

Modernism

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What is Modernism?



According to M.H.Abrams;

“The term ‘Modernism’ is widely used to identify new and distinctive features in the subjects, forms, concepts and style of literature and other art in the early decades of the present century.”

The Background of Modernism:

- Critics- society could not move forward in its present form.
- Progress of history and civilization was questioned.
- A series of movements.....
- Prominent thinkers and precursors:

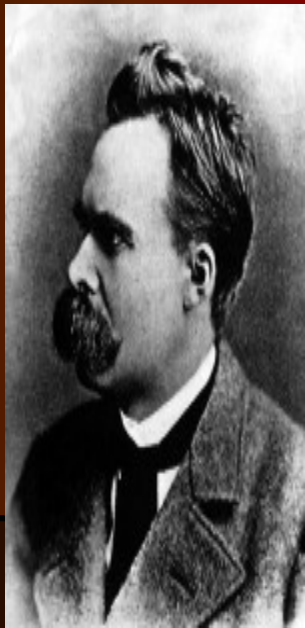
Nietzsche

Marx

Freud

Darwin

Frazer



The Beginning of Modernism

Charles Baudelaire



Gustave Flaubert

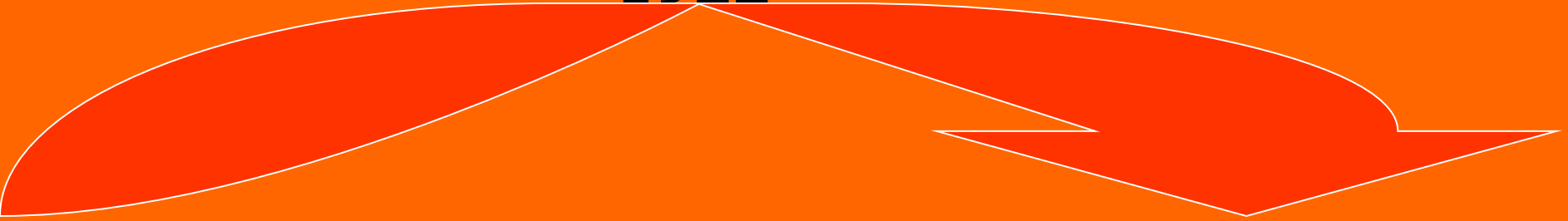


According to A.C.Ward

*"Everything was held to be open to question.
Standards of artistic craftsmanship...began
to change fundamentally."*

The High Modernism:

1922



1880s

T.S. Eliot



James Joyce



Virginia Woolf



1950s

The social Background of Modernism:

- The end of rural England.
- Intellectualism.
- Scientific revolution.
- The Invasion of Psychology.
- Marxist influence.



Literary Trends of Modern Period:

Poetry

- An Age of Innovation.



- An age of Disillusionment.

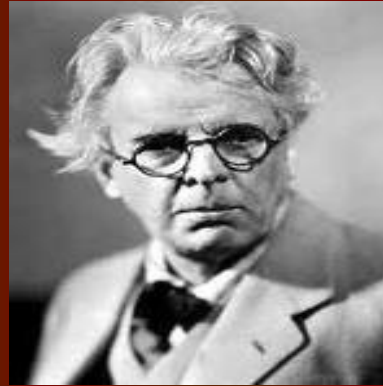


Trends.....(cont.)

- Anti-realism.
- The Language of Everyday Life.
- The Humanitarian Spirit.
- The romantic Note.
- Symbolism.

Prominent modern poets:

Robert Bridges John Mansfield W.B. Yeats Rupert Brook



T.S. Eliot



W.H. Auden



Stephen Spender Dylan Thomas



Modern Novel:

- Its immense variety and complexity.
- Realistic Portrayal of Contemporary Life.
- Its Pessimistic tone.
- Free Treatment of sex.
- Its Incomplete sense.
- Stream of consciousness technique.
- Its seriousness.

Prominent Modern Novelists:

H.G. Wells



Joseph Conrad D.H. Lawrence



Aldous Huxley



James Joyce



Virginia Woolf



Modern Dramas:

- Naturalistic Prose Drama, dealing with predicament and problems of the generation.
- Signs of the rebirth of poetic drama.
- Celtic revival.
- Abbey Theatre, Dublin.
- T.S. Eliot's practice and theory.

The Prominent Modern Dramatists:

T.S. Eliot



Galsworthy



W.B. Yeats



Sean O'Casey



Literary Criticism of Modern Period:

- New discoveries in Psychology, anthropology, sociology, Economics have brought revolution in critical methods.
- Two dimensions in criticism.
- Critics- distinguished University Professors.
- After World War-I, traditional ideas of criticism were broken.
- Everything was sought to be explained in psychological terms.
- Strong opposition of biographical, historical, sociological, comparative approach of conventional criticism.

Prominent Critical Theories:

- Semiotics.
- Linguistics in Literary Criticism.
- Russian Formalism.
- Objective Correlativity.
- New Criticism.
- Language of Paradox.
- Archetypal Criticism.

Thanks a lot.