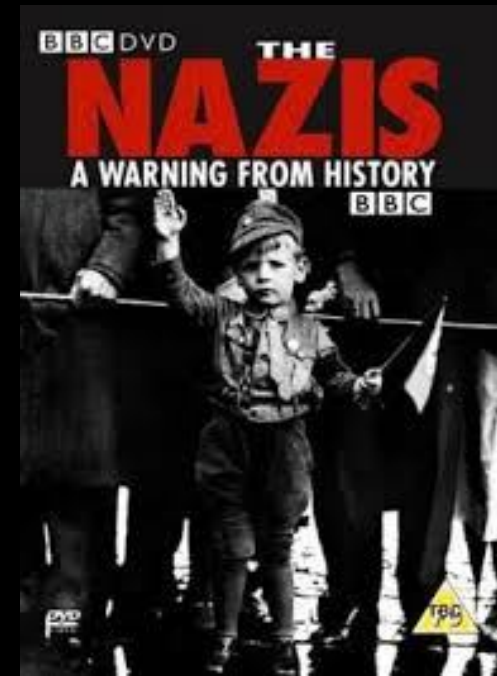


# The Rise of Modern Unbelief: From Tom Paine to the Nazis



**Tom Paine  
(1737-1809)**



# **Tom Paine in his historical context The Age of Reason**

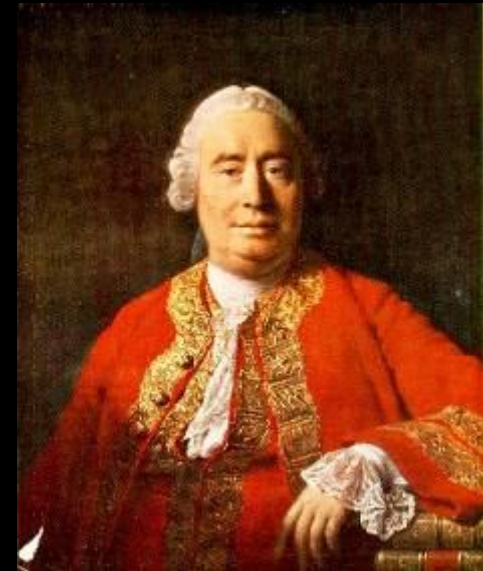


**Sans Souci, Potsdam (1745-1747)**  
**Frederick the Great - Friedrich der Grosse (1712-1786)**

# The European Enlightenment



**Frederick the Great  
Friedrich der Grosse  
(1712-1786)**



**David Hume  
(1711-1776)**



**Voltaire  
1694-1778**



**Catherine the Great  
(1729-1796)**

**Sophia Augusta Frederika of Anhalt-Zerbst**



# Friedrich the Great of Prussia (1712-1786)



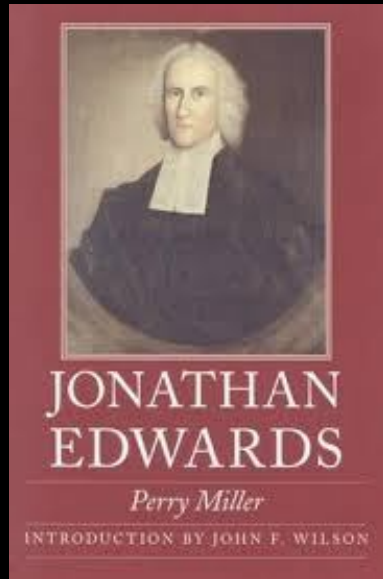
# Chinese Tea House - San Souci

## 1754-1756

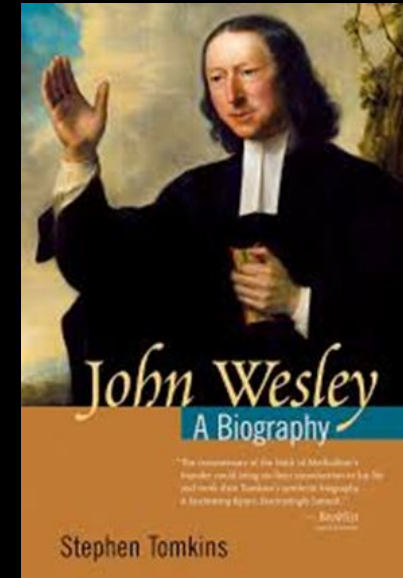




