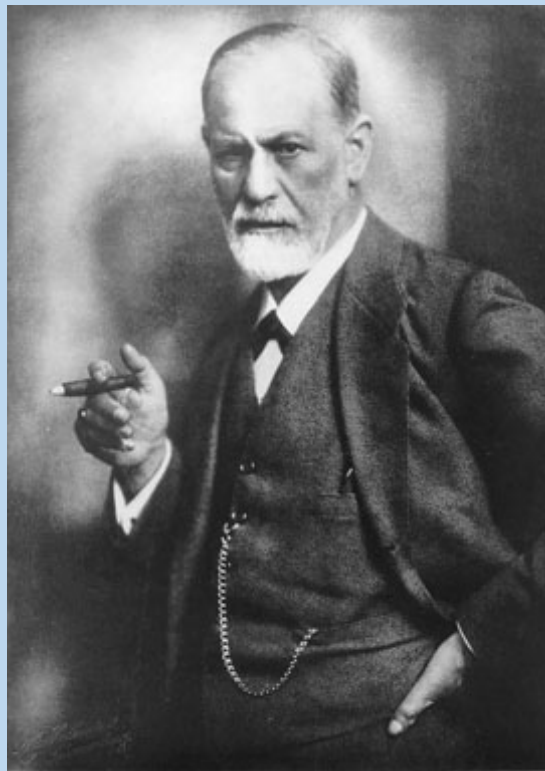


The Jewish Psychologists

From Sigmund Freud to Dr. Ruth



Is Psychology a “Jewish Thing?”

- According to the *Review of General Psychology 2002* **40%** of the most frequently cited researchers were Jewish.
- Most of the key early psychologists were Jews – **Sigmund and Anna Freud, Alfred Adler, Erik Erikson, Erich Fromm, Abraham Maslow, etc.**
- Exception – **Carl Jung**
- Theories about Jewish sensitivity - Mark Zborowski.
- Ties to Rabbinic Judaism.



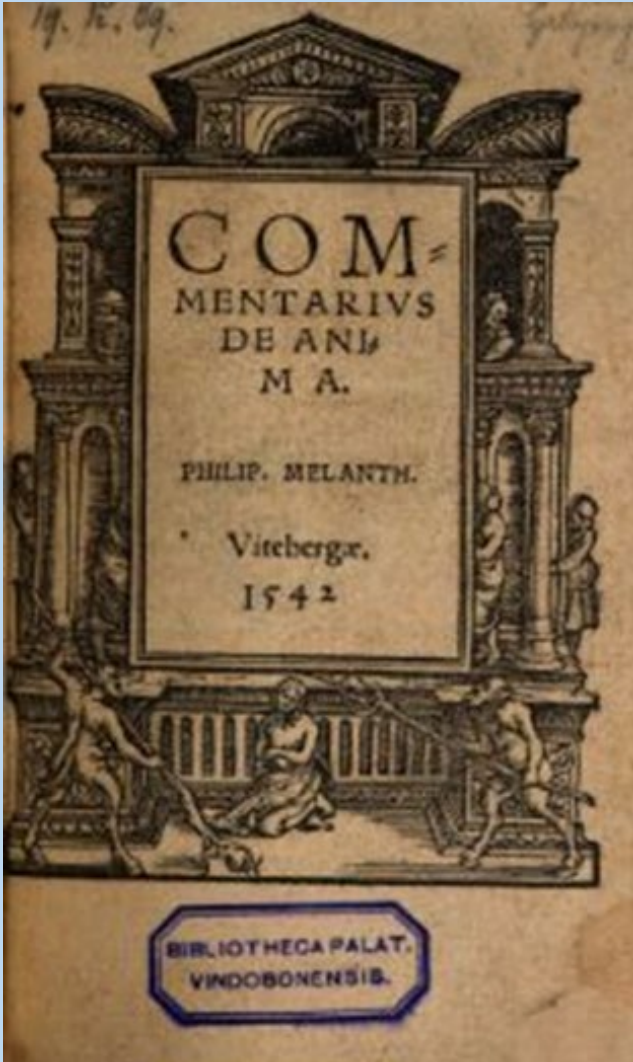
Larry's Theory

Cultural and Historical influences taking place in and around Germany and Austria at a crucial period influenced a group of people to start analyzing the human mind in new ways.

The early stages leading to the development of psychology should not be separated from Nazism. It was THE major influence impacting the early social psychologists.

Not only do historical records support this point of view, the writings of the people involved show their concerns.

What Is Psychology?



