March 6th, 2008 Thursday

Intellectual trends of late 19th Century.

1861 - Crystal Palace - celebration of science, tech & engineering. World's Fair. - 1st. Celebration of English & Victorian science. US & continent also had displays. Also had a medieval court - catholic high alter. Counter demonstration against cult of science. Darker side of industrial progress. Environmental devastation, Killer Fog, polluted Thames. Satanic mills - Charles Dickens. or John Ruskin.

Intellectual trends - 1850 to 1914

Belief that science could solve political & social problems. Darwin, Nietzsche & Freud.

Darwin - 1869 - Origin of Species. Did not invent evolution. Natual selection was his forte. Russel also was a naturalist & worked on evolution. Revolution in geology in early 1800s. Catastrophism & Uniformitarianism. Catylismic change vs incremental change. Genesis view. James Hutton & Charles Lyell. - The Principles of Geology.

Divine William Paley - Natural Theology. Argument by Design. Darwin studied Theology & got a degree in it From Cambridge. Wealthy parents. Offered by Navy to go along on scientific voyage via Beagle. Resident naturalist & companion to captain. Lots of notes, Galapogas Islands. Pulled together a huge amount of data. Read Thomas Malthus - only fittest ~~survive~~ survive exp. growth of people & arithmetic growth of Food supply. Darwin - survival of the Fittest - no guiding hand -

random & disorderly process. Not mechanistic. Hard to rectify with Christianity. Lost his faith by the time he published. Read his auto biography for good details. The Descent of Man - ties apes to man. Morals was response to environment. Very controversial. Darwin felt beleaguered & retreated to his London home. Huxley & Haeckel were disciples. Darwin - genuine scientist. Not political. Others carried Darwin into the social & political realms. Social Darwinism also lead to racism & imperialism. Even lead to denigration of women. Marx saw himself as a Darwinist - class struggle in a materialist world. Mechanistic & rational. Appealed to far right & left.

literary realists like Flaubert & Zola. Tennyson & Harding - In the Wood - Poem.

~~Hist~~ Nietzche - (knee-chuh) philosopher, gadfly, critical of Christianity. → celebration of meekness & weakness, "God is dead & we have killed him." Age of realism. Values are relative. Ten Commandments are dead. Sister was Aryan & National Socialist. Nietzche went mad. Was not an anti-semite nor forefather of nazism. Attacked ideas that universe was orderly, critiqued science & rationality. Realm of uncertainty.

Sigmund Freud - world of mind - how mind works. Unconcious - dreams. Theories were speculative. Interpretation of Dreams 1900. Repressed desire in dreams. Ego, Superego & id - 3 parts of mind. Superego - values we inherit from society. Id - unchecked sexual desire, powerful & all consuming.

We are at war with ourselves. Civilizations & its Discontents. → Id is too repressed. Pessimistic view of modern society.

Contrast with sunny & optimistic view of liberals in early 19th century.

Recitation - March 6th

Handouts for writing an essay.

Themes - Keep a reading journal.

Growth of Nationalism. Rebutted by horrors of war.

Impact of war on society. Horror of war is major departure in literature.

Effect of war on soldier. Respect for human life. Anti-war novel.

Story of Henrich & leather boots. Boots more durable & valuable than human life.