# The Christian Enlightenment



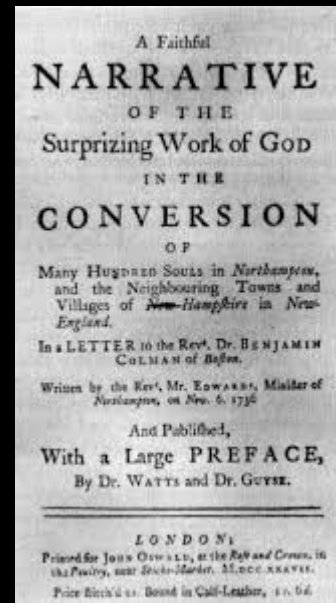
(1703-1758)



(1703-1791)



**William Wilberforce**  
(1759-1833)



**Hannah More**  
(1745-1833)

# Moses Mendelssohn and the Jewish Enlightenment



**Biblical Moses**



**Moses Maimonides  
(1135-1204)**



**Moses Mendelssohn  
(1729-1786)**

**“From Moses to Moses there is none like Moses”**

# Moses Mendelssohn's grand children

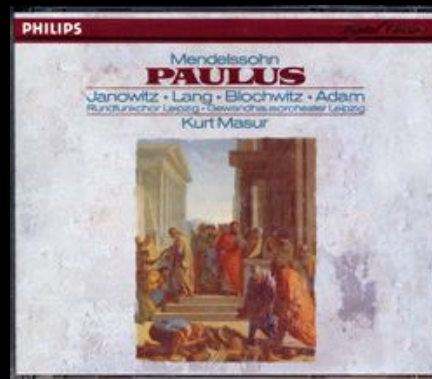
## All but one became Christians



**Friedhöfe am Halleschen Tor**



# Berlin's German Jews for Jesus



**Felix Mendelssohn**

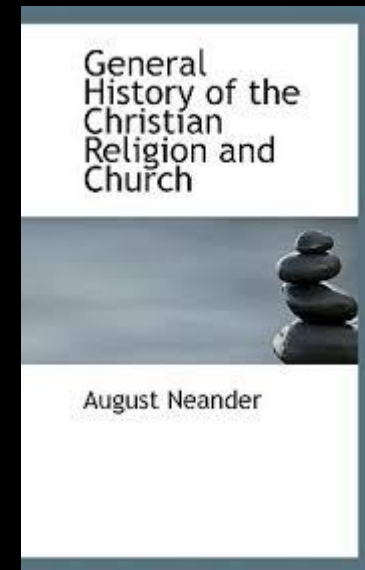
**Grandson of Moses Mendelssohn  
Nephew of Dorothea Schlegel  
(1809-1947)**