- The science of the mind and of behavior.
- Originally a branch of religion, psyche meaning “breath (or) spirit (or) soul.”
- 16th Century the term is used by German theologian Philip Melanchthon. The mind cannot be separated from the soul.
- Later it becomes the study of illness that cannot be explained by physical analysis.
- Clinical, educational, cognitive, forensic, social, developmental – branches.

What is Jewish Culture?

- High value on learning
- Separation from gentiles
- Endogamy (marrying within the group)
- High investment in children.
- Relatively strong roles for women.
- Haskalah – Jewish enlightenment brings change



Figure 1 Goya painting of Jews during the Inquisition

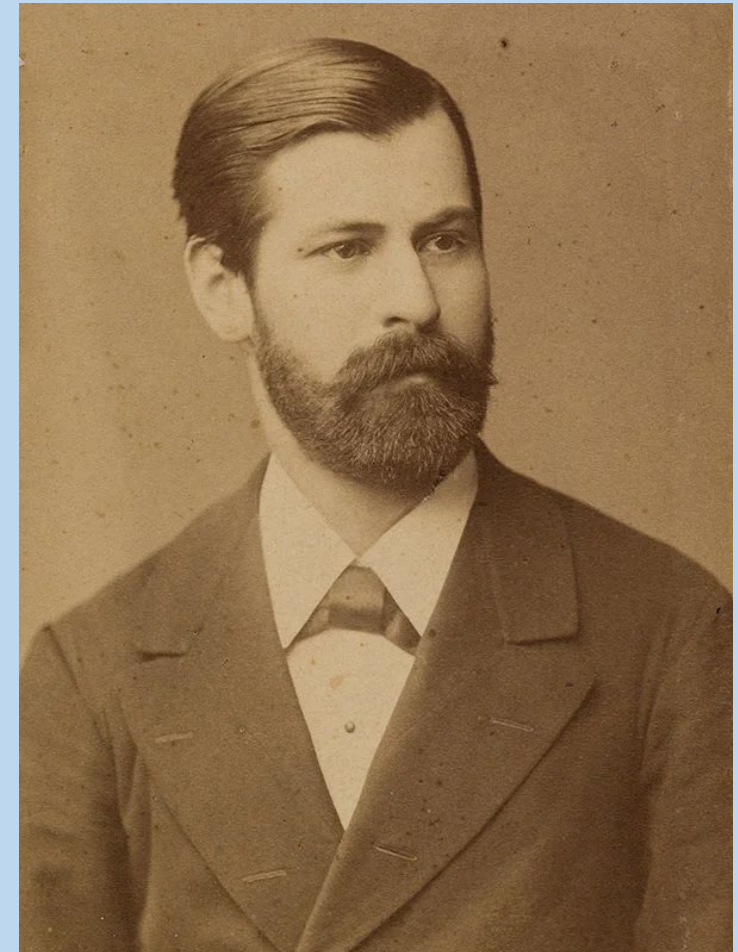
Enter Freud



- “I was born on May 6, 1856 at Frieberg in Moravia, a small town in what is now Czechoslovakia. My parents were Jews, and I have remained a Jew myself.”
- Father is Jacob, mother is Amalia.
- Mother dotes on him, “my golden Sigi.”
- Freud writes of his mother "the most perfect, the most free from ambivalence of all human relationships. A mother can transfer to her son the ambition she has been obliged to suppress in herself."

Herr Doktor Freud

- At 17 he enters the University of Vienna
- First he studies law, but switches to medicine
- Graduates in 1881 with an MD
- Specializing in neurology, he writes a paper (1884) on the use of cocaine for pain relief
- In October of 1885, he goes to Paris to study with Jean-Martin Charcot, a neurologist conducting scientific research into the use of hypnosis to treat hysteria.



Freud, Breuer, The Case of Anna O

- Sigmund Freud and Josef Breuer co-author *Studies on Hysteria* (1895)
- The Case of Anna O (real name Bertha Pappenheim)
- Physical symptoms result from repressed conflicts.
- *The Talking Cure*



Freud and Anti-Semitism



Figure 40. Five of the 49 victims of the Kishinev Pogroms in 1903. From a memorial album, J.N.U.L., Jerusalem.

- Russian Pogroms – begin in 1881, the same year that Freud graduates.
- That same year the murder of Esther Solymossy in Hungary is blamed on a Jew named Joseph Scharf.
- “The year 1882 was not yet ended when a furious agitation against the Talmud raged through the streets of the Austrian capital.”

Enter the Nazis

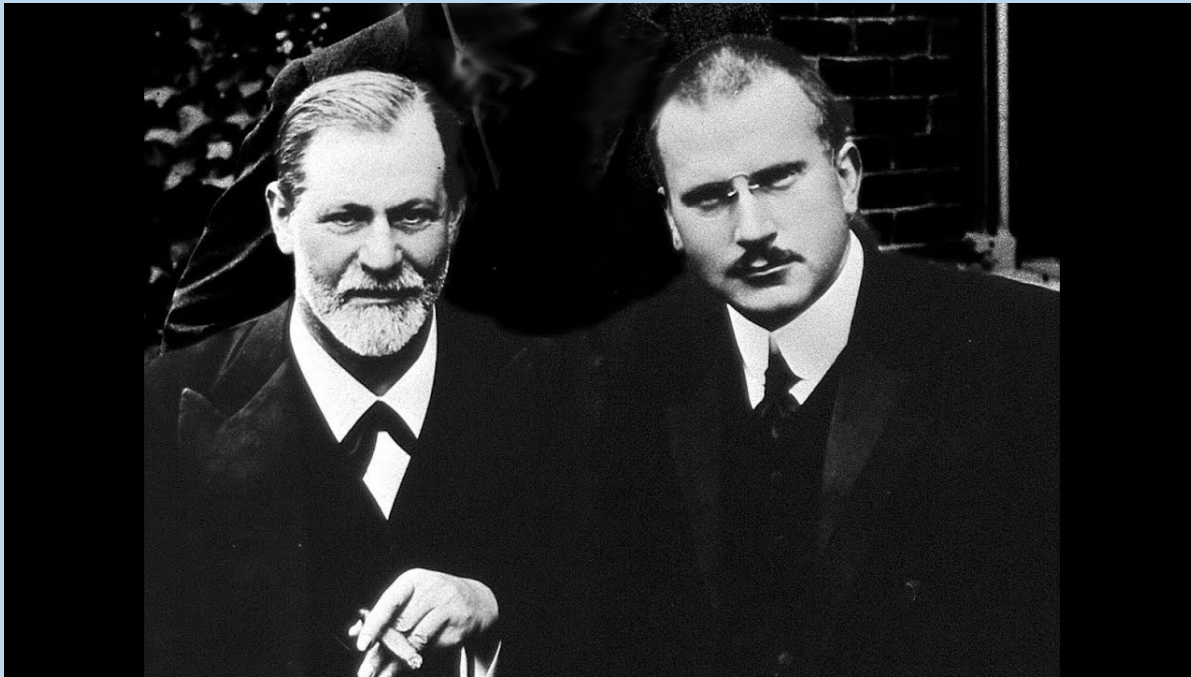
- In 1933, the Nazis at more than 30 German universities burned Freud's books for their "soul-shredding overvaluation of sexual activity."
- In 1938 Nazi Germany annexes Austria. Sigmund and his daughter Anna are arrested by the Gestapo, ransomed by a patient.



Freud's Contributions

Unconscious Mind	Libido
Denial	Repression
Cathartic	Neurotic
Regression	Projection
Displacement	Sublimation
Defense Mechanism	

Freud and Jung



- Freud was justifiably concerned that psychology would be dismissed as “Jewish science.”
- He deliberately named a non-Jewish successor.
- “The Swiss will save us- will save me and all of you as well.”
- 1914 Jung and Freud had a falling out, “technique of treating your pupils like patients is a *blunder*.”

Jung's Contributions

- Less emphasis on the sexual nature of the Libido
- Added a Collective Unconscious to the Personal Unconscious
- Archetypes are images and thoughts that have universal meaning and which arise from the Collective Unconscious.

Was Jung a Nazi?

The answer is probably “Yes and no.” Jung certainly wrote anti-Semitic articles and found favor with the Nazis because of their mutual interest in European mythology. “The Aryan unconscious has a greater potential than the Jewish unconscious.”

But he also was in contact with the Allies as “Agent 488” and provided intelligence on Hitler’s psychological condition.

Anna Freud

- Born 1895. Sixth and youngest child of Sigmund Freud and Martha Bernays.
- Contracted tuberculosis in 1917.
- In 1922 she presents her first paper.
- By 1923 she opens her own practice and by 1925 she is teaching child analysis.
- In 1938, she is arrested and taken to Gestapo HQ. She has a “poison pill” on her.
- Anna would bring together a group of child developmental analysts that included Erik Erikson, Edith Jacobson and Margaret Mahler.



