

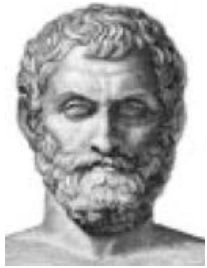
# Ancient

# Medieval

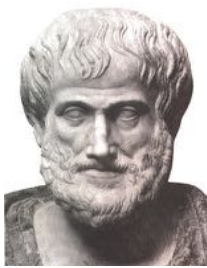
600BCE

400CE

1400



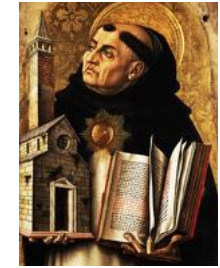
Thales



Aristotle



Augustine



Aquinas

*metaphysics*

*ethics*

*religion*

*epistemology*

*logic/language*



Spinoza



Hume



Kant



Nietzsche



Wittgenstein

1400

1900

2000

# Modern

# Contemporary

# The Axial Age: 6th–5th c. BCE

*‘The spiritual foundations of humanity laid simultaneously and independently.’* Karl Jaspers

## China

Confucius *b.551*

Lao Tzu *~6th c.*

## India

Buddha *b.560*

Upanishads *from ~6th c.*

## Persia

Zoroaster *pre-6th c.*

## Judaea

Torah *~600*

Talmud *~500*

## Greece

Presocratic philosophy

Know thyself.

attr. to *Thales*

If cows and horses or lions had hands  
and could draw... then horses would  
draw the forms of gods like horses,  
cows like cows.

*Xenophanes*

... you cannot step twice into the same river, for fresh waters are ever flowing in upon you.

... the way up and the way down is one and the same.

... good and ill are one.

... couples are things whole and things not whole.

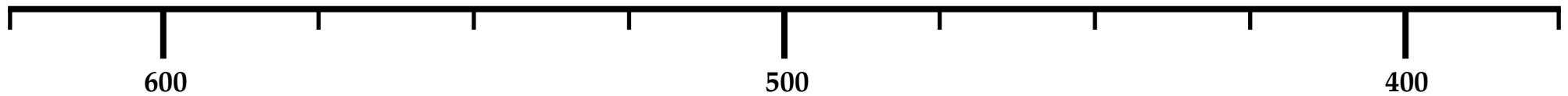
*Heraclitus*

By convention sweet and by convention  
bitter, by convention hot, by convention  
cold, by convention colour: in reality  
atoms and void.

*Democritus*

Man is the measure of all things: of things  
that are that they are, and of things that  
are not that they are not.

*Protagoras*



Thales

Anaximander

Anaximenes



*Milesian School*

Socrates

Pythagoras

Heraclitus

Xenophanes

Parmenides

Zeno



*Eleatic School*

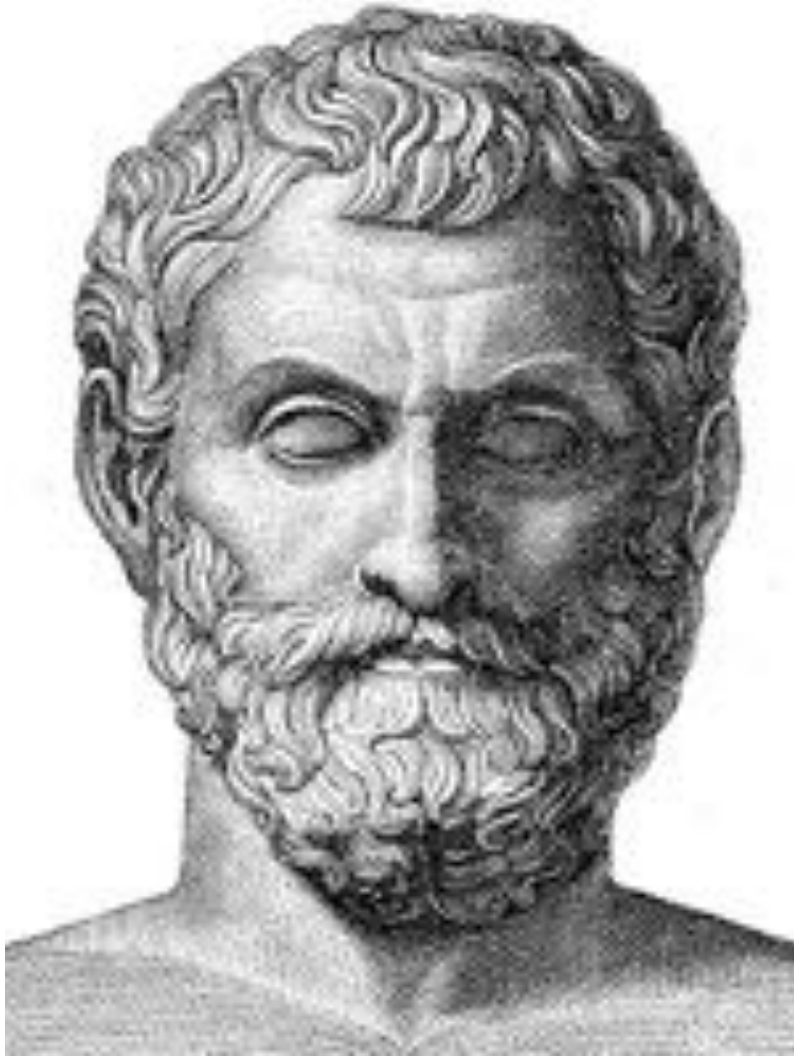
Anaxagoras

Empedocles

Protagoras

Democritus (*d.370*)

*The Presocratics*



# Thales

early 6th c. BCE

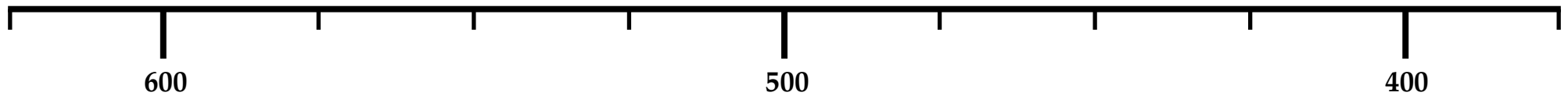
*The birth of philosophy*

# The Presocratics: first principles

|             |                 |
|-------------|-----------------|
| Thales      | Water           |
| Anaximander | 'apeiron'       |
| Anaximenes  | Air             |
| Heraclitus  | Fire            |
| Xenophanes  | Earth and Water |
| Parmenides  | The One         |
| Empedocles  | Four elements   |
| Democritus  | Atoms and Void  |

*organised by...*

|            |                 |
|------------|-----------------|
| Pythagoras | Mathematics     |
| Heraclitus | 'logos'         |
| Empedocles | Love and Strife |
| Anaxagoras | Mind            |



Thales

Anaximander

Anaximenes



*Milesian School*

Socrates

Pythagoras

Heraclitus

Xenophanes

Parmenides

Zeno



*Eleatic School*

Anaxagoras

Empedocles

Protagoras

Democritus (*d.370*)