**Dorothea Schlegel**

**Daughter of Moses Mendelssohn  
(1763-1839)**

# Johan August Neander

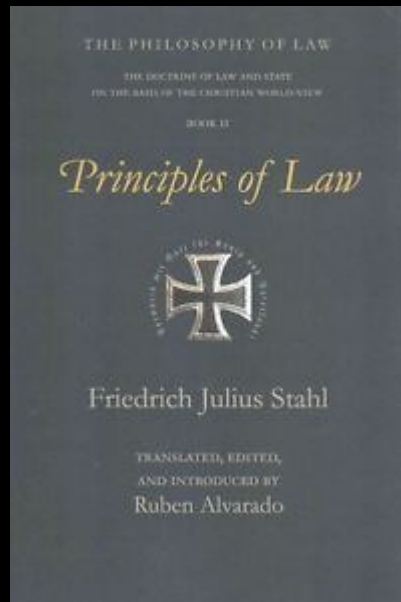
**Born - David Mendel - 1789-1850**



**Church Historian**  
**Founding member of the Berlin Missionary Society**  
**Friedhöfe am Halleschen Tor**



# Friedrich Julius Stahl - Born Joel Jolson (1802-1861)



**Alter St.-Matthäus-Kirchhof**

**Philosopher, Legal Theorist,  
Founding member of the Berlin Mission Society  
Successor to Hegel**

**Influenced Groen van Prinsterer (1801-1876) and Abraham Kuyper (1837-1920)**

# From the assimilation and conversion of Jews to Concentration Camps



**Once the Nazis came to power in 1933 many Jews and opponents of the Nazis were arrested, tortured, and killed, in places like Sachsenhausen concentration camp in Oranienburg near Berlin. It was built by the SA in May 1933.**



# Concentration Camps



**Later the SS established places like the Flossenbürg Concentration Camp which was built in May 1933. It is here that Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945) was executed on 9 April 1945. Many others died there.**

# A Europe wide problem



**The haunting Holocaust memorial in Budapest, Hungary which commemorates the six million Jews who died as a result of Nazi persecution. How did this come about?.**



# The rise of anti-Semitism



**Towards the end of the nineteenth century both assimilation and conversion came to a lingering end with the rise of anti-Semitism. The above statue shows the Captain Dreyfus who was an early victim of anti-Semitism in France.**

# What caused the change? Acceptance and conversion to genocide?

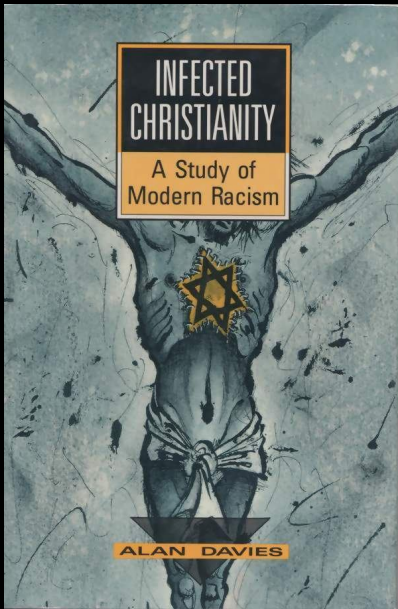
**Rabbi Solomon Schechter (1847-1915)**  
**Jewish Theological Seminary in New York**  
***Seminary addresses and other papers***  
**(New York, Arno Press, 1969, first edition, 1915).**



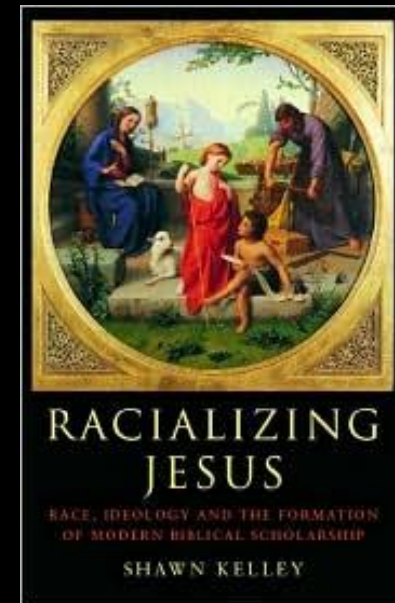
**“Higher Criticism – Higher anti-Semitism”**



# Not all Biblical scholarship is bad but we must be aware of the social construction of scholarship



**Alan Davies, *Infected Christianity: A Study of Modern Racism*, Kingston and Montreal, McGill-Queen's University Press, 1988.**



**Shawn Kelley, *Racializing Jesus: Race Ideology and the Formation of Modern Biblical Scholarship*, London and New York, Routledge, 2002.**

