

Modernism

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5DLL

Christmas
special

Exploring the Core Tenets of this Modern

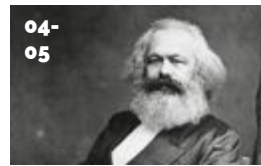
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**K. Marx • F. Nietzsche • S. Freud • H. Bergson
Cubism • Surrealism • Stream of Consciousness**

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Welcome TO MODERNISM

Modernism, a cultural and artistic movement of the late 19th to early 20th centuries, emerged as a response to societal violent unrest. It broke from tradition, embracing innovation and experimentation in literature and beyond. Modernist writers, challenging established norms, explored fragmented narratives and subjective consciousness. The movement, spanning art, architecture, music, and philosophy, encapsulated the uncertainties and dynamism of a rapidly changing world.



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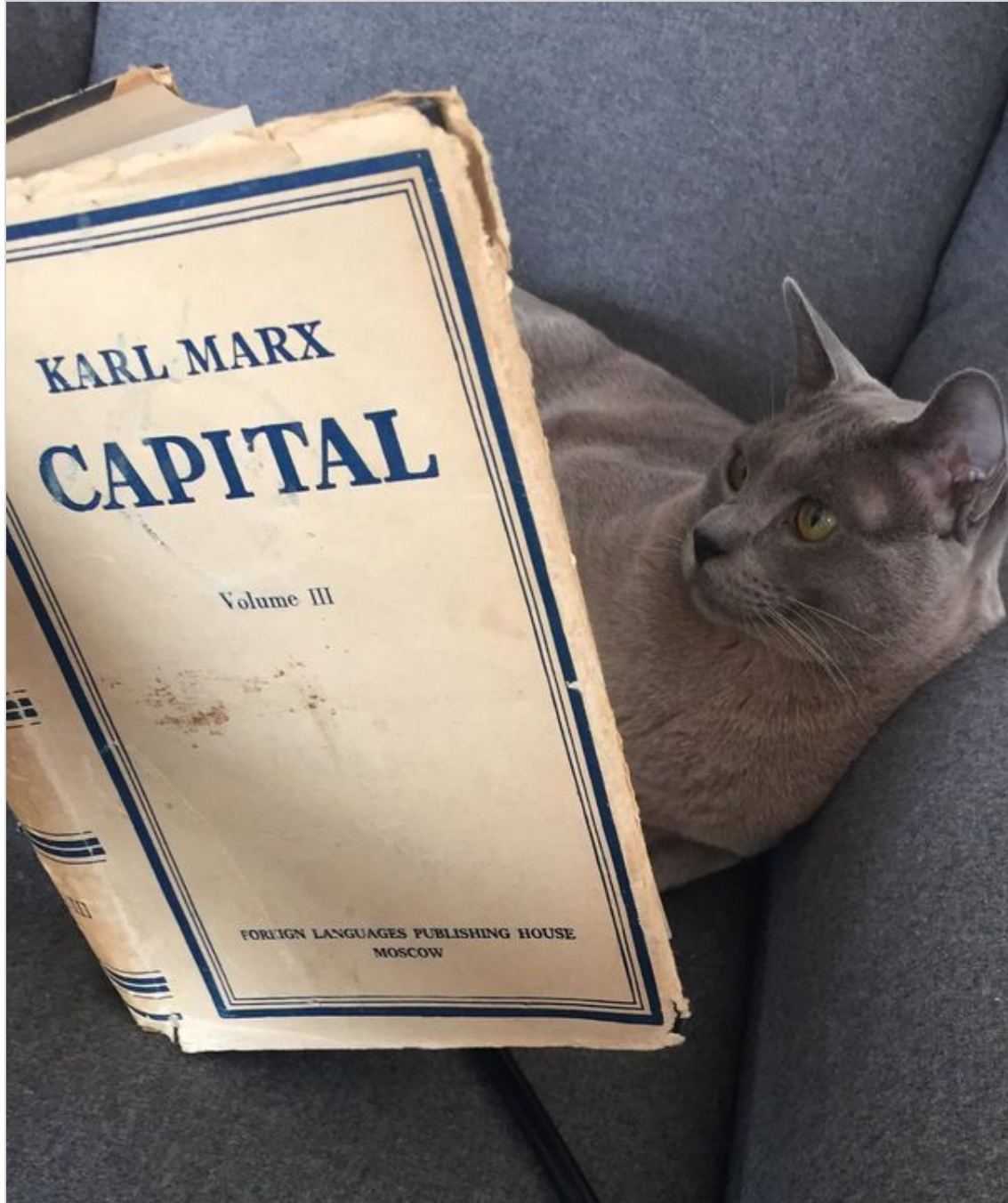
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“Philosophers have only interpreted the world in various ways; the point is to change it”.