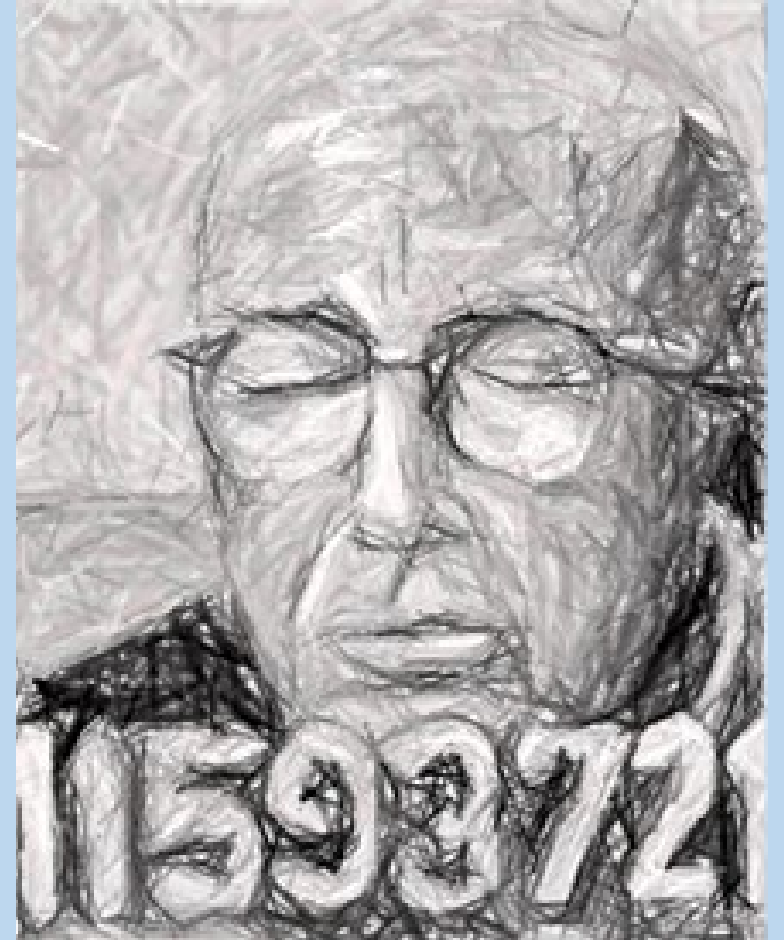
Alfred Adler



- Born in 1870 in a village on the outskirts of Vienna.
- Influenced to become a doctor because of his own childhood disease.
- Theory of individual psychology*, we are all guided by unconscious goals including social interest and community feeling.
- Developed the concept of the “**Inferiority complex.**”

The Strange Life of Bruno Bettelheim

- Born in Austria in 1903.
- Attended the University of Vienna, doctorate in 1938. His dissertation is on Immanuel Kant and the history of art.
- Arrested and taken to Buchenwald camp in 1938, released for Hitler's birthday in 1939.
- Comes to America, divorces his Austrian wife and marries an American.
- Appointed a professor of psychology in Chicago, takes over the schools clinic.
- In 1990, he takes his own life.
- After his death the horror stories of how he had abused patients come out.



The Frankfurt School



The Frankfurt Institute for Social was a multidisciplinary approach. Erich Fromm, Max Horkheimer, Theodor Adorno. Kurt Lewin is credited with being the father of social psychology.