# Bob Dylan

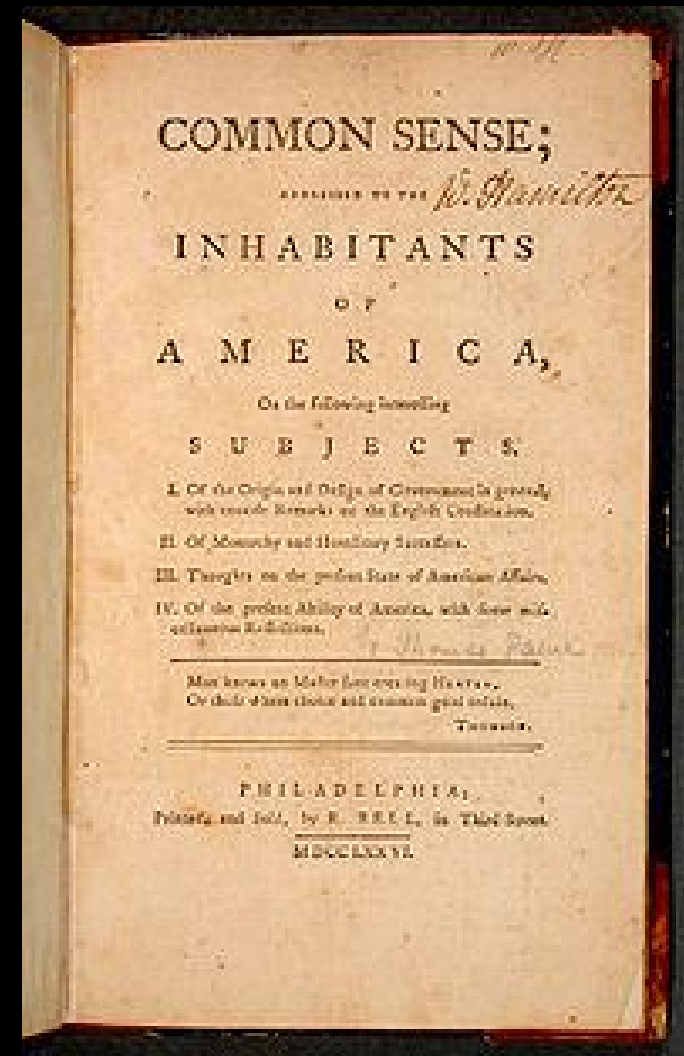
## *As I Went Out One Morning (1968)*



**As I went out one morning  
to breath the air around Tom Paine' ...  
Just then Tom Paine, himself,  
Came running across the field, ...  
Up Tom Paine did run,  
"I'm sorry, sir," he said to me,  
"I'm sorry for what she's done."**

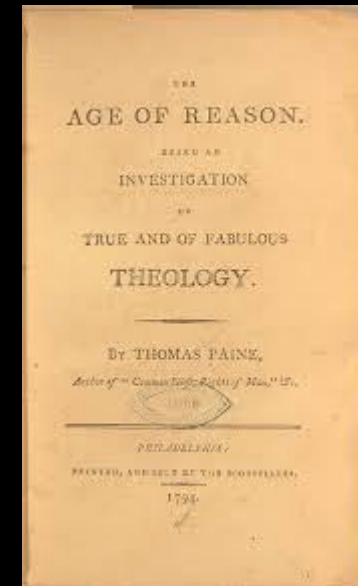
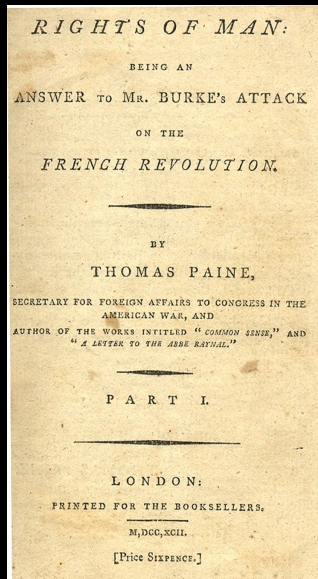
# Tom Paine (1737-1809)

Arrived in America 1774  
Published *Common Sense* (1775)  
It sold over 120,000 copies





