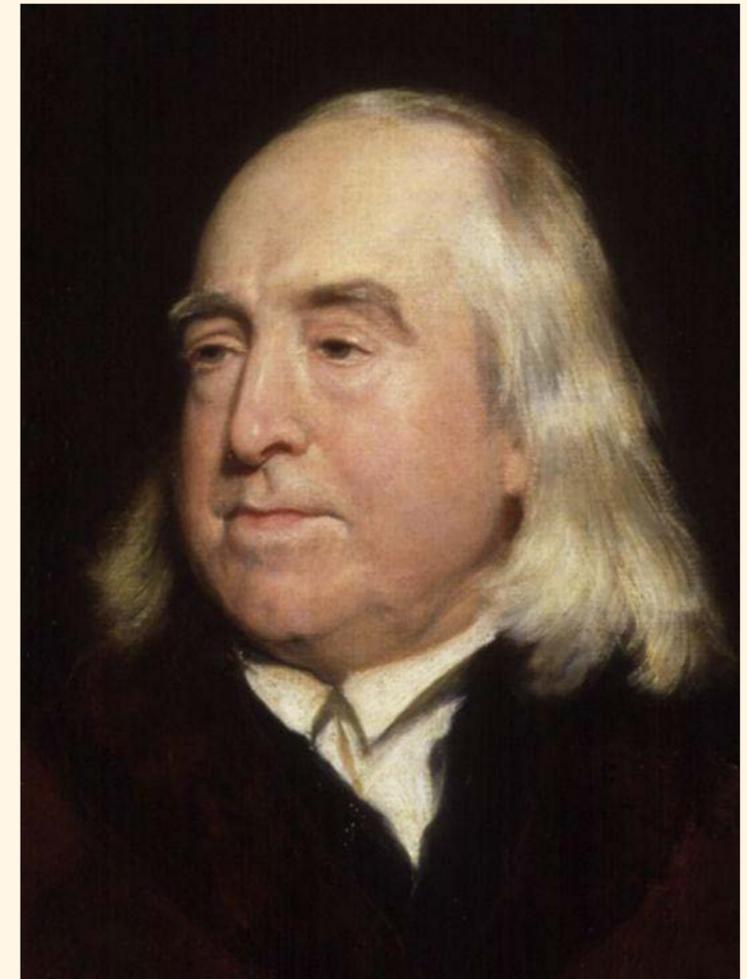
Father of Utilitarian ethics, right and wrong determined by what produces the greatest good for the greatest number.

But this assumes human omniscience toward all consequences of ethical decision.



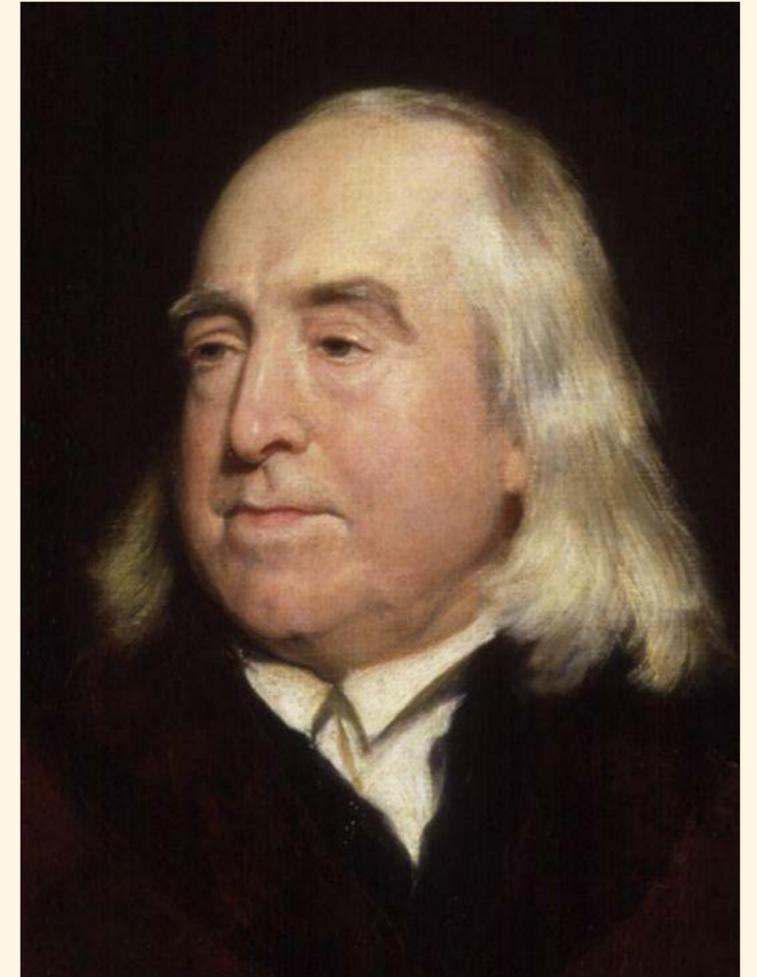
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- 1. God: Atheist. Rejected the existence of God. Thus no authority higher than mankind.**
- 2. Rejected the depravity of the human race, humans are basically good.**
- 3. Intense opposition to any law code based on Christianity.**
- 4. Believed there should be no restrictions on homosexuality as long as it produced no bad consequences.**
- 5. Strong advocate for what became radical feminism of the early 19th century.**

