

Lesson 1: The Doctors of Modernity—Darwin, Marx, and Freud

As the Middle Ages had the pope, the king, and Mohammed, so the modern age has three *doctors* (teachers).

Charles Darwin (1809-1882)

Born naturalist—collected and studied almost anything—but sent to Edinburgh and Cambridge (ministry).

Breakthrough: *HMS Beagle* (1831-36) – surveying trip as cabin companion to the captain

Samples collected and notes sent – Galapagos Island finches and Tierra del Fuego savages

Six secret notebooks (1837-39): *How did evolution happen?*

Natural selection (“survival of the fittest”) – but “it is like confessing a murder” (1844)!

On the Origin of Species (1859) – Darwin is like a pious reformer for “creation” by natural law.

Natural Theology vs. Natural Selection

Every man, even an atheist, has a “theology”—a concept of the *god* being denied—what was Darwin’s?

Agnostic father and Unitarian mother (Wedgwoods) – he lost faith in the “god” of Natural Theology.

Therefore, Darwin attacked a straw-god (Jonathan Wells)—a god who does everything *perfectly* to us.

Deeper Problem: Darwin lost his dad (1848) and 10-year-old Annie (1851); his sensitivity could not bear it.

As in Job, the fragile “perfect god” of natural theology breaks in the harsh, inscrutable realities of life.

Karl Marx (1818-1883)

Jewish genius—beyond economist, a polymath “revolutionary idol” with youth as “true believers” (Skousen).

Contradictions in Marx: never worked, all children died, anti-Semitic, and lived in London as a bourgeois.

Philosophy: Progress through conflict (Hegel)—a theme like Darwin—and man created God (Feuerbach).

Marx and Engels, *The Communist Manifesto* (1848) and Marx, *Capital* (1867)—the bible of communism

Invisible Hand vs. Iron Fist – As with Darwin, what is the foil of communism?

Laissez-faire “capitalism” (Marx’s term) exploits and creates class conflict—lots of specialized vocabulary!

Problem: Surplus value and the labor theory of value (Ricardo)—“a silly mistake” (Keynes).

Sigmund Freud (1856-1939)

Jewish medical doctor—studied brain anatomy, hysteria, hypnosis, and even cocaine.

Breakthrough: *The Interpretation of Dreams* (1900) – starts psychoanalysis, a revolution in psychology

Basic Problem: Guilt feelings—the conscience (super-ego) conflicts with sex and violent urges (id).

By raising this subconscious to the conscious self (ego), the therapist resolves the conflict by denying guilt.

How? Repressed memories and wish fulfillments disguised in dreams are interpreted by the expert!

Moral Model vs. Medical Model – As with Darwin and Marx, who is the foil for this theory?

Freud started work on Easter as a surrogate religion that justifies immorality and destroys conscience.

Psychoanalysis hit a crisis in the 1950s (denying responsibility) and today psychiatrists prescribe medicine.

Psychoanalysis: An atheistic challenge, but claims such as wish fulfillment are self-refuting (C. S. Lewis).

Freud’s early works are autobiographical, describing a neurosis likely due to childhood molestation.

Later, he attacked the domination of his conscience through an abomination: incest (cf. Oedipus Complex).

This is a Nietzschean move, similar to the Sawi *gefam aason* and the *wanes bind* in *Peace Child*.

Sum: If ideas have consequences (Weaver), then consequences have ideas too (Coppenger; cf. 2 Tim. 4:3-4).

The Three Doctors of Modernity

All three were autonomous thinkers, materialists, and anti-religious—yet strangely religious in their own ideas.

Marx looked like Zeus, and Freud claimed incest as a god—the lie of Eden, mocking I AM, the New Left creed:

“At the heart of liberty is the right to define one’s own concept of existence, of meaning, of the universe, and of the mystery of human life” (Supreme Court in 1992 for abortion and in 2003 for homosexuality).

With Freud justifying secret sins of the 1920s, how could hypocritical authority be respected in the 1960s?

Both Marx and Freud were fascinated by Goethe’s *Faust*, like the third temptation of Christ (Mt. 4:8-10).

Freud claimed only a Jew could develop psychoanalysis—such “deep things of Satan” (Rev. 2:24; cf. 3:9).

Schaeffer is correct—ultimately, psychological problems are largely problems of the *conscience*.

Instead of defying the Law and deifying the self (Freud), the cross heals the conscience in truth (1 Jn. 1:7).

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