Karl Marx (1818/1883) is often seen more as a revolutionary than a philosopher, credited with inspiring communist regimes. Despite his activist image, Marx, initially trained as a philosopher, maintained philosophical threads throughout his works. These include his views on human nature, historical theory, economic analysis, critique of capitalism, and vision of a communist future.

Economics

On Economics alone, he made important observations that influenced our understanding of the role of boom cycles, the link between market competition and rapid technological advances, and the tendency of markets towards concentration and monopolies. Marx also made various observations regarding what we now call

"globalisation". He emphasised *"the newly created connections [...] of the world market"* and the important role of international trade.

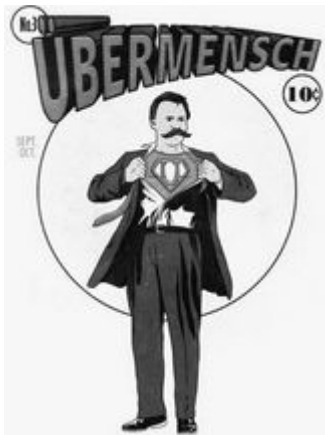
Society

His primary interest wasn't simply Capitalism. It was human existence and our potential. Marx observed Capitalism wasn't only an economic system by which we produced food, clothing and shelter; it was also bound up with a system of social relations. Work structured people's lives and opportunities in different ways depending on their role in the production process: most people were either part of the "owning class" or "working class". Marx predicted the inevitable collapse of Capitalism leading to equally inevitable working-class revolutions.

NIETZSCHE

LIFE

Friedrich Nietzsche (1844–1900) was a German philosopher of the late 19th century who challenged the foundations of Christianity and traditional morality. He was interested in the enhancement of individual and cultural health, and believed in life, creativity, power, and down-to-earth realities, rather than those situated in a world beyond.



FUNDAMENTAL IDEAS

1. God is dead

Nietzsche doesn't believe in the existence of any God anymore. Consequently, everyone can act freely and the human being becomes the center of everything.

2. Nihilism

If God is dead, existence loses its purpose. This is where nihilism comes from, assuming two different attitudes: the passive nihilist is unable to find a valid goal in life, the active one progressively improves their spiritual condition.

3. The Übermensch

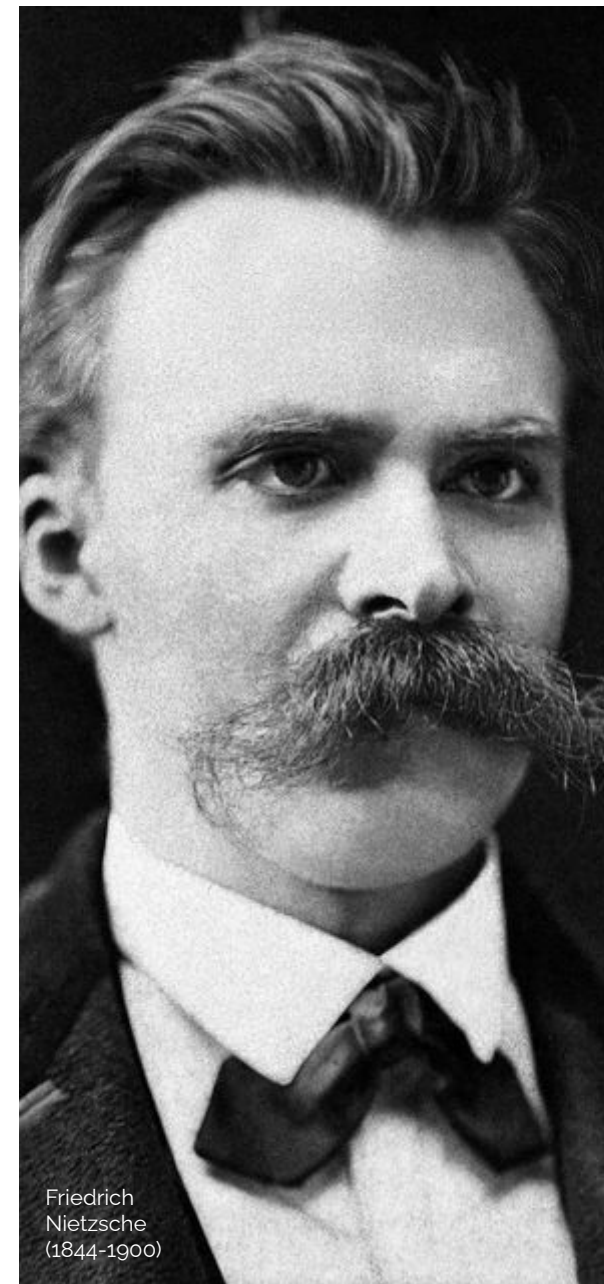
For Nietzsche one must become an Übermensch (literally "Beyond-man") by overcoming the chains of moral, ethical and social values dictated by the era. This idea will be deformed by Nazis into the concept of the "Superman", for this reason Nietzsche is sometimes referred to as the Nazi-philosopher.