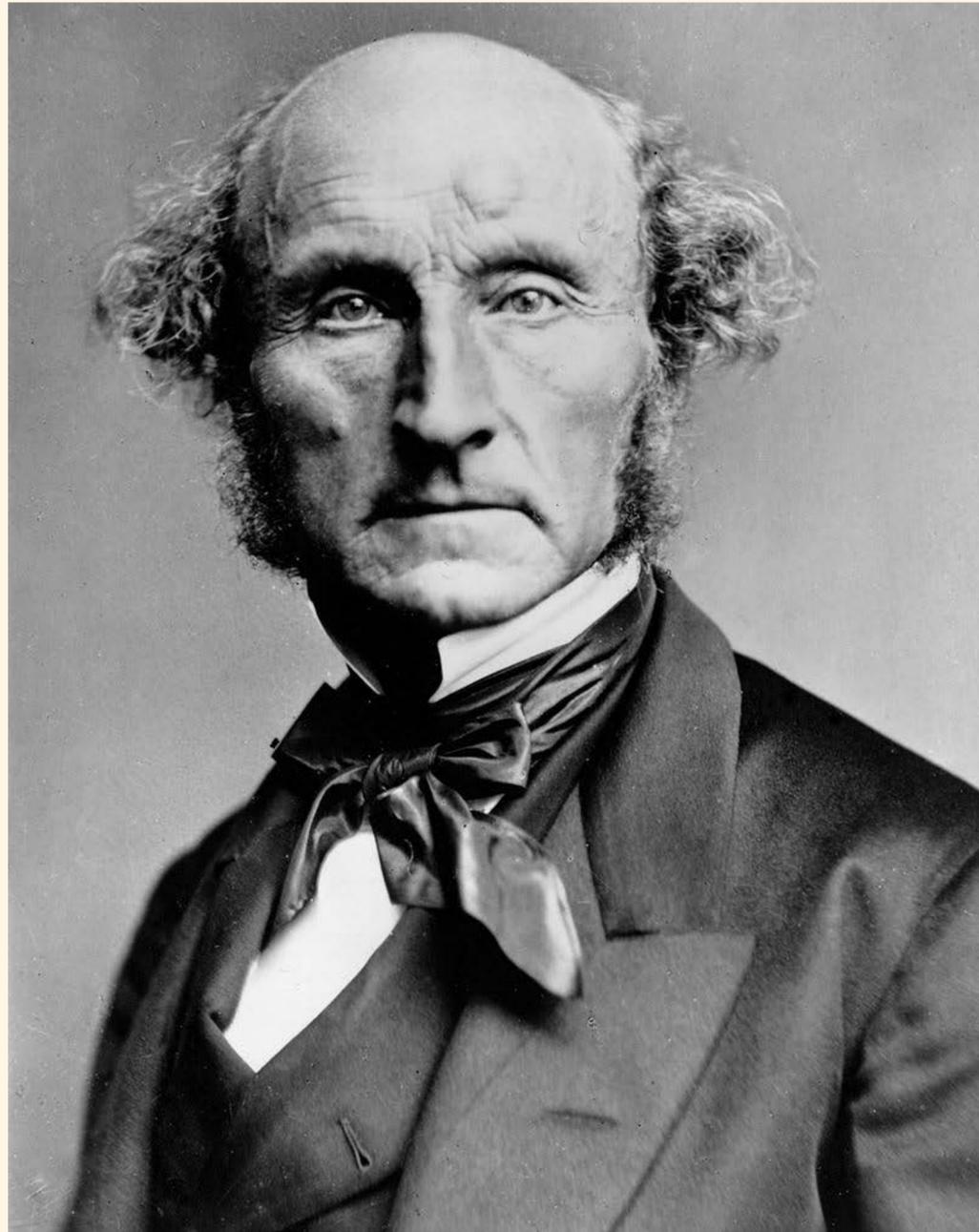


**Jeremy
Bentham
1748–1832**

Was the godfather of John Stuart Mill, who in turn was the godfather of Bertrand Russell.



**Jeremy
Bentham
1748–1832**



**John Stuart Mill
1806–1873**

Atheist

Followed and expanded Bentham's utilitarianism.