*The Presocratics*

# *Zeno's Paradox of Motion*

$T$

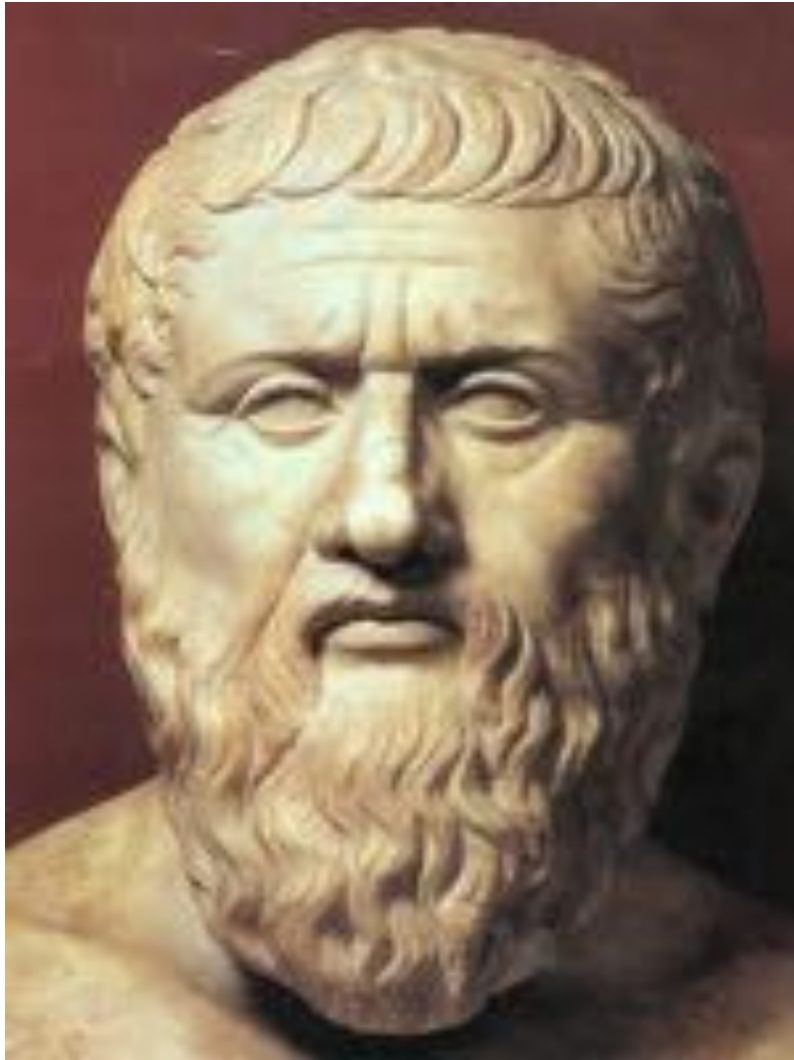


$T+3$



$T+5$

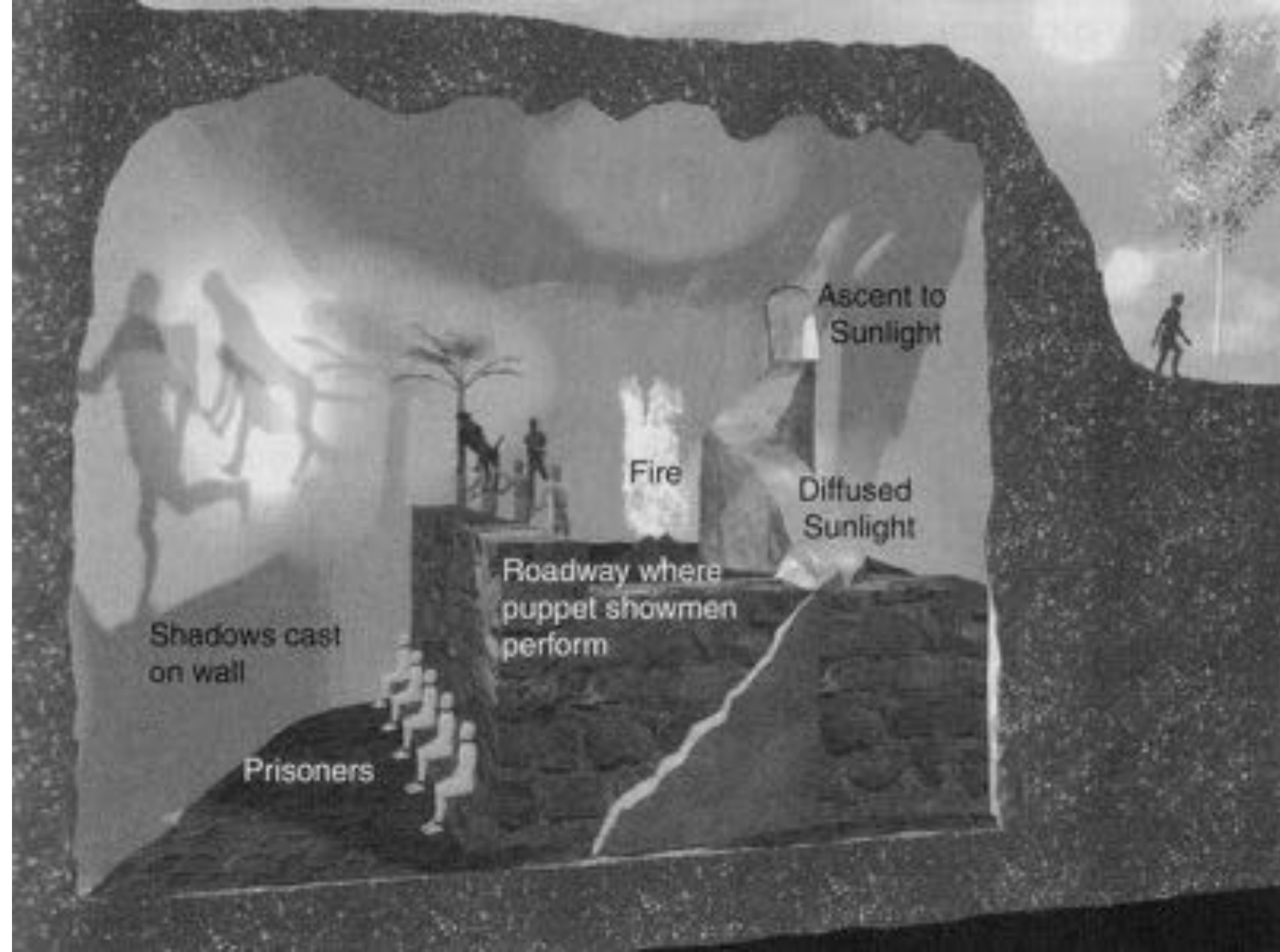




# Plato

427 – 347 BCE

*The Theory of Forms*



Ascent to  
Sunlight

Fire

Diffused  
Sunlight

Roadway where  
puppet showmen  
perform

Shadows cast  
on wall

Prisoners

|             |                   |
|-------------|-------------------|
| The Sun     | <i>Philosophy</i> |
| Real Things | <i>Knowledge</i>  |
| Reflections | <i>Belief</i>     |
| Puppets     | <i>Opinion</i>    |
| Shadows     | <i>Illusion</i>   |



