The Times—1850 to WWI

- The world was on the move across borders. This included the great migrations to America and social unrest within borders.

- Science expanded: Planck, Einstein, Roentgen, Mendel.

- Thought: Nietzsche and Freud

- In the arts, there was the argument of functionalism vs. aestheticism: Does art have to have a purpose or is it enough that it is?
Cities were growing horribly with garbage, illness, death, and poverty.

The banking system was as chaotic as life in general.

Cities of leisure produced suburbs for industry and people.

The Gilded Age, robber barons, ostentatious behavior of a very few rich and poverty for the masses.
THE NEW REALISM

• Realism covered the middle years of the 19th century.

• Adam Smith and less government control

• Marxism: Marx and Engel + Hegel = dialectical process

• Communism developed in London, England due to the Industrial Revolution.
Literary Realism--England

Charles Dickens writes of the poor city dwellers of especially London’s Drury Lane.
Literary Realism--France

Honore de Balzac  
Gustave Flaubert
Slavery was the central issue for America during that time period. *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglas* was his autobiography of life as an American slave.

“You have seen how a man was made a slave; you shall see how a slave was made a man.”
It is interesting that the sermon/speech, “Ain't I a Woman?”, by Sojourner Truth doesn’t contain that phrase. It might have been added years latter by Frances Gage.

Regardless, it was a powerful speech on equality of women …whether black or white.

Oliver Gilbert
Stowe was a social activist especially regarding slavery. She wrote *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* in 1852.

A decade later, she met with Lincoln in the White House, and he was alleged to have said, “...so you are the little woman who wrote the book that started this great war.”
Adventures of Huckleberry Finn was a Stephen Colbert-esque novel about slavery. Unfortunately, many missed the entire message.

Samuel Clemens aka Mark Twain
Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
(Tom Sawyer's Comrade)
by Mark Twain.
ILLUSTRATED.
Realist Art: The Worker as Subject

Lithography is essentially a process of engraving on stone or metal. Daumier mastered the art form.
Daumier *The Fugitives* 1868
Courbet  Woman with a Parrot 1866
Daguerre *Le Boulevard du Temple* 1838
Paul Delaroche was a French painter who said of the daguerreotype, “From now on, painting is dead!”

At one level, Delaroche was correct. However, what happened was that painting changed… enter Impressionism.
Brady’s vision of the Civil War
Tanner

*The Banjo Lesson*

1893
Tanner  *The Thankful Poor*  1894
In Pursuit of Modernity: Paris in the 1850-60s

Edouard Manet: The Painter of Modern Life

It was an age of painting everyday life of the everyday person in the modern city. He certainly was dissembling the bourgeoisie lifestyle.

Flaneur = a person observing life
Manet *Luncheon on the Grass* 1863
Manet
Café Concert
Manet *Le Bar aux Folies-Bergère*
Manet *Grand Canal*
Manet Street Flags
Manet *Olympia* 1865—a result of the American Civil War
Nationalism and the Politics of Opera

Nationalism and aristocracy became a part of art in Europe.
Verdi was into drama, spectacular, and realism in opera.
Verdi *Triumphal March of Aida*
Wagner was into was on the cutting edge and opulence.

He emphasized music over voice.
Wagner *Ride of the Valkyries* / William Maud’s painting
Impressionist Paris

• In 1874, Impressionism was named.

• Impressionism—concerned with subjectivity, realism of light, not camera pictures, fingers point to subject in realism and in impressionism light points to feelings or impressions.

• Looked for the *impression* at the very moment of sight

• The camera freed artists from competing with realism.
Manet was the inspiration for a group of artistic young Turks: Monet, Renoir, Caillebotte, Degas, Morisot.

However, note the similarities with the British painter Turner.
Monet’s Plein-Air Vision-- *open air* painting

Light was essential and the tubes of paint allowed them to paint outside with light. Monet attempted to stay away from the city and pollution. He moved to Argenteuil and finally to Giverny to avoid crowds. This gave him unimpaired light.

This can be seen in Monet’s interest in haystacks—trust me.
From 1888-91, Monet painted different haystacks—in different light.
Monet *Haystacks, At the End of Summer* 1890
Monet  *Wheat Stacks* 1890-91
Monet *Impression: Sunrise*  The first impressionistic painting.
Monet
La Rue Montorgueil, 30th June
1878
Monet

*Boulevard des Capucines*

1873
Monet Grand Channel 1908
Monet

Houses of Parliament

1904
Monet

*Water Lilies*
Monet Water Lilies and Clouds
Monet *Willows*
Monet Antibes, The Mountains of Esterel
Monet

The Japanese

Bridge

1905
Monet

Woman with a Parasol
Monet *In the 'Norvégienne'*
Monet Water Lilies
Morisot Summer’s Day 1879
Morisot  Manet and His Daughter at Bougival
Pissarro *The Road to Louveciennes*
Renoir and Degas liked the Parisian scene and crowds—as opposed to Monet, Morisot, and Pissarro.

Renoir suffered from arthritis. However, he said, “The pain passes, but the beauty remains.”
Renoir *Le Moulin de la Galette*
Renoir
Claude Monet Reading
1872
Renoir *Dance at Bougival* 1883
Renoir Claude Monet Painting in His Garden at Argenteuil
1873
Renoir
Renoir

Girls Reading
Renoir
Degas

The Star, or Dancer on the Stage
Degas
Degas - *Dancer When Lacing the Ballet Shoes Up*
Degas
Degas
Degas
Degas *Frieze of Dancers*
Degas
The Gilded Age in America

Central Park in New York attempted to bring sanity and culture to a crowded metropolis. Nevertheless, poverty ran rampant and as a consequence, social unrest resulted.
Rodin and his sculpture

*The Thinker*
Rodin

Gates of Hell

1879-1889
Rodin *Adam*
Rodin
Burgher of Calais
Rodin
Rodin Woman in a Red Hat
Rodin

The Kiss
Rodin