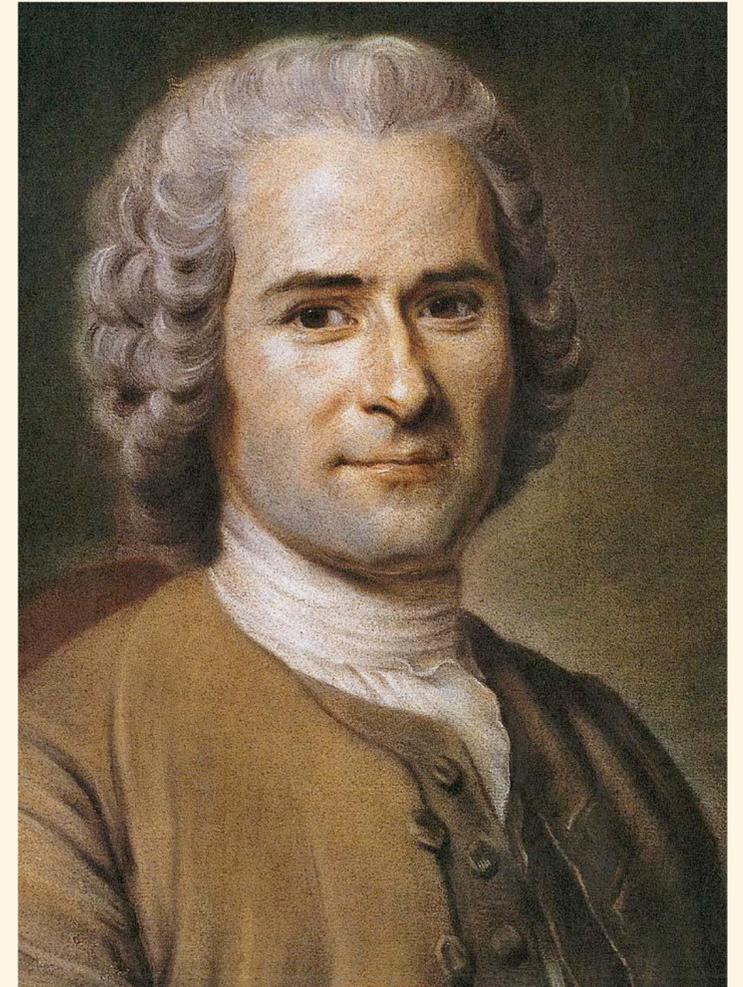
Most important early supporter of feminism, gender egalitarianism, which was considered necessary to destroy the family.

Opposed traditional economics based on the biblical concept of family.

Groundwork for free sex, easy divorce, destruction of Divine Institutions #2 (marriage), #3 (family).

**“... the first of the modern intellectuals,
their archetype and in many ways the
most influential of them all.”**

~Paul Johnson, *The Intellectuals*



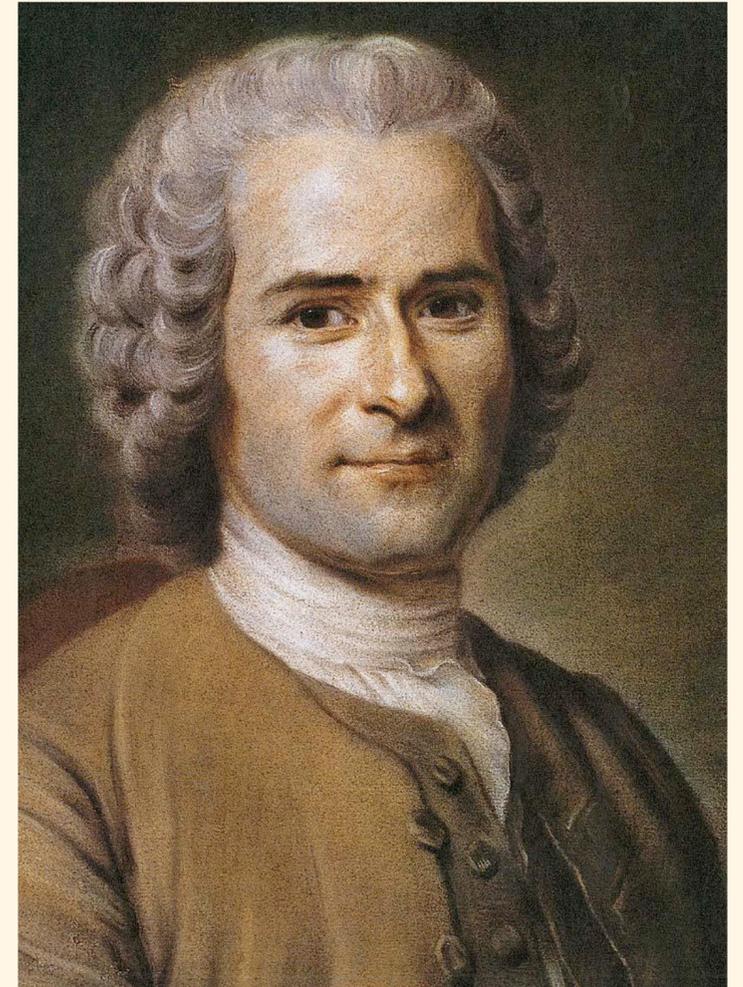
**Jean-Jacques
Rousseau
1712–1778**

Incredibly self-absorbed, arrogantly thought he was superior to all.

Others thought this as well.

“There is a great dispute among their leaders which of them is the best resemblance of Rousseau ... He is their standard figure of perfection.”

~Edmund Burke

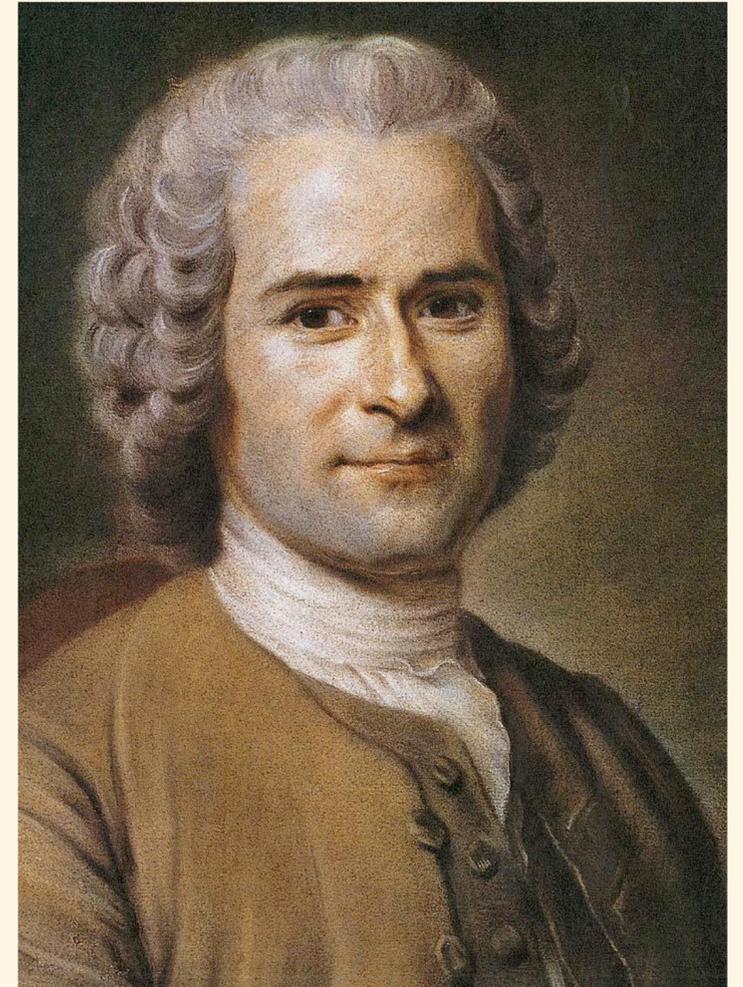


**Jean-Jacques
Rousseau
1712–1778**

God: atheist, no God. All religions equally valid.

Man: no inherent depravity, human reason was ultimate. Man is corrupted through shift from primitive state of nature to urban sophistication.

His view of the nature of humanity led to the further development of progressivist ideas, his trust in the gradual improvement through the progress of mankind. But man's urbanization led to selfishness.