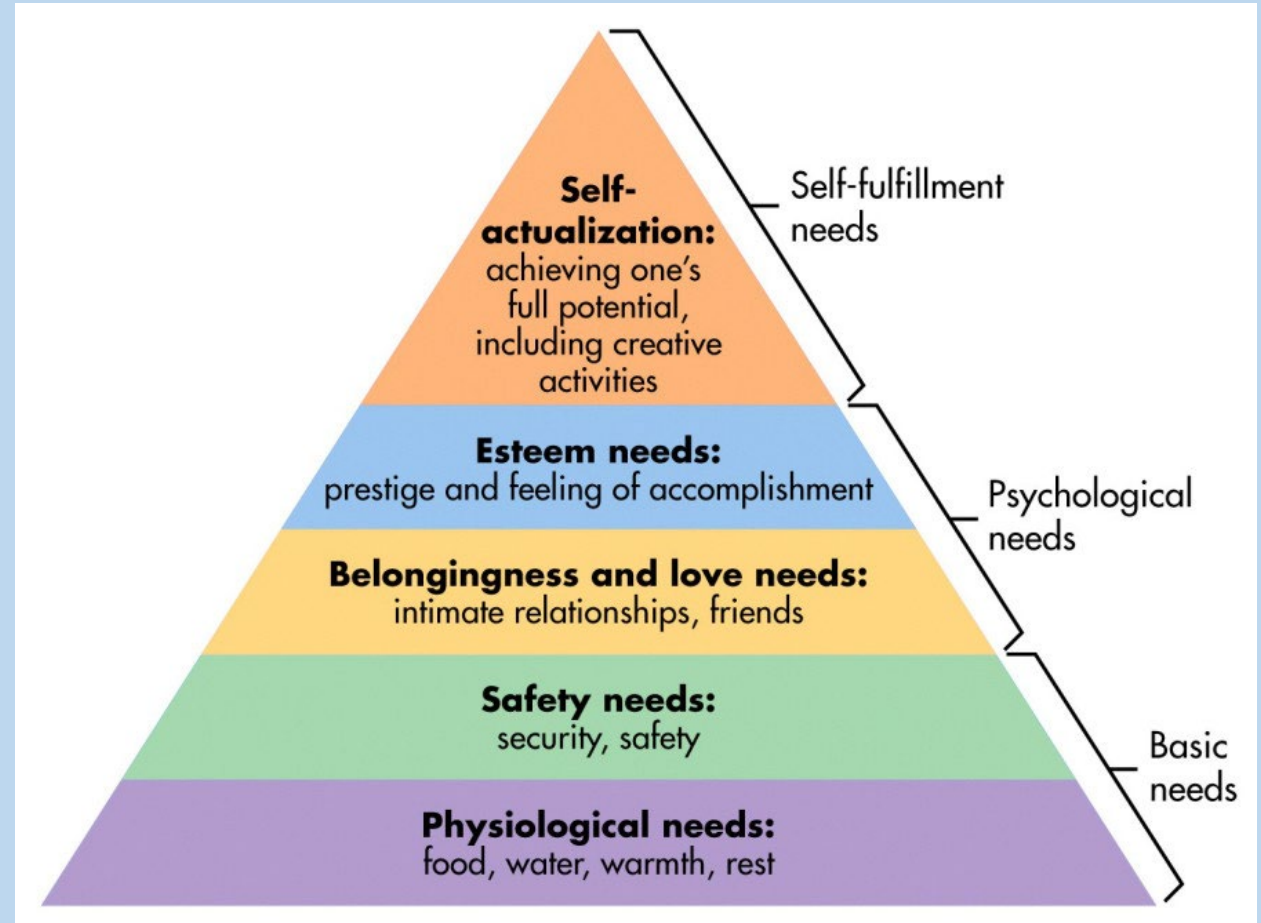
Stanley Milgram's Famous Experiment

- Born in NYC in 1933, earns a PhD in social psychology from Harvard. Teaches at Yale, Harvard, and CUNY.
- Watching the trial of Adolf Eichmann in 1961, he develops an experiment to test the limits of obedience.
- "Could it be that Eichmann and his million accomplices in the Holocaust were just following orders? Could we call them all accomplices?"
- "the whole experiment was designed to see if ordinary Americans would obey immoral orders, as many Germans had done during the Nazi period."
- The results showed that there was no authoritarian personality type; most people followed orders.



Maslow and the Hierarchy

- Born in Brooklyn in 1908.
- Faced anti-Semitism from gangs.
- Hated his mother.
- Began to study law – hated that.
- City College to Cornell, back to City. Gets his Masters in psychology from Wisconsin.
- Attends Columbia, where he meets Adler.
- Develops the “Hierarchy of Needs.”



The “Pop” Psychologists

- Dr. Joyce Brothers helped popularize psychology.
- Multiple winner of the \$64,000 Question/Challenge.
- In 1958, she gets her own show and also a very popular advice column.
- "I invented media psychology. I was the first. The founding mother."



The Littlest Warrior



- Before Dr. Ruth became America's sex therapist, she was a scout and a sniper during the 1948 Israeli War of independence. She is 4'7".
- She lost both her parents during the Holocaust.
- Masters in Sociology from the New School, PhD in Educational Psychology from Teachers College.
- Studied under sex therapist Helen Singer Kaplan at New York-Presbyterian Hospital

Conclusions

- Clearly the careers of Freud, Jung, the various members of the Frankfurt School, and others were influenced by the rise of Nazism.
- Social psychology begins as an attempt to explain Nazism either as a personality type (F-Scale) or an innate quality of mankind (obedience.)
- As we have seen with physics (*The Men That Made the Atomic Bomb*) the success of the early pioneers has led to a preponderance of Jews entering the field.
- Jewish culture may have influenced psychology, but as we see from works such as *Portnoy's Complaint* psychology now influences Jewish culture.