4. Will to Power

This concept is developed in one of Nietzsche's masterpieces "Thus spoke Zarathustra" and consists in the ability to form a point of view rejecting a presumed truth.

5. Perception of Time

According to Nietzsche, time is cyclical, which means that everything that has already happened will happen again. He gives the example of the universe that was born, dies, is reborn and dies again.



Friedrich Nietzsche
(1844-1900)



Sigmund Freud

Sigmund Freud (1856-1939) is the founder of Psychoanalysis. He developed a totally new way of looking at human nature.

Sigmund Freud was born on 6 May 1856 in Freiberg, Moravia (today Příbor, Czech Republic) to a family of Jewish wool merchants. He spent most of his life in Vienna, where the family moved in 1860.

It was in Vienna that Freud went to school, attended university, got married, trained as a research scientist and then a doctor, and developed Psychoanalysis.

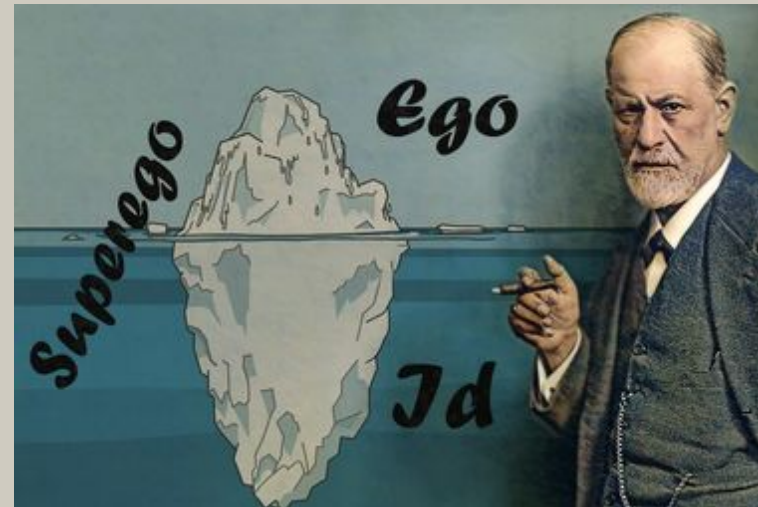
As Psychoanalysis spread, Freud built up a global following. When the Nazis took over Austria in 1938, Freud was forced to flee. He died on 23 September 1939 at his home in London, now the Freud Museum.