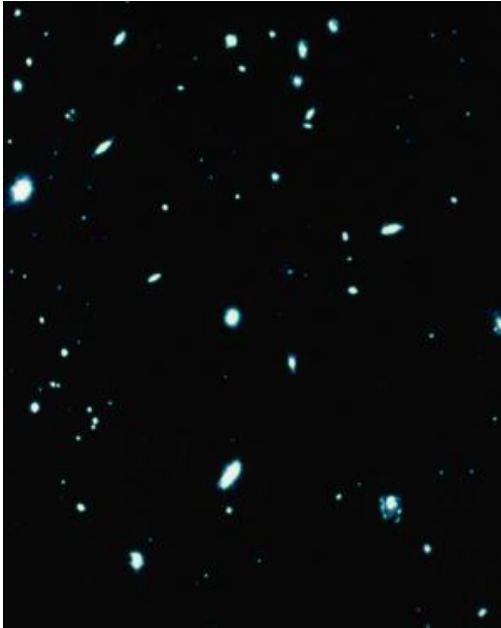
# Paine's other books



***The Rights of Man (1791-92),***

***The Age of Reason  
(Part I in 1794; and Part II in 1796)***

# Paine the Deist



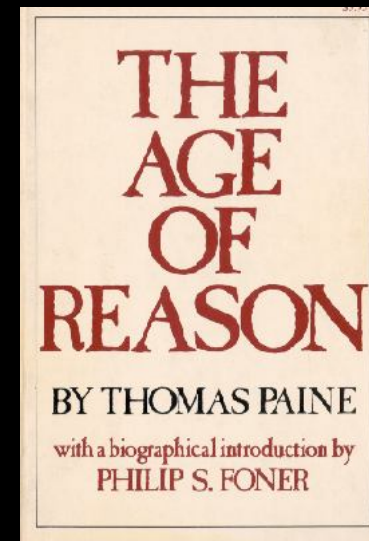
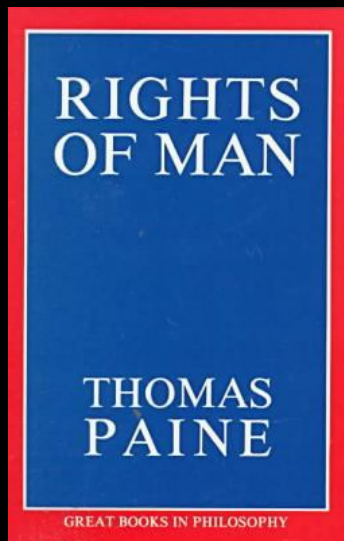
**Deism = belief in a clockmaker God**  
**An uninterested creator of the universe**



# Christianity as Atheism

**“As to the Christian system of faith, it appears to me as a species of atheism ... It professes to believe in a man rather than in God. It is a compound made up chiefly of manism with but little deism, and is as near to atheism as twilight is to darkness.”**

**Ludwig Feuerbach, *The Essence of Christianity* (New York, Harper and Row, 1957:29-30.)**



# Paine's Creed



**“... making their voluntary and individual profession of faith, I also will make mine ... I believe in one God, and no more; ...”**

**(Thomas Paine, *The Age of Reason*, Secaucus, Citadel Press, 1974:50).**

## I do not believe ...

**“... in the creed professed by the Jewish Church, by the Roman Church, by the Greek Church, by the Turkish Church, by the Protestant Church, nor by any church that I know of. My mind is my church.”**

**(Thomas Paine, *The Age of Reason*, Secaucus, Citadel Press, 1974:50)**





# Miracles

**“... unless we know the whole extent of those laws, and of what are commonly called the powers of nature, we are not able to judge whether anything that may appear to us wonderful or miraculous be within, or be beyond, or be contrary to, her natural power of acting...”**

**Thomas Paine, *The Age of Reason*, Secaucus, Citadel Press, 1974:93.**



# Paine's ethical criticism of miracles

**“A thing which everybody is required to believe, requires that the proof and evidence of it should be equal to all, ...”**

**Thomas Paine, *The Age of Reason*, Secaucus, Citadