

At the turn of the century

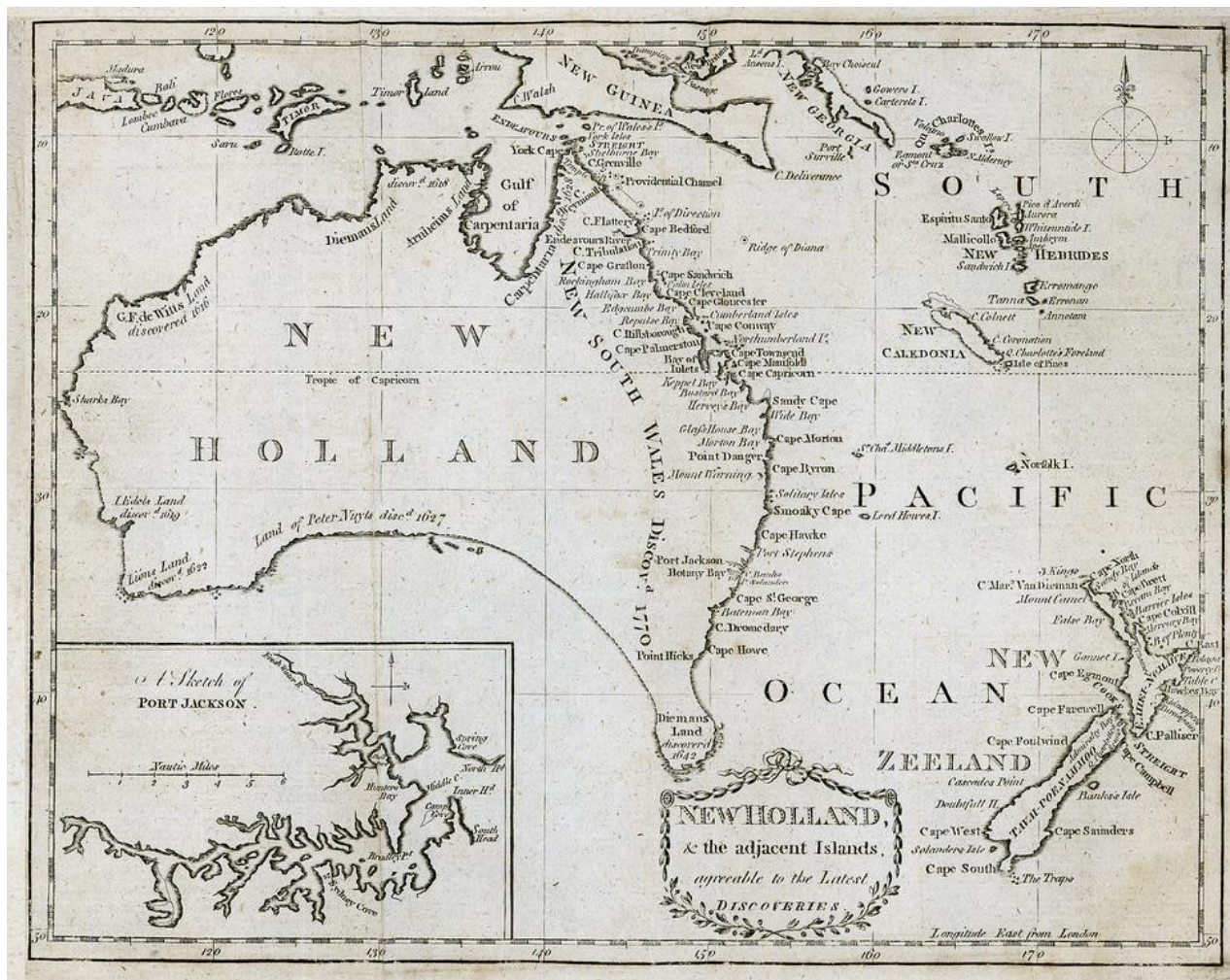
From Victorianism to Modernism

Key events...

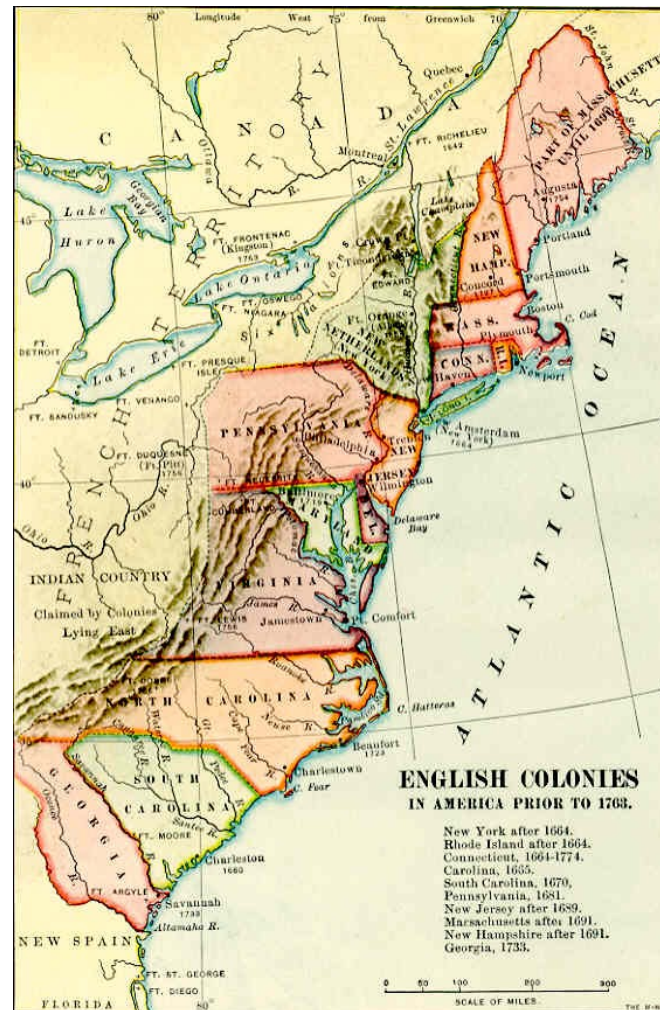
a map of the British Empire in 1900



Australia, 1790



Colonial America (before 1763)



Queen Victoria

1876: empress of India



Indian Mutiny, 1857



Africa, 1912



«When I was a little chap I had a passion for maps... At that time there were many blank spaces on the earth, and when I saw one that looked particularly inviting on a map (but they all look that) I would put my finger on it and say, 'When I grow up I will go there'...[but] it had got filled since my boyhood with rivers and lakes and names. I had ceased to be a blank space of delightful mystery – a white patch for a boy to dream gloriously over. It had become a place of darkness.» (J.Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*, 1902)

Thomas Edison's first lightbulb (1879)









Pablo Picasso, La Vénus du gaz



Bamana Chi-Wara,
Mali art, early 20° century



Home Insurance Building, Chicago, 1890



Home Insurance Building, northeast corner, 1890

Coney Island (amusement park: 1897)

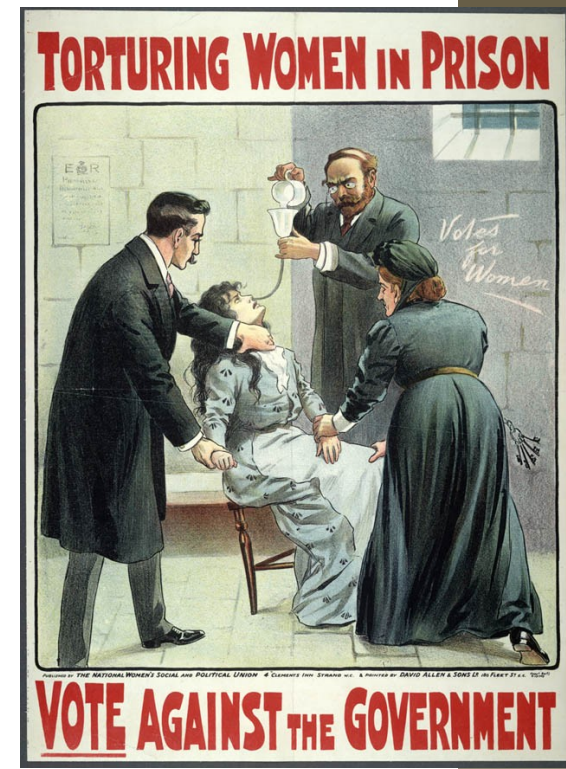
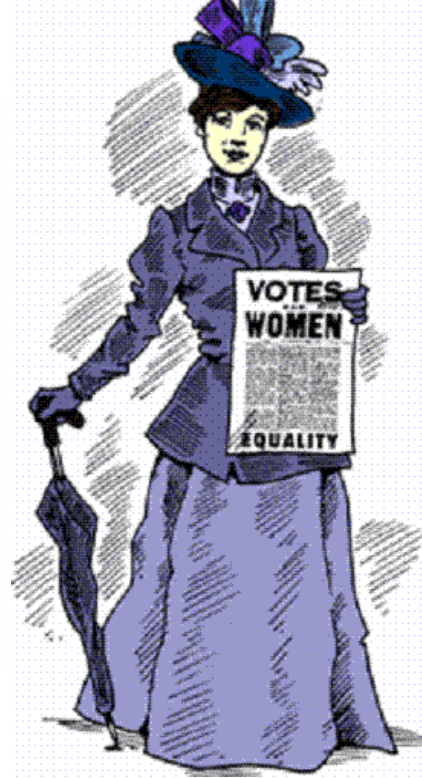


Marcel Duchamp to Costantin Brancusi
(1912): «Painting is finished. Who can do
anything better than this propeller? Can
you?»