**Outside the cave**  
*(intelligible world)*

**Inside the cave**  
*(sensible world)*

The Good, The One

Forms  
*(universals)*

The World  
*(particulars)*

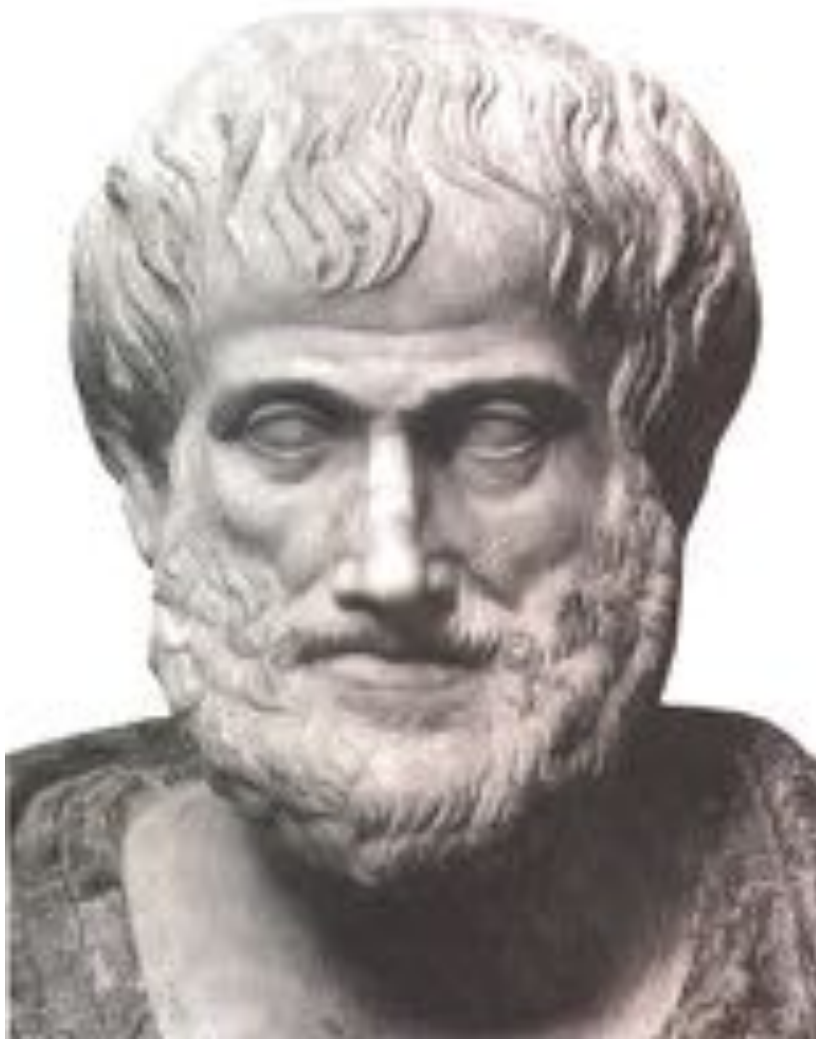
Representations

**Unchanging, being**  
*(from Parmenides)*

**Changing, becoming**  
*(from Heraclitus)*

The safest general characterisation of the European philosophical tradition is that it consists of a series of footnotes to Plato.

*Alfred North Whitehead, Process and Reality 39*



# Aristotle

384 – 322 BCE

*The ancient mind*

It can safely be said that on no other occasion in history was such intellectual power concentrated in a single institution.

*Anthony Kenny, A New History of Western Philosophy 57*



The background of the slide is a faded version of Raphael's fresco 'The School of Athens'. It depicts Plato and Aristotle walking towards the viewer, surrounded by other ancient philosophers. Plato is on the left, pointing his right index finger towards the sky, and Aristotle is on the right, gesturing with his right hand palm-down towards the earth. They are both dressed in classical robes.

## Plato

Rationalist  
Universals

*a priori*

Idealist

Being

Other world

Dualist

Religion

‘Tender-minded’

## Aristotle

Empiricist  
Particulars

*a posteriori*

Materialist

Becoming

This world

Monist

Science

‘Tough-minded’

It all comes down to...

*(the most basic ontological category)*

|                     |                            |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Presocratics</b> | Elements (air, water etc.) |
|---------------------|----------------------------|

|                 |       |
|-----------------|-------|
| <b>Atomists</b> | Atoms |
|-----------------|-------|

|                     |         |
|---------------------|---------|
| <b>Pythagoreans</b> | Numbers |
|---------------------|---------|

|              |       |
|--------------|-------|
| <b>Plato</b> | Forms |
|--------------|-------|

|                  |            |
|------------------|------------|
| <b>Aristotle</b> | Substances |
|------------------|------------|



what is it made of?  
*material cause*

what is it?  
*formal cause*

what created it?  
*efficient cause*

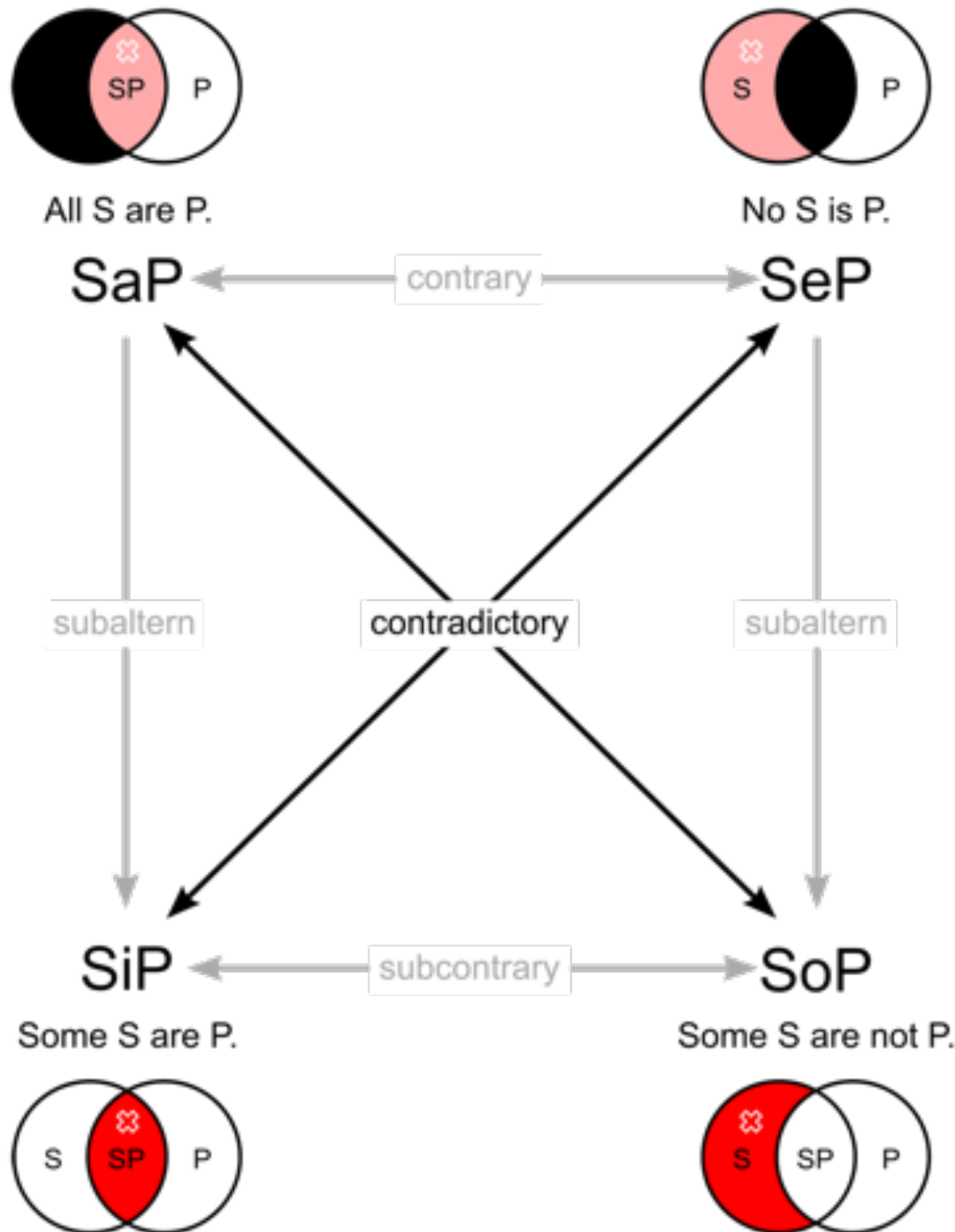
what is it for?  
*final cause*

The soul is the form of the body.

*Aristotle, De Anima*

# Square of Opposition

## Aristotelian Logic



**Contradictories**  
cannot both be true and  
cannot both be false

**Contraries**  
cannot both be true but  
can both be false

**Subcontraries**  
cannot both be false but  
can both be true

**Subalterns**  
true if the superaltern is true;  
if false, superaltern is false

Almost every serious intellectual advance has had to begin with an attack on some Aristotelian doctrine; in logic, this is still true at the present day.