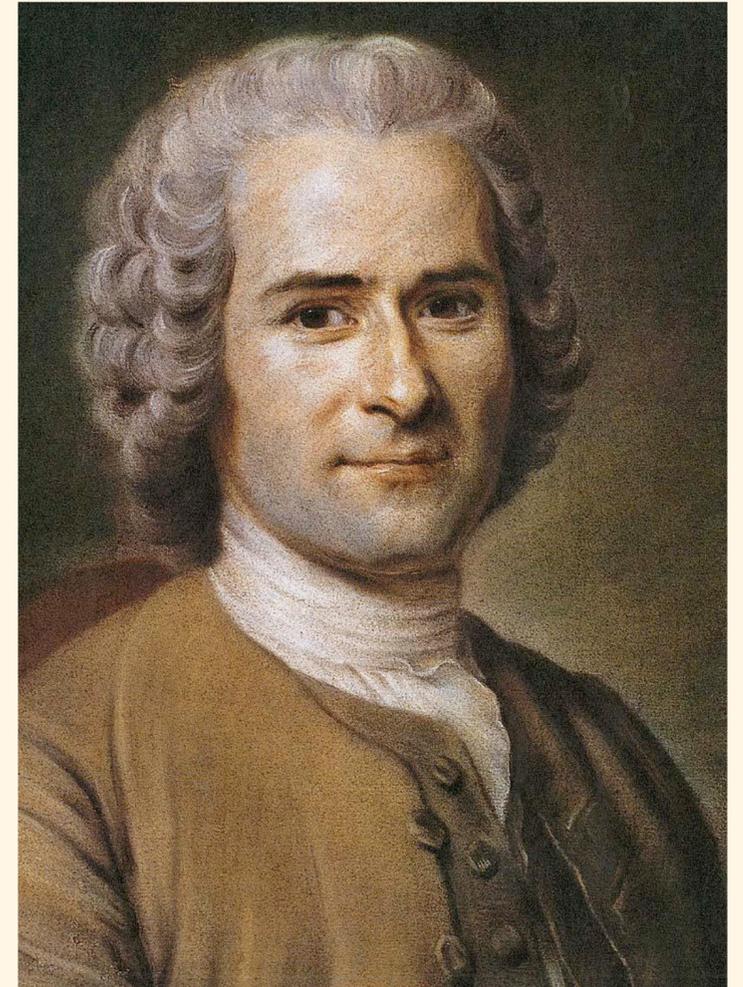


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His view of man plus progressivism led to a utopian view of the future.

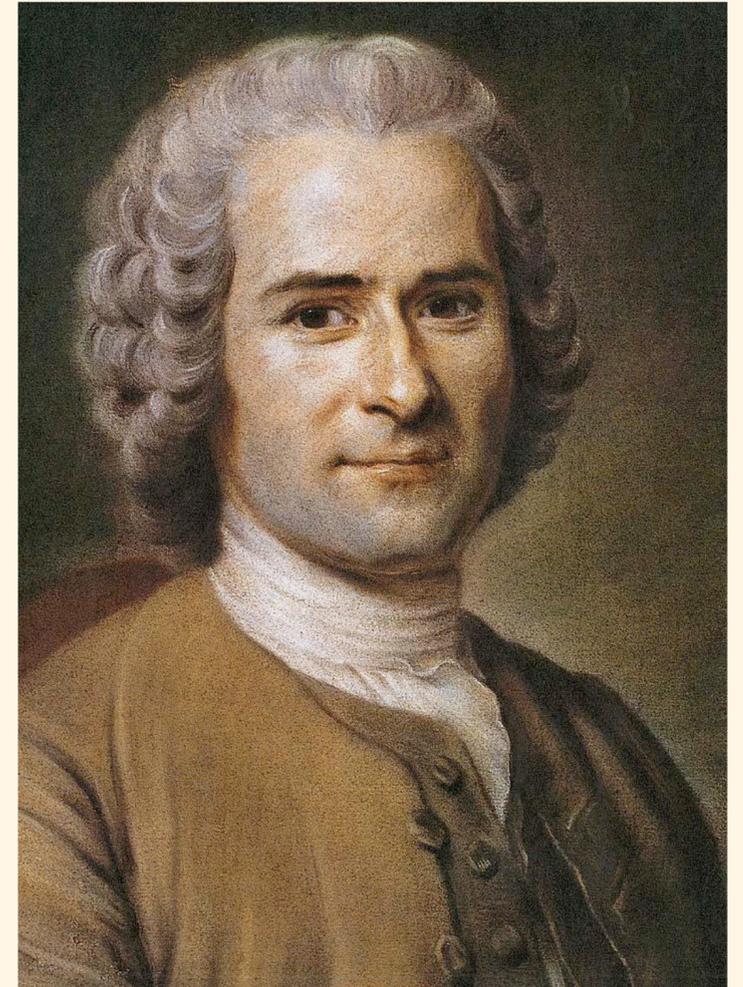


**Jean-Jacques
Rousseau
1712–1778**

Rejected private property—the source of social crime

Rejected capitalism

Rejected marriage—lived with a woman who had five children by him, he never named them and left them at an orphanage which virtually guaranteed their death.



**Jean-Jacques
Rousseau
1712–1778**

Immanuel Kant, German Philosopher

Shifts knowledge to pure subjectivism.

Impact: no longer objective truth.

**We can only know our impressions,
not objective reality.**

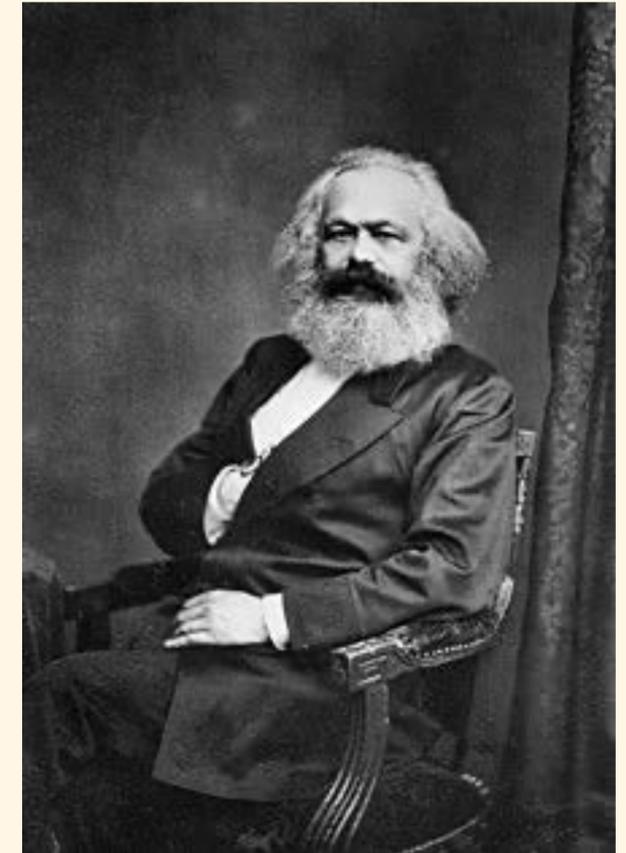


**Immanuel Kant
1724–1804**

God: ethnic Jew; Father converted to Christianity. Marx was reared and confirmed a Lutheran. Some event in his late teens led to a virulent hatred of God and anti-Semitism.

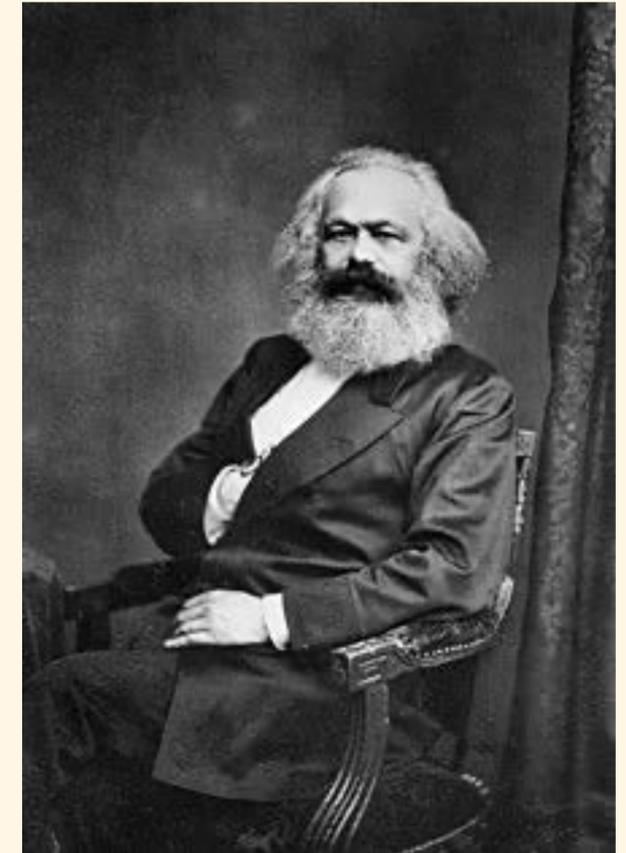
Man: rejected total depravity; man's problem is economic. Attacked Divine Institution #1 (personal responsibility); labor.

Man's problem: class warfare struggle between freedom and equality.



**Karl Marx
1818–1883**

“Communism abolishes eternal truths, it abolishes all religion, and all morality.”



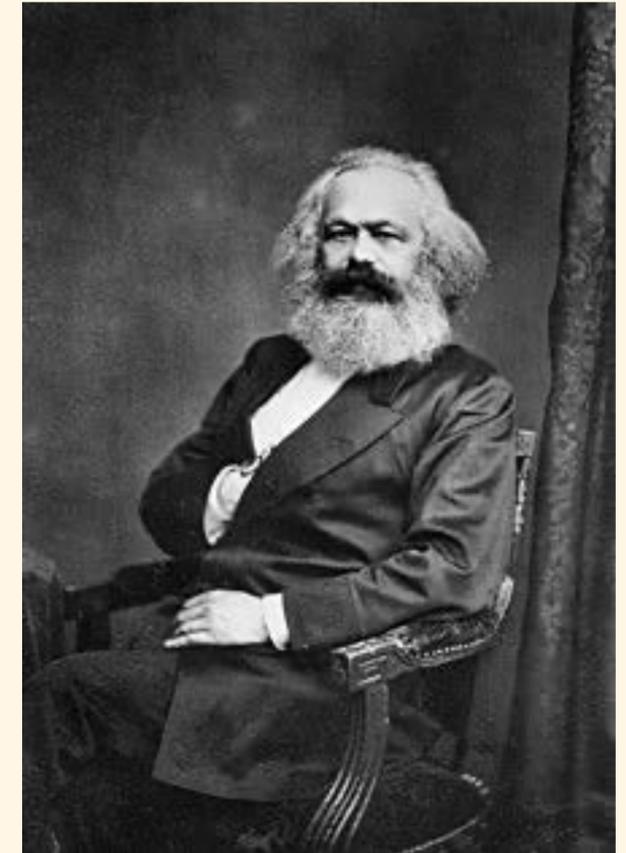
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Man: rejected total depravity; man's problem is economic. Attacked Divine Institution #1 (personal responsibility); labor.