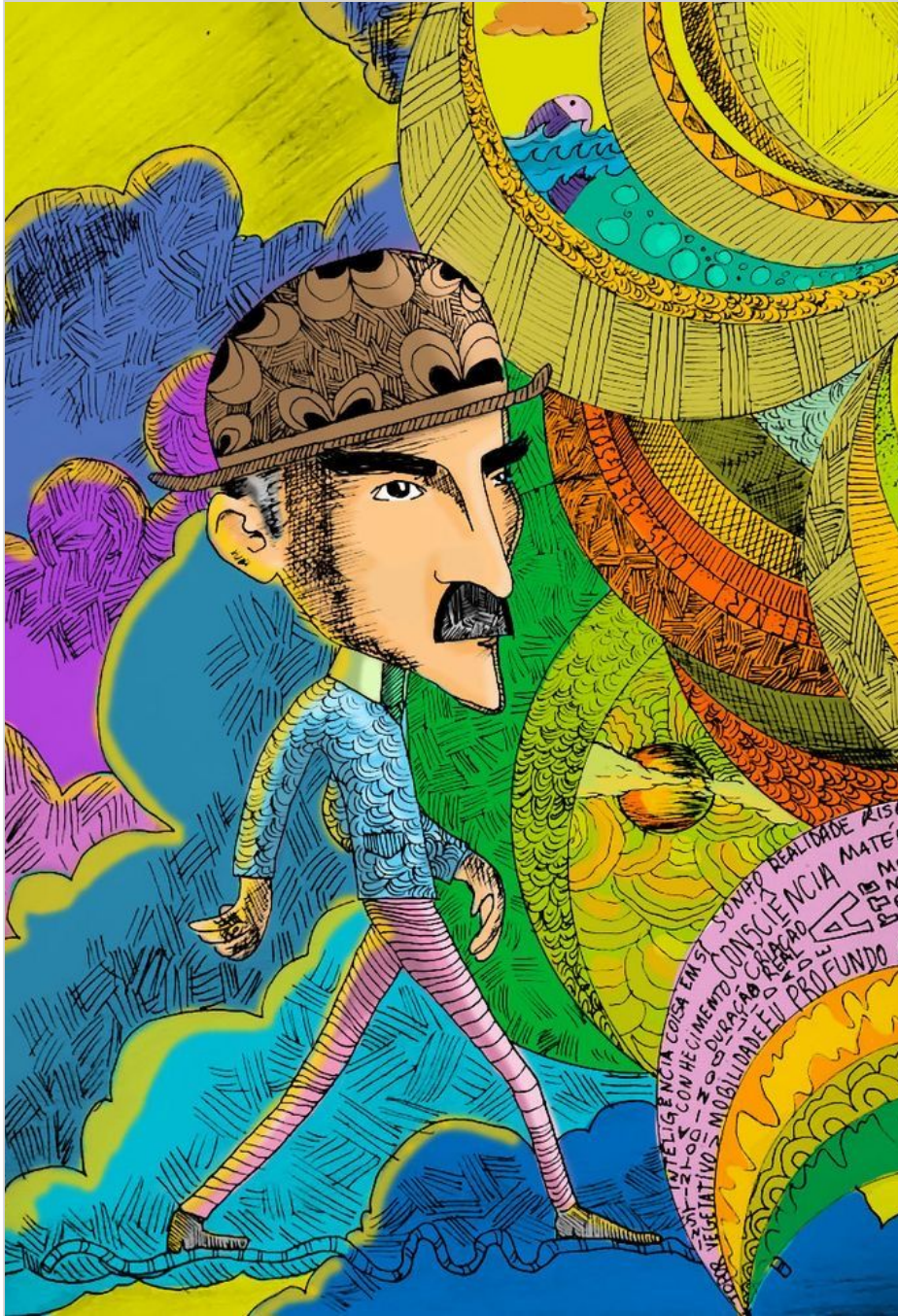
*"Out of your vulnerabilities
will come your strength."
- Sigmund Freud*

Sigmund Freud's theory suggests that human behavior is influenced by unconscious memories, thoughts, and urges. This theory also proposes that the psyche consists of three aspects: the Id, Ego, and Superego. The Id is entirely unconscious, while the Ego operates in the conscious mind. The Superego operates both unconsciously and consciously.

Freud developed unique theories to understand the human mind and its connection to the human body. Freud believed that all human actions were based on the drive to fill essential needs like eating, sleeping, or having sex. Freud also developed a system to interpret dreams through predictable symbols. He constructed theories about child development and the importance of parenting. He explored phobias and fears and was interested in constructing therapies to help people with extreme problems control their emotional reactions to fearful triggers.

The psyche is compared to an iceberg, with the unconscious being larger than the conscious.





Bergson

Henri Bergson (1859-1941) was born in Paris and he studied together with Boutroux (a French philosopher). He won the Nobel Prize for Literature. He was of Jewish origin, but approached Catholicism even if he decided not to convert anymore in the face of Nazism. He proclaimed the will of stand by those who were persecuted.