U. Balla, 1913-14





Emily Wilding Davison (1872-1913)



John Singer Sargent, *Mr. and Mrs. I. N. Phelps*
ps
Stokes, 1897



The «Gibson girl»

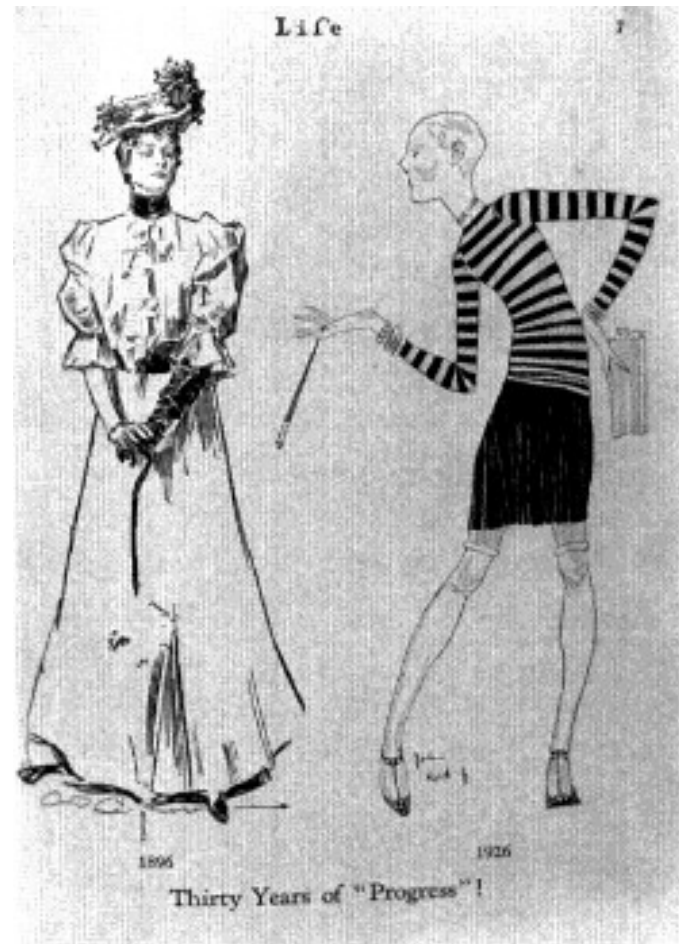
«Eternal question», 1901



Evelyn Nesbit - Gibson Girl



"Thirty Years of Progress," drawing for Life magazine featuring the Gibson girl of 1896 and the Held flapper of 1926.



H. Bergson, *An Introduction to Metaphysics* (1903)

“I cannot escape the objection that there is no state of mind, however simple, that does not change every moment”

Devil's music...

- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qaz4Ziw_CfQ

Mamie Smith and the Jazz Hounds (1920s)



«here time turns into space»

Wagner, *Parcival*, 1882

**> turn of the century:
story of a sea change
and of a crisis**

Einstein, *Special Theory of Relativity*, 1905

J. Keats, Ode on a Grecian Urn (1819, vv.49-50)

«Beauty is truth, truth beauty – that is all

You know on earth and all you need to know»

Oscar Wilde, The Decay of Lying (1899)

«What we have to do... is to revive this old art of Lying... All bad art comes from returning to Life and Nature, and elevating them into ideals... The moment Art surrenders its imaginative medium, it surrenders everything. As a method Realism is a complete failure.»

O. Wilde (1854-1900)

The Harlot's House (1885)

We caught the tread of dancing feet,
We loitered down the moonlit street,
And stopped beneath the harlot's house.

Inside, above the din and fray,
We heard the loud musicians play
The "Treues Liebes Herz" of Strauss.

Like strange mechanical grotesques,
Making fantastic arabesques,
The shadows raced across the blind.

We watched the ghostly dancers spin
To sound of horn and violin,
Like black leaves wheeling in the wind.

Like wire-pulled automatons,
Slim silhouetted skeletons
Went sidling through the slow quadrille.

They took each other by the hand,
And danced a stately saraband;
Their laughter echoed thin and shrill.

Sometimes a clockwork puppet pressed
A phantom lover to her breast,
Sometimes they seemed to try to sing.

Sometimes a horrible marionette
Came out, and smoked its cigarette
Upon the steps like a live thing.

Then, turning to my love, I said,
"The dead are dancing with the dead,
The dust is whirling with the dust."

But she--she heard the violin,
And left my side, and entered in:
Love passed into the house of Lust.

Then suddenly the tune went false,
The shadows wearied of the waltz,
The shadows ceased to wheel and whirl.

And down the long and silent street,
The dawn, with silver-sandalled feet,
Crept like a frightened girl.

O. Wilde, *The Ballad of Reading Gaol*

France-Naples: 1897

published 1898, Smithers - author: C.3.3.

Dedicated to “C.T.W.” (Charles Thomas Wooldridge)

O. Wilde, *The Ballad of Reading Gaol*

Ballad :

- iambic tetrameter (♩ - 4 feet)

+

- iambic trimeter (♩ - 3 feet)

- A b c b (d b)

Famous songs in ballad meter:

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound.

That saved a wretch like me

I once was lost, but now I am found.

Was blind but now I see.

(Amazing Grace)

Famous songs in ballad meter:

There is a house in New Orleans

They call the Rising Sun.

It's been the ruin of many a poor girl,

And me, O God, I'm one.

(House of the Rising Sun)

Famous songs in ballad meter:

I want to know what love is

I want you to show me

...

(Foreigners, *I want to know...*, 1984)

OW (1876)



OW (1883)