Ethics: utilitarian.

Personal: Filled with hatred, embittered, angry.



**Karl Marx
1818–1883**

Invocation of One in Despair:

“So a god has snatched from me my all, in the curse and rack of destiny. All his worlds are gone beyond recall. Nothing but revenge is left to me. I shall build my throne high overhead.”

~Karl Marx

Human Pride:

“Then I will walk triumphantly, like a god, through the ruins of their kingdom. Every word of mine is fire and action. My breast is equal to that of the Creator.”

~Karl Marx

“The fact that the Jews have become so strong as to endanger the life of the world causes us to disclose their organization, their purpose, that its stench might awaken the workers of the world to fight and eliminate such a canker.”

~Karl Marx, *New York Tribune*

Influence:

Ideology responsible for the deaths of hundreds of millions in the following years.

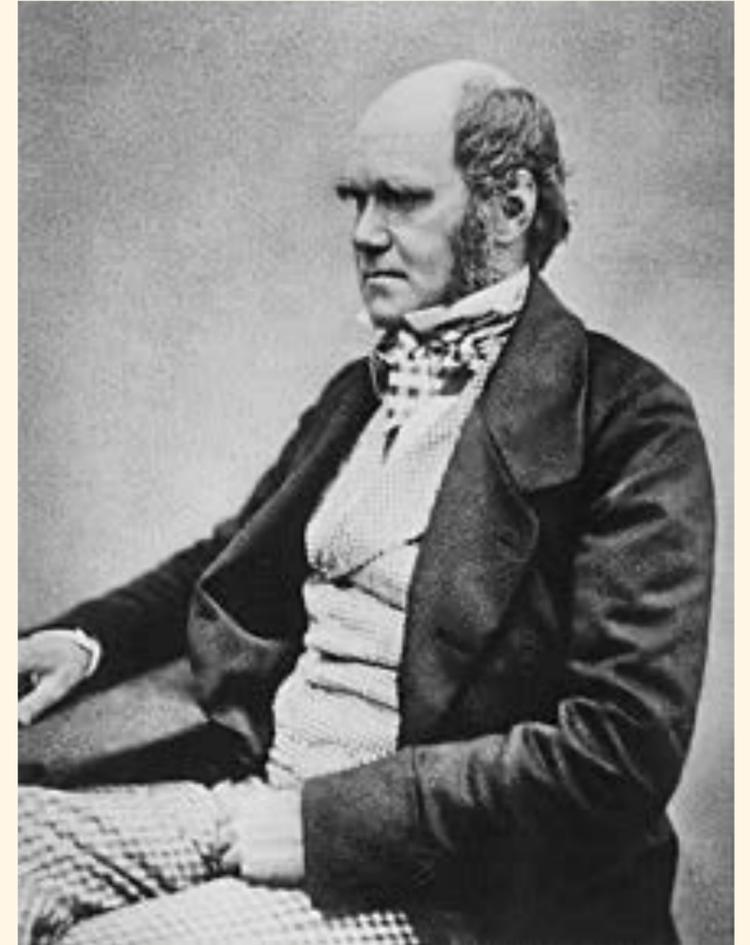
The economic enslavement of hundreds of millions.

God: Darwin came from a long line of “free thinkers,” unitarians, atheists. He rejected God.