TIME'S ANALYSIS

Bergson addresses the study of the dualism between spirit and matter, precisely from the investigation of temporality. There are two meanings of temporality: among these we have **spatialized time** which derives from the human habit of interpreting the surrounding world through space and quantity. Time is therefore divided into parts clearly separated from each other.

Carpal time is the parameter of physical equations and allows for example the study of the motion of bodies or the discussion around the laws of nature and the foundation of determinism.

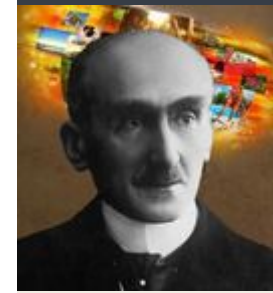
On the other hand we have **authentic time**, that is, that which flows in our consciousness and which makes no experience, even a similar one, repeatable

CRITICISM OF POSITIVISM

He represents a reaction to positivism, as he contrasts the factual data of the positivists with the immediate data of consciousness. Bergson criticizes positivism because he centers his philosophy on science as the only approach to reality. Bergson stated that science is insufficient to understand reality and, for this reason, there is also a need for philosophy that collaborates with science and doesn't oppose it. So he uses science to understand the data and then reaches metaphysics. While science only concerns reality in a superficial way, metaphysics analyzes it to the fullest its interior. Therefore it is possible to combine the concept of relativity and analysis with science, while we entrust the concept of absolute and intuition to metaphysics.

Bergson's main works

- *Essai sur les données immédiates de la conscience*, 1889
- *Matière et mémoire*, 1896
- *L'évolution créatrice*, 1907



Cubism

CUBISM

ORIGINS, TECHNIQUES, AIM AND INFLUENCES

Cubism was one of the most influential styles of the twentieth century.

Cubism is generally agreed to have begun around 1907 with Picasso's celebrated painting *Les Femmes d'Alger* (O.J. Version O). The name 'cubism' seems to have

derived from a comment made by the critic Louis Vauxcelles who, on seeing some of Georges Braque's paintings exhibited in Paris in 1908, described them as reducing everything to 'geometric outlines, to cubes'.



LES DEMOISELLES D'AVIGNON

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The first Cubist painting is "Les Femmes d'Alger" (1907) by Pablo Picasso. The artwork depicts five naked women, created from flat, jagged planes, their faces inspired by Iberian sculpture and African masks.

"When we discovered Cubism, we did not have the aim of discovering Cubism. We only wanted to express what was in us."
- Pablo Picasso

By breaking objects and figures down into distinct areas – or planes – the artists aimed to show different viewpoints at the same time and within the same space and so suggest their three dimensional form. In doing so they also emphasized the two-dimensional flatness of the canvas instead of creating the illusion of depth. This marked a revolutionary break with linear perspective, which had dominated representation from the Renaissance onwards.



Analytical Cubism ran from 1908–12. Its artworks look more severe and are made up of an interweaving of planes and lines in muted tones of blacks, greys and ochres.



Synthetic Cubism ran from 1912 to 1914 and is characterised by simpler shapes and brighter colours. It directly includes real objects in art, anticipating modern art.



Cubism was partly influenced by the late work of artist Paul Cézanne in which he can be seen to be painting things from slightly different points of view.

Pablo Picasso was also inspired by African tribal masks which are highly stylised, or non-naturalistic, but nevertheless present a vivid human image.

'A head', said Picasso, 'is a matter of eyes, nose, mouth, which can be distributed in any way you like'.

Surrealism

Surrealism was a movement in visual art that flourished in Europe between the World Wars. It represented a reaction against Rationalism.

1. WHEN

Surrealism emerged in Europe in the 1920s as a reaction to the atrocities of the First World War and the political-cultural values of the time. It was firstly led by a French poet, André Breton and lasted from 1924 to World War II.

2. MAIN IDEA

The main idea is that Surrealists aimed to tap into the unconscious mind to free the potential of the imagination. Rejecting rationalism and conventional literary realism, they were strongly influenced by psychoanalysis. They also thought that the rational mind suppressed the creative power of the imagination by imposing taboos and restrictions.

3. CHARACTERISTICS

Characteristics of surrealist art include the incorporation of fantastical elements, the creation of metaphysical atmospheres, and the depiction of dreamlike images portraying mysterious environments and landscapes. Each surrealist artist drew inspiration from their own recurring motifs derived from dreams and the unconscious mind.

4. TECHNIQUES

Surrealist techniques involve a variety of methods, such as collage, doodling, grattage and more, which contribute to the unconventional nature of the movement.

5. MAIN FIGURES

Some of the major Surrealist painters were **Max Ernst**, **René Magritte**, **Salvador Dalí** and **Joan Miró**.

SALVADOR DALÍ

The Persistence of Memory
1931

Some unreal objects are arranged in a fantastic landscape. Some watches with a deformed consistency dominate the scene and they are also called soft watches. One interpretation can be that the soft clocks represent the relativity of time perception.



Stream of Consciousness



Embrace the Flow: Unraveling Thoughts, Riding the Currents of Consciousness.

The stream of consciousness is a narrative technique used in literature that attempts to depict the continuous flow of thoughts and feelings in a character's mind, often in an unstructured and unpunctuated form. This technique aims to capture the inner workings of a character's consciousness, presenting a more authentic and immediate representation of their thoughts as they occur, without the traditional constraints of grammar and linear storytelling.

This literary technique gained prominence in the early 20th century with the works of writers like James Joyce, Virginia Woolf, and William Faulkner. Each author brought their unique style to the form, contributing to its evolution and experimentation in the literary world. The stream of consciousness is seen as a way to provide readers with a more intimate and subjective understanding of characters, allowing them to experience the narrative from within the character's mind rather

than through an objective, external perspective.

Key characteristics of stream of consciousness:

- 1 Uninterrupted Flow:** Stream of consciousness often mimics the continuous and uninterrupted flow of thoughts and perceptions in the character's mind. It can be a representation of the unfiltered and spontaneous nature of mental processes.
- 2 Lack of Linear Structure:** Unlike traditional narrative structures, stream of consciousness lacks a linear and chronological organization. Thoughts may jump from one topic to another without clear transitions, reflecting the non-linear nature of the mind.
- 3 Free Association:** Thoughts are often connected through free association rather than logical progression. The mind may move from one idea to another based on emotional or sensory triggers, creating a web of interconnected thoughts.
- 4 Subjectivity:** Stream of consciousness is highly subjective, offering a direct insight into the character's inner world. It

allows readers to experience the character's emotions, fears, and desires firsthand.

5 Intimacy with Character: Readers often feel a greater sense of intimacy with the character because they are given access to the character's most private and unfiltered thoughts. This can create a deeper connection between the reader and the narrative.

6 Inner Dialogue: The narrative technique involves presenting the inner thoughts and dialogue of a character as they occur in real-time. This can include fragments of thoughts, memories, associations, and sensory perceptions.

7 Time Distortion: Time may be distorted in stream of consciousness narratives. Past, present, and future events can blend together, reflecting the character's subjective experience of time.

8 Emotional Depth: The technique allows for a profound exploration of the character's emotions. Readers gain insight into the character's emotional state, motivations, and conflicts through the unfiltered expression of their inner thoughts.

Meet THE TEAM

SARA

I'm Sara Allegini and I worked on two articles: Surrealism and Nietzsche.

ANNA B

I'm Anna Bendotti and I worked on two articles: Surrealism and Henri Bergson.

SOFIA

I'm Sofia Bonomi and I worked on two articles: Bergson and Surrealism

ALICE

I'm Alice Braghini and I worked on two articles: Cubism and Henri Bergson.

IRENE

I'm Irene Cardillo, and I worked on the articles about Freud and the "Stream of Consciousness".

SALLY

I'm Sally Ferrari and I worked on two articles: Karl Marx and Stream of consciousness.

LORENZO

I'm Lorenzo, and I worked on the articles about K. Marx and the "Stream of Consciousness" :)

GIORGIA

I'm Giorgia Motta and I worked on two articles: Freud and Surrealism.

ANNA P

I'm Anna Pillosu and I worked on two articles, Cubism and Freud

GIULIA

I'm Giulia Raineri and I worked on two articles: Cubism and Nietzsche

LISA

I'm Lisa Santamaria and I worked on two articles: Stream of consciousness and Marx.

EMILY

I'm Emily Zeudi Zucchi and I worked on two articles: Cubism and Nietzsche.

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