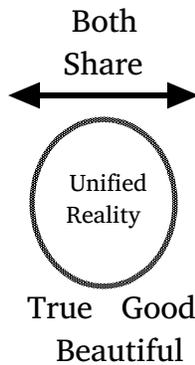


Greek, Roman, & Stoic Thought:

Eternal Universe/
Universal Mind;
Rational Order to everything:
Physical, Truth, Morality, &
Beauty; *Telos*: everything has
purpose.



Judaism-Christianity:

God, who is necessary,
infinite, & personal, is
Himself True, Good, &
Beautiful. God created
material/immaterial reality.
Flowing from Him is what
is true, good, & beautiful.

What is true, good, & beautiful are all inherently related into a unified and *telos* account of reality that is objective & accessible. What is true, good, & beautiful are to be pursued, embraced, & lived out. Thus, we are to aim for what is good, true, & beautiful both personally & collectively.

Descartes:
Transition
(1596-1650)
Individual is
starting point in
modern world:

**Fact/Value
Divide
(Sacred/
Secular Split)**

Moral, Aesthetic, &
Religious Values;
Individual Choices
(personal
preference)

Mind

Facts
(Public;
Objective;
Universal;
Binding on
Everyone)

Matter

Everything is to
be explained
naturalistically:

David Hume
(1711-1766)
Jeremy Bentham
(1748-1832)
John Stuart Mill
(1806-1873)
Herbert Spencer
(1820-1882)

Everything is to
be explained by
processes of
evolution:
accidental
byproduct of
time, energy, &
chance:

Charles Darwin
(1809-1882)

**Atheistic
Existentialism:**
Sartre; Camus:
God is dead:

(1) Anxiety, dread,
& death;
(2) Freedom
to Choose;
(3) Live in
Existence:
We are free to
make ourselves-
existence precedes
essence;

(4) We are
responsible for
who we become.

Age of Enlightenment:
(17th Century-1850)

(1) Reason is employed
through natural sciences to
examine & comprehend all of
life;
(2) The laws of human
existence & nature can be
discovered;
(3) The scientific method can
create progressively better
societies & better people.

**Reactions to
Enlightenment:**

(1) *Romanticism:*
(18th-20th Century)

Rejection of the absolute
authority of reason: faith,
feelings, imagination,
poetry, & religion = to
power of reason (eg.,
American
Transcendentalism)

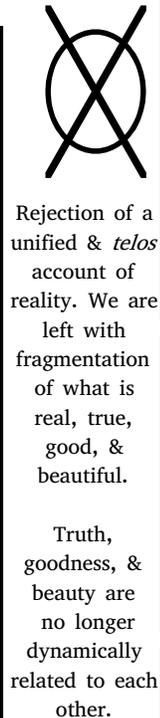
(2) *American
Pragmatism:* Critical
problem solving within an
indeterminate setting; open
inquiry; Anti-reductionism.

(3) Soren Kierkegaard
(1813-1855) as father of
modern existentialism.

We are products of
biological forces:
“We are merely dancing to
our DNA”

We are products of
social forces:
(Cultural Relativism)

(1) **Humanism:**
Starting from our
humanity alone, a
variety of theories &
practices arose rooted
in naturalism,
scientific inquiry,
power of reason,
human fulfillment in
the physical world. We
can discover a unified
answer that will bring
about the best in
ourselves & in society.
Humanity is only a
machine But if so,
where is humanity’s
significance as
humans, love, and
freedom? If we are
only machines, then
can we live like
machines?



(a) **Nihilism:**
Literally, “nothingness” is the negation of all being and absolute value. What are the full implications of atheism? F. Nietzsche (1844-1900) explored this question (We become the creators but only a few will ever do so (“F. Nietzsche’s Superman”); He is a law to himself, limited by no constraints). The will to power is key to an exuberant life. Therefore, in order to a “real” person one must rise above all the social constructs created by others & assert & exercise power over the weak.

(b) **Non-Reason:**
(1) Deification of Nature;
(2) Deification of the Arts;
(3) Absurdity of Life; Arbitrary act of the will against a meaningless universe;
(5) A Huxley (1894-1963): Truth inside one’s head (Drug culture);
(6) Eastern World Religions;
(7) Occultism.

(c) **Continental Philosophy:**
(1) Rejection of absolute, objective, universal truth;
(2) We are scripted/molded by our subculture;
(3) Reality is in the mind of the beholder;
(4) No objective, universal authority;
(5) Values rooted in social constructs/paradigms of power;
(6) Everything is interpretation (perspectivism)

Empiricism Rationalism

Kant (1724-1804)
Phenomena/Noumena
(1) The mind is the
“cave”
(2) No access to
noumena

Rise of Phenomenology