*Bertrand Russell, A History of Western Philosophy (1945) 157*

*The dream of Constantine*  
*"in hoc signo vinces"*

*Battle of Pons Milvius 312*

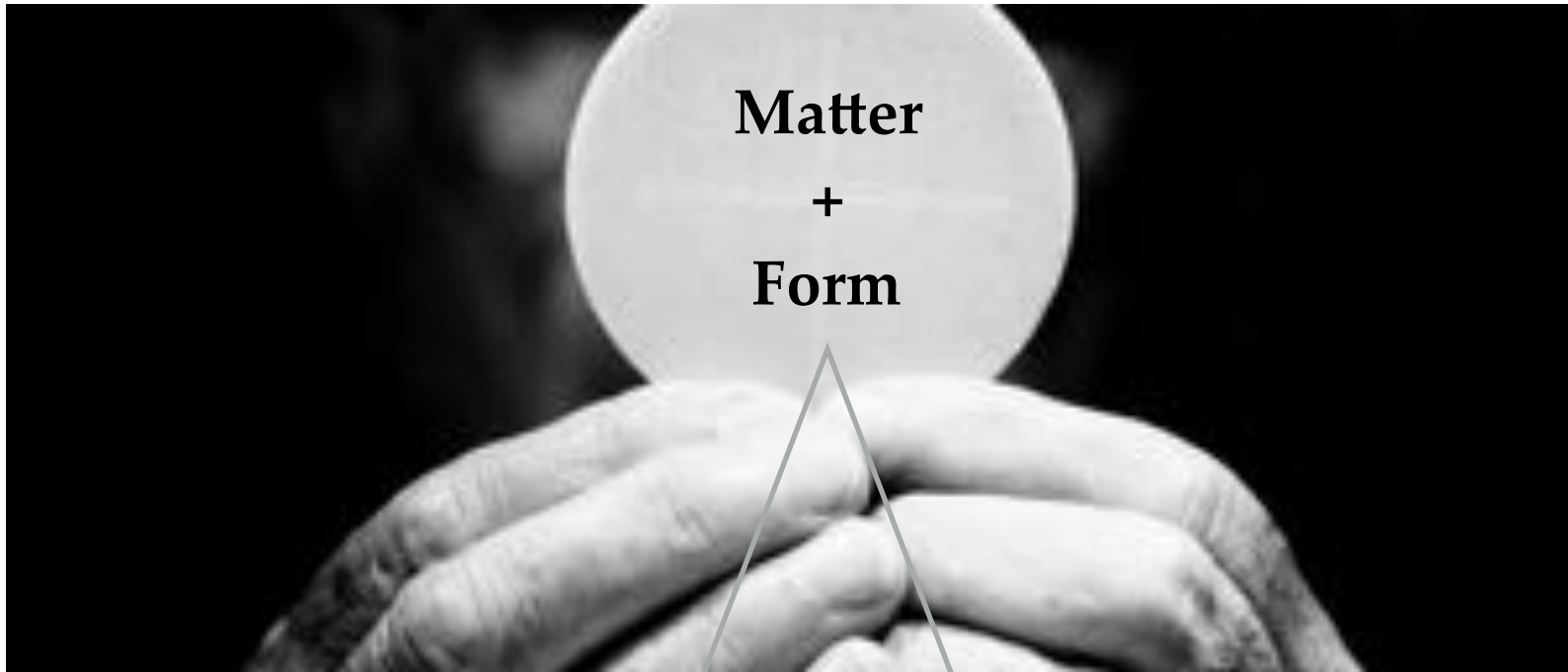
*from Homilies*  
*Gregory of Nazianzus*



# What has Athens to do with Jerusalem?

*Tertullian, de praescriptione haereticorum*

# Transubstantiation



Matter  
+  
Form

*'essence'*

~~bread~~

**flesh**

*'accidents'*

white, sweet, flat

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ Λόγος,  
καὶ ὁ Λόγος ἦν πρὸς τὸν Θεόν,  
καὶ Θεὸς ἦν ὁ Λόγος.

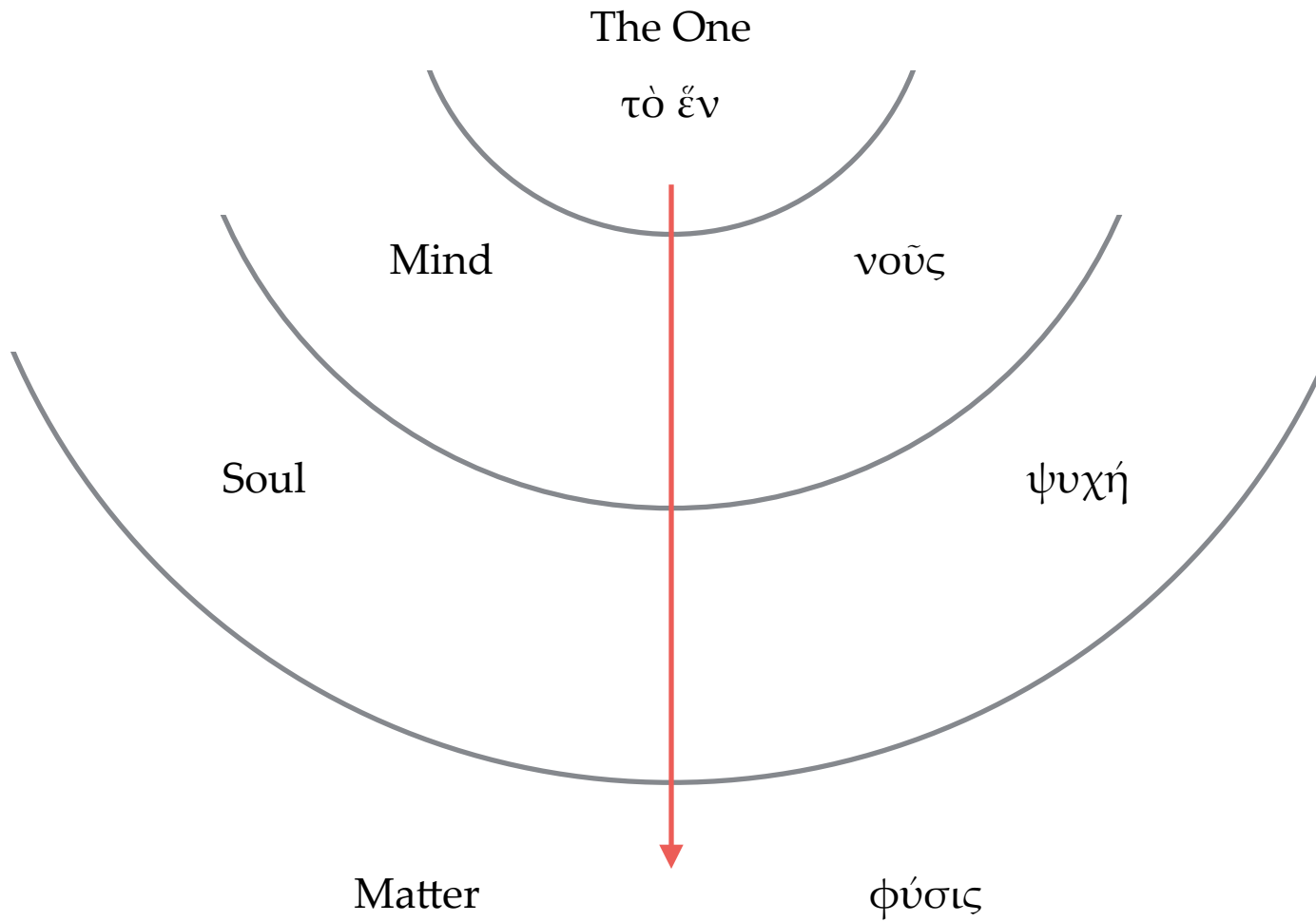
In the beginning was the Word,  
and the Word was with God,  
and the Word was God.

*John 1:1 (KJV)*

While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen *are* temporal; but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.

*II Corinthians 4:18*

# Neoplatonic *Emanations*



Christianity is Platonism for the masses.

*Nietzsche, Beyond Good and Evil Preface*



# Augustine

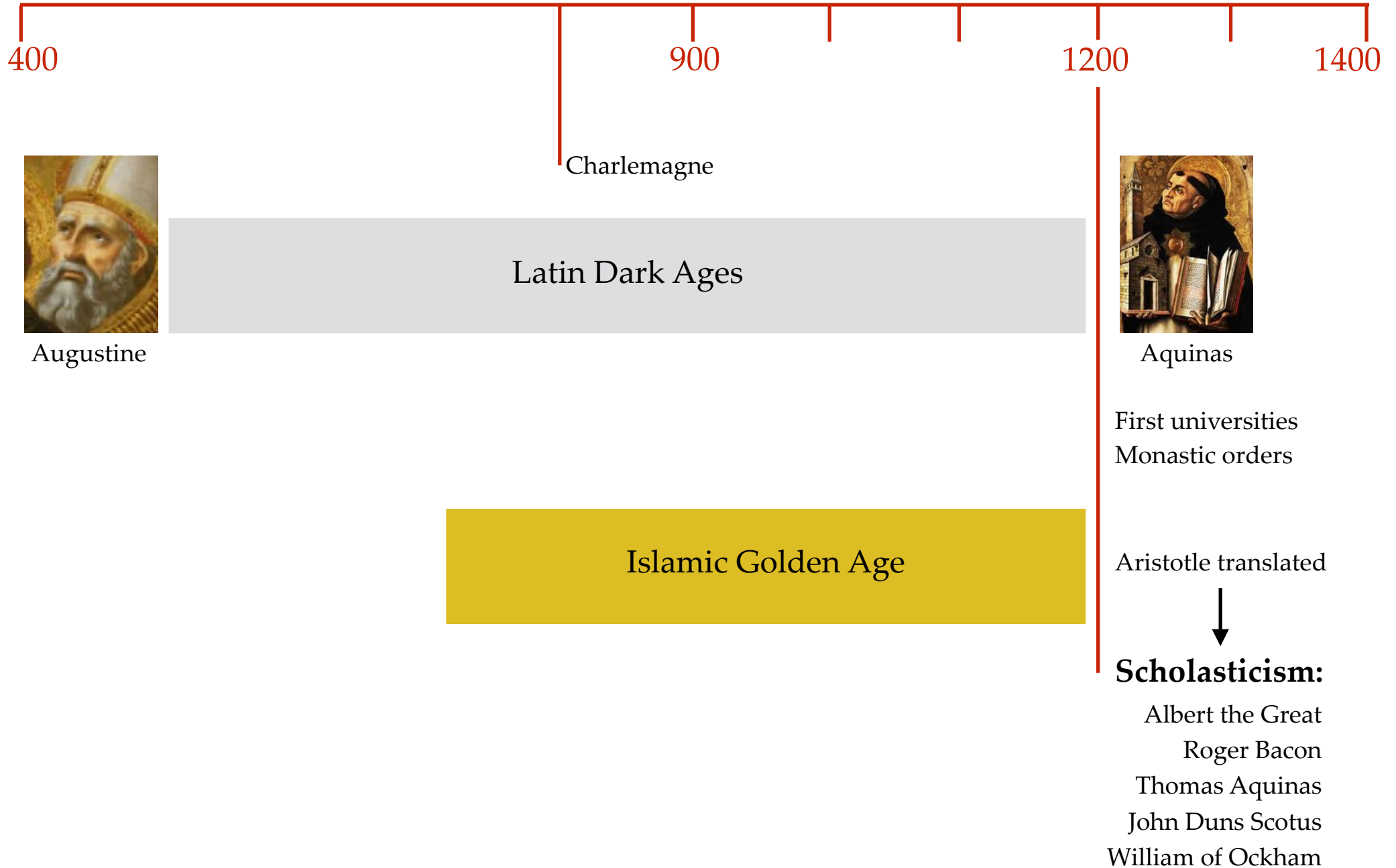
354 – 430

*Decline and Fall*

It is strange that the last men of intellectual eminence before the dark ages were concerned, not with saving civilization or expelling the barbarians or reforming the abuses of the administration, but with preaching the merit of virginity and the damnation of unbaptized infants.

*Bertrand Russell, A History of Western Philosophy 340*

# The Middle Ages



# Abelard and Héloïse

## Early Scholasticism

*'sic et non' c.1125*





# Thomas Aquinas

1225 – 1274

*The medieval mind*

**Temptation of St Thomas**  
*by Diego Velázquez 1632*





## The Seven Liberal Arts:

### *Trivium*

grammar, logic, rhetoric

### *Quadrivium*

arithmetic, geometry, music, astronomy

## Disputation:

*Summa Theologiae First Part, Qu. 2, Art. 2*

## University of Paris

from the *Chants Royaux* manuscript c.1537

Empiricists are like ants: they collect and put to use;  
but rationalists are like spiders: they spin threads  
out of themselves.

*Francis Bacon, Cogitata et Visa 1607*

# The Rationalists



**René Descartes**  
1596-1650



**Baruch Spinoza**  
1632-1677



**Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz**  
1646-1716

# Principles of Logic

1 *The Law of Identity*

$$A = A$$

2 *The Law of Non-Contradiction*

$$\neg(p \ \& \ \neg p)$$

3 *The Law of Excluded Middle*

$$p \vee \neg p$$

4 *The Principle of Sufficient Reason*

5 *The Identity of Indiscernibles*



# Baruch Spinoza

1632 – 1677

*Rationalism*

The elders of the congregation, having long known of the evil opinions and acts of Baruch de Spinoza, have endeavored by various means and promises to turn him from his evil ways. However, having failed to make him mend his wicked ways, and, on the contrary, daily receiving more and more serious information about the *abominable heresies* which he practised and taught and about his *monstrous deeds*... they became convinced of the truth of this matter... By decree of the angels and by the command of the holy men, we excommunicate, expel, curse and damn Baruch de Spinoza, with the consent of God, Blessed be He, and with the consent of the entire holy congregation, and in front of these holy scrolls with the 613 precepts which are written therein... Cursed be he by day and cursed be he by night; cursed be he when he lies down and cursed be he when he rises up. Cursed be he when he goes out and cursed be he when he comes in. The Lord will not spare him, but the anger of the Lord and his jealousy shall smoke against that man, and all the curses that are written in this book shall lie upon him, and the Lord shall blot out his name from under heaven... no one should communicate with him, not even in writing, nor accord him any favour nor stay with him under the same roof nor come within four cubits in his vicinity; nor shall he read any treatise composed or written by him...