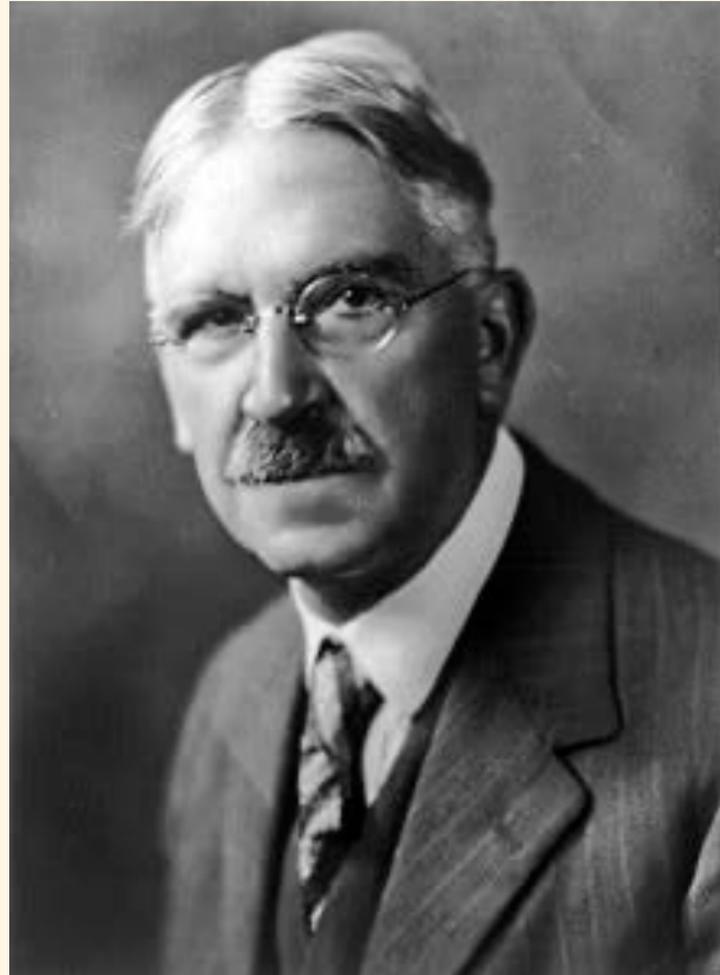
Man: no total depravity; no God, therefore no sin.

Ethics: scientific foundation for situational ethics, utilitarian ethics, moral relativism.

Laid the foundation for eugenics, selective breeding, social Darwinism (led to Nazism, the Final Solution).

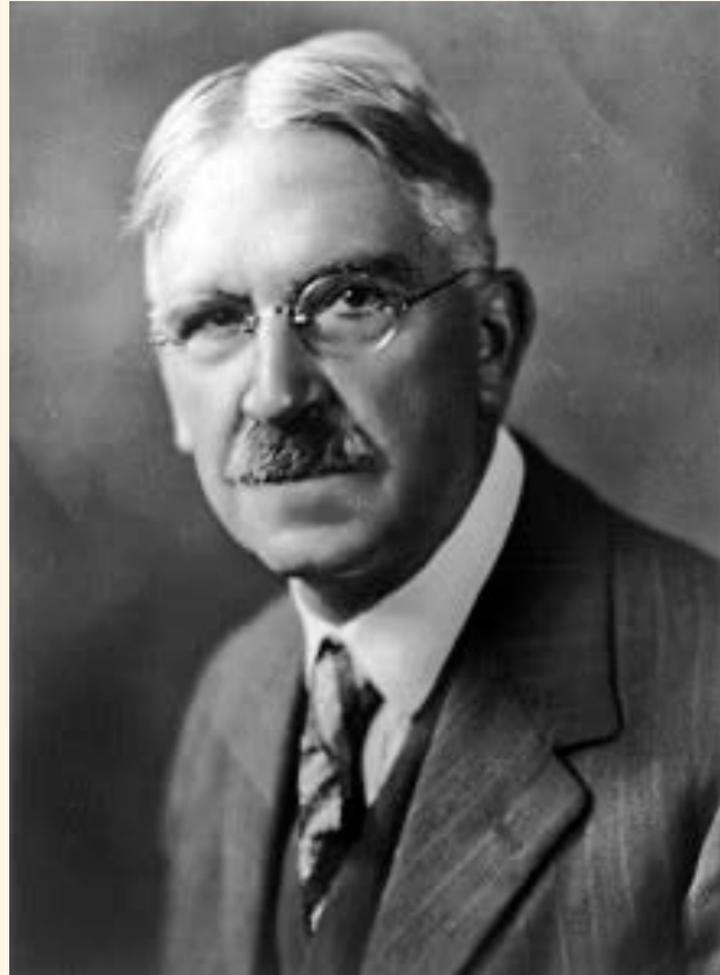


**Charles Darwin
1809–1882**



John Dewey
1859–1952

Parents were Christians, his mother always asked him, “Are you right with Jesus?”



John Dewey
1859–1952

Parents were Christians, his mother always asked him, “Are you right with Jesus?”

Mentored by William James (Emerson’s godson), G. Stanley Hall.

God: by 1894 he rejected Christianity.

Key influences: Rousseau, Kant, Descartes, Darwin, G. Stanley Hall.

“others racial stocks than ours will later advance the kingdom of man as far beyond our present standpoint as it now is above the lowest savage.”

~G. Stanley Hall, mentor to Dewey

“[Dewey’s] educational theories broke new ground and continue to wield influence at the dawn of the twenty-first century.”

Replace home education with social education under the State.

“School was primarily a social institution.”

“Education is the regulation of the process of coming to share in the social consciousness.”

“The deepest moral training is precisely that which one gets through having to enter into proper relations with others in a unity of work and thought.”

Humanist Manifesto

Prov. 1:7, “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

Psa. 36:9, “For with You is the fountain of life; In Your light we see light.”

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