# Tractatus Theologico-Politicus (1670)

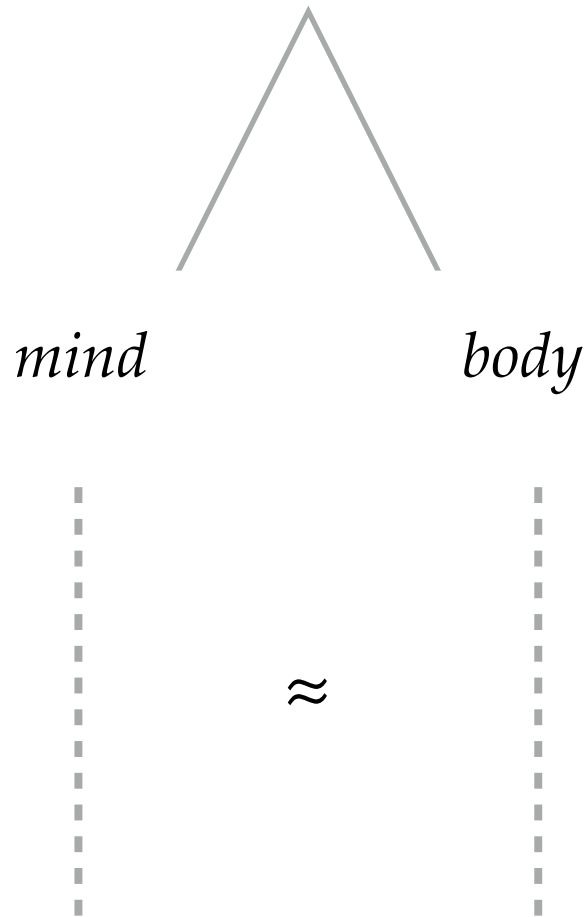
“The Word of God is faulty, mutilated, adulterated and inconsistent, and we possess it only in fragmentary form.”

*Tractatus* ch. 12

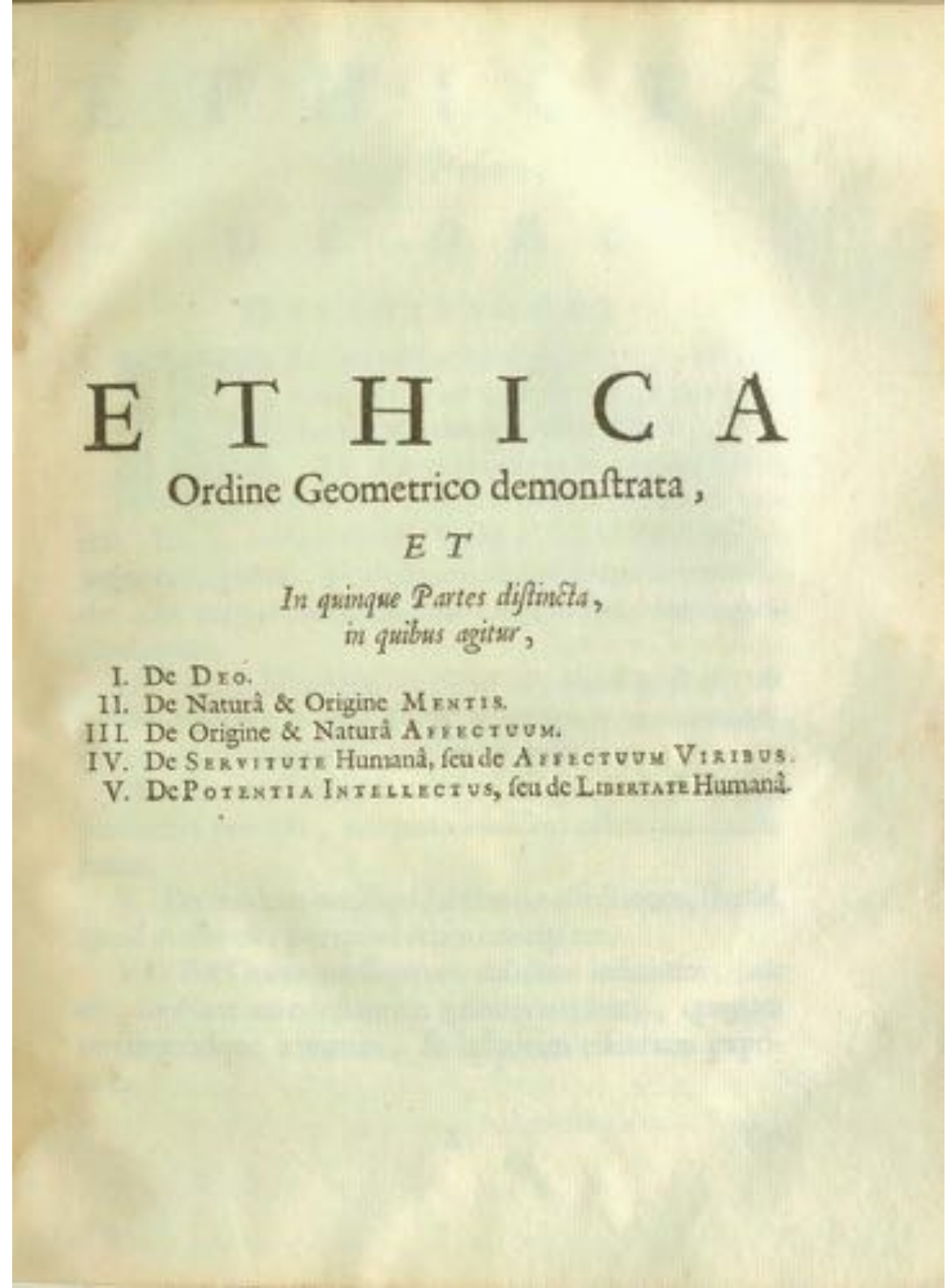
“A book forged in hell by a renegade Jew and the Devil.”

Council of Amsterdam

*“deus sive natura”*



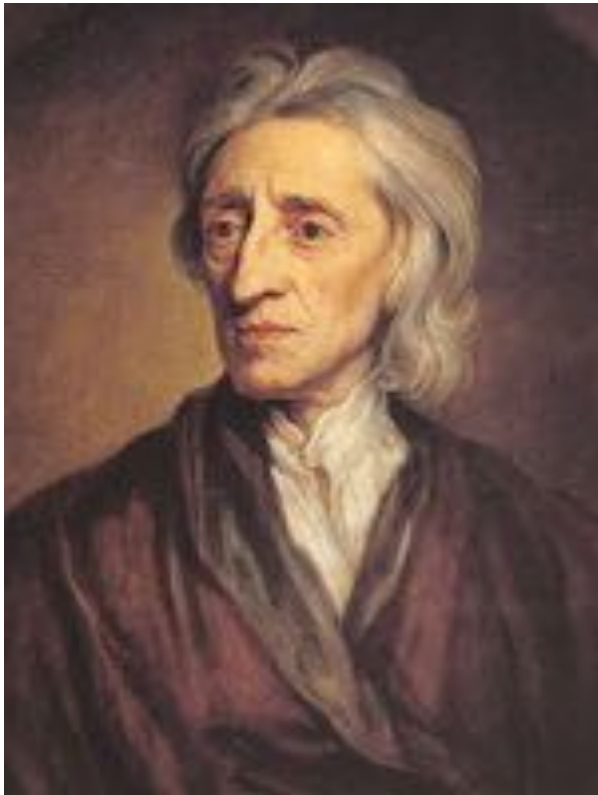
Double-aspect theory



The noblest and most lovable of the great philosophers  
... ethically he is supreme.

*Bertrand Russell*, A History of Western Philosophy 521

# The Empiricists



**John Locke**  
1632-1704



**George Berkeley**  
1685-1753



**David Hume**  
1711-1776



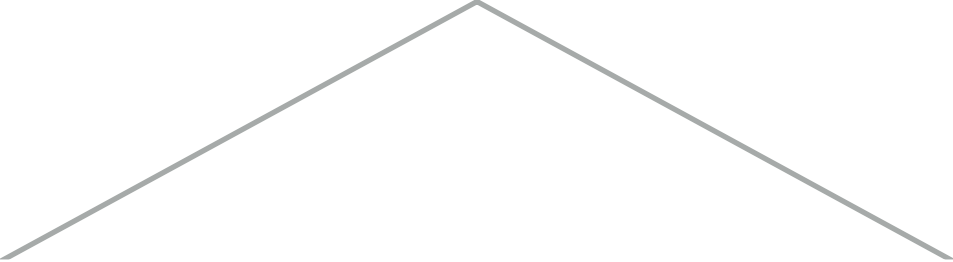
# David Hume

1711 – 1776

*Empiricism*

# Hume's Fork

‘all the objects of human reason or enquiry’



*relations of ideas*

analytic  
*a priori*

*matters of fact*

synthetic  
*a posteriori*

If we take in our hand any volume; of divinity or school metaphysics, for instance; let us ask, *Does it contain any abstract reasoning concerning quantity or number?* No. *Does it contain any experimental reasoning concerning matter of fact and existence?* No. Commit it then to the flames: for it can contain nothing but sophistry and illusion.

*Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding §132*

... no testimony is sufficient to establish a miracle,  
unless the testimony be of such a kind, that its  
falsehood would be more miraculous, than the fact  
which it endeavours to establish.

*Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding §91*

In a word, Cleanthes, a man who follows your hypothesis is able perhaps to assert, or conjecture, that the universe, sometime, arose from something like design: but *beyond that position he cannot ascertain one single circumstance...*

Many worlds might have been botched and bungled, throughout an eternity, ere this system was struck out... why may not several deities combine in contriving and framing a world? This is only so much greater similarity to human affairs... This world, for aught he knows, is very faulty and imperfect, compared to a superior standard; and was only the first rude essay of some infant deity, who afterwards abandoned it, ashamed of his lame performance: it is the work only of some dependent, inferior deity; and is the object of derision to his superiors: it is the production of old age and dotage in some superannuated deity; and ever since his death, has run on at adventures, from the first impulse and active force which it received from him.

*Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion 5*

It was my recollection of the thought of David Hume that broke into my dogmatic slumber, and pointed my work in speculative philosophy in a completely new direction...

Immanuel Kant, *Prolegomena* Preface



Immanuel Kant

1724 – 1804

*The modern mind*

It was my recollection of the thought of David Hume that broke into my dogmatic slumber, and pointed my work in speculative philosophy in a completely new direction.

Immanuel Kant, *Prolegomena* Preface

### **The First Antinomy (of Space and Time)**

The world has a beginning in time, and is also limited as regards space.

The world has no beginning, and no limits in space.

### **The Second Antinomy (of Atomism)**

Every composite substance in the world is made up of simple parts.

No composite thing in the world is made up of simple parts.

### **The Third Antinomy (of Spontaneity and Causal Determinism)**

Causality in accordance with laws of nature is not the only causality.

Everything in the world takes place solely in accordance with laws of nature.

### **The Fourth Antinomy (of Necessary Being or Not)**

There belongs to the world, either as its part or as its cause, a being that is absolutely necessary.

An absolutely necessary being nowhere exists in the world, nor does it exist outside the world as its cause.

# Phenomenon & Noumenon

|                 | Ideas                                                                  | The World         |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Locke</i>    | Secondary qualities                                                    | Primary qualities |
| <i>Berkeley</i> | Primary qualities<br>Secondary qualities                               | (God)             |
| <i>Hume</i>     | Causality                                                              | ?                 |
| <i>Kant</i>     | Primary qualities<br>Secondary qualities<br>Causality<br>Space<br>Time | Noumenon          |

## **1. Quantity**

unity

plurality

totality

## **2. Quality**

reality

negation

limitation

## **3. Relation**

substance

causality

reciprocity

## **4. Modality**

possibility

existence

necessity

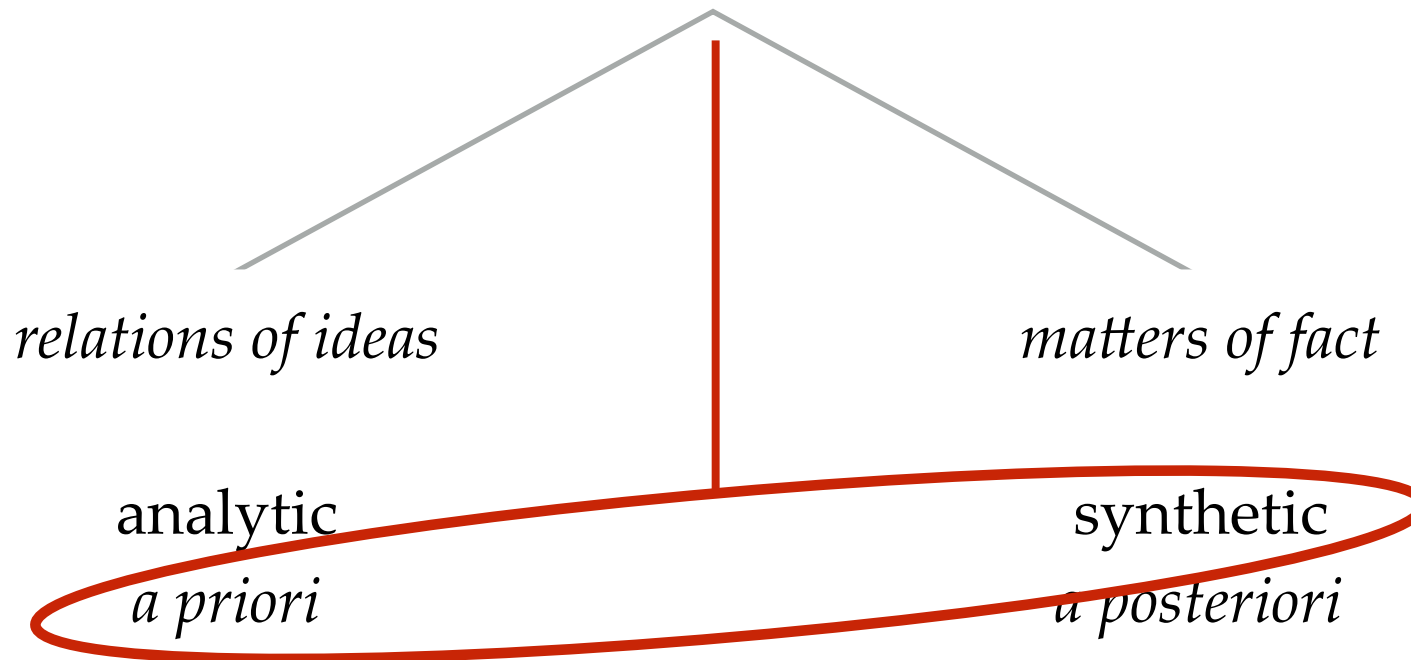
Thoughts without content are empty,  
intuitions without concepts are blind.

*Critique of Pure Reason 86*

# ~~Hume's Fork~~

## *Synthetic a priori*

‘all the objects of human reason or enquiry’



So the Humean problem is completely solved, though in a way that would have surprised its inventor... instead of the concepts (of the understanding) being derived from experience, that experience is derived from them.

*Prolegomena* §30

I had to deny knowledge to make room for faith.

*Critique of Pure Reason B xxx*

Arthur Schopenhauer  
*1788 – 1860*





# Friedrich Nietzsche

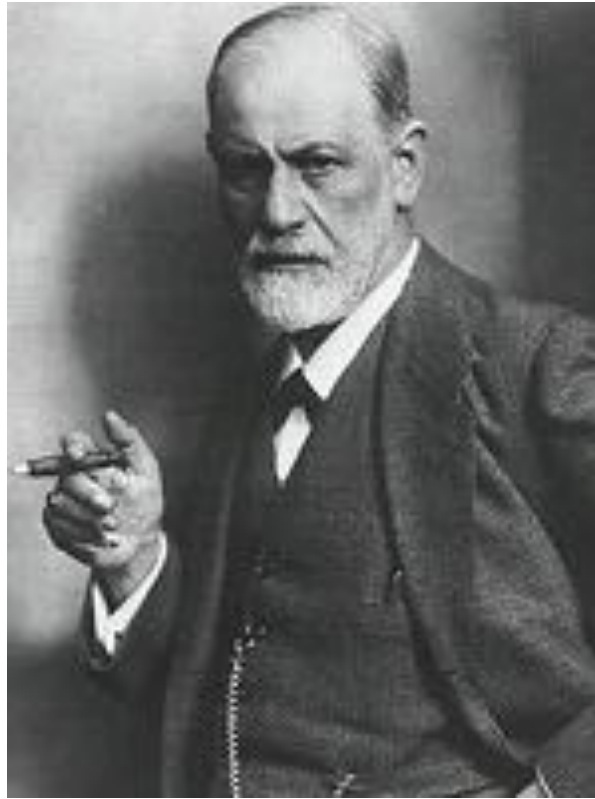
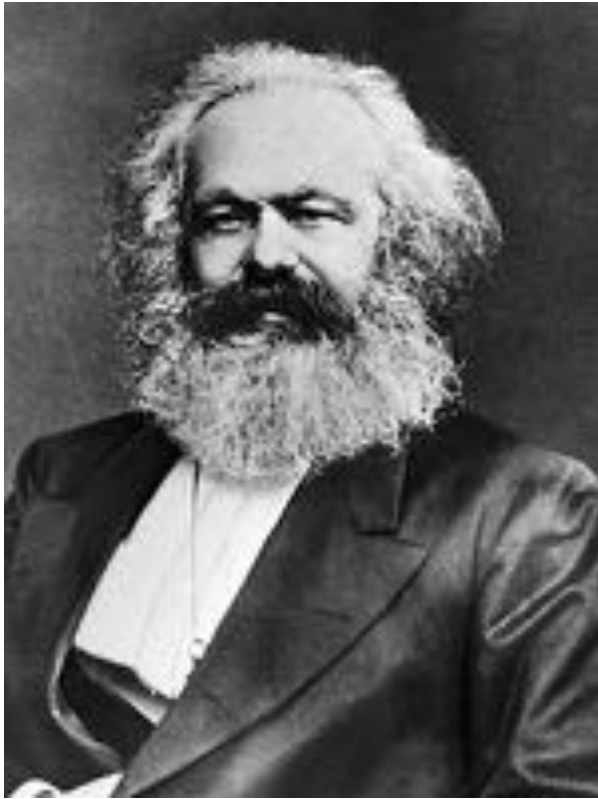
1844 – 1900

*The postmodern mind*



Michel Foucault

1926 – 1984



The masters of the hermeneutics of suspicion.

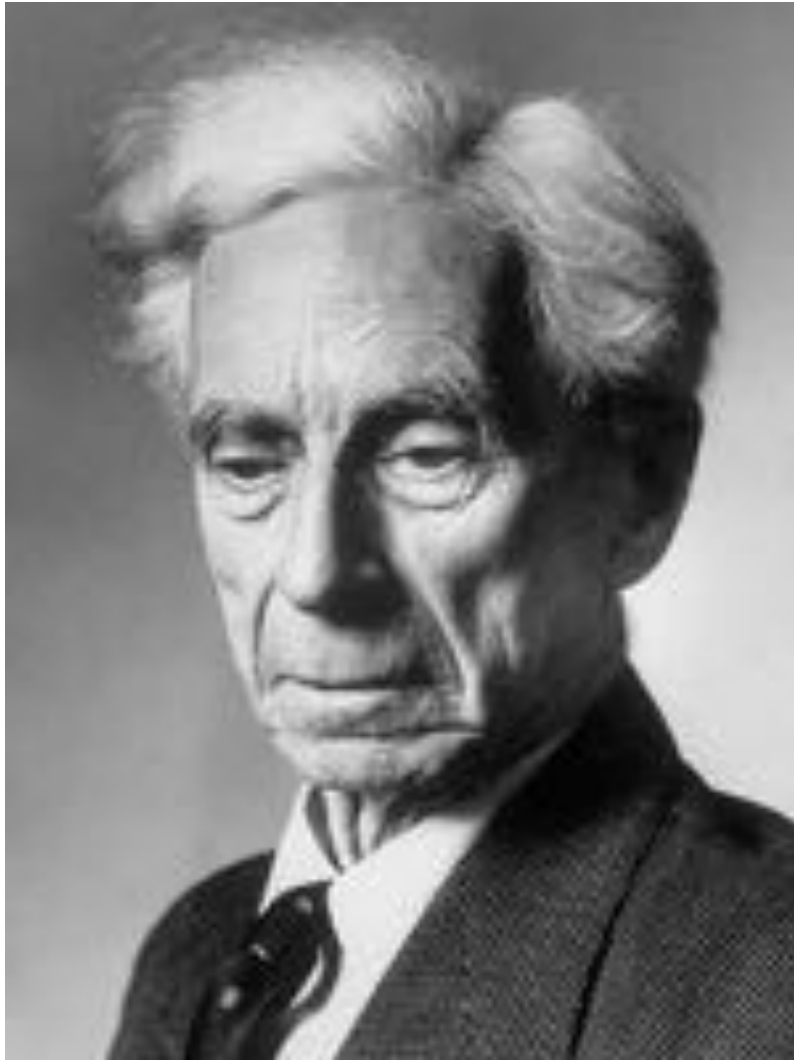
Paul Ricoeur

The consensus is decisive: the world is in some essential sense a construct. Human knowledge is radically interpretive. There are no perspective-independent facts. Every act of perception and cognition is contingent, mediated, situated, contextual, theory-soaked. Human language cannot establish its ground in an independent reality. Meaning is rendered by the mind and cannot be assumed to inhere in the object, in the world beyond the mind, for that world can never be contacted without having already been saturated by the mind's own nature.

Richard Tarnas *The Passion of the Western Mind* 418f

Philosophy is a battle against the bewitchment of our intelligence by means of language.

Wittgenstein, *Philosophical Investigations* §109



Bertrand Russell

1872 – 1970

“Who did you pass on the road?”  
the King went on, holding out his  
hand to the Messenger for some  
more hay.

“Nobody,” said the Messenger.

“Quite right,” said the King: “this  
young lady saw him too. So of  
course Nobody walks slower than  
you.”

“I do my best,” the Messenger said in a sulky tone. “I’m sure nobody  
walks much faster than I do!”

“He can’t do that,” said the King, “or else he’d have been here first.”



Lewis Carroll *Through the Looking Glass*

“The King of France is bald”

*The F is G*

$\exists x (Fx \ \& \ \forall y (Fy \rightarrow x=y) \ \& \ Gx)$

*There is an F*

*There is only one F*

*That F is G*



Ludwig Wittgenstein  
1889 – 1951

*The linguistic turn*

What we cannot speak about we must pass over  
in silence.

Wittgenstein, *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus* §7

‘Forms of Life’  $\longleftrightarrow$  ‘Language games’

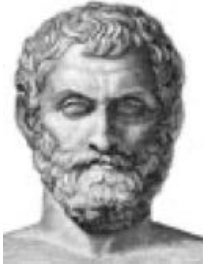
# Ancient

# Medieval

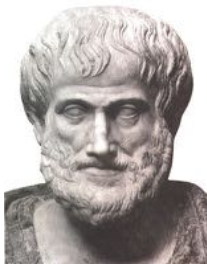
600BCE

400CE

1400



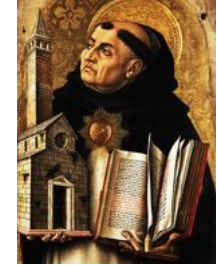
Thales



Aristotle



Augustine



Aquinas

*metaphysics*

*ethics*

*religion*

*epistemology*

*logic/language*



Spinoza



Hume



Kant



Nietzsche



Wittgenstein

1400

1900

2000

# Modern

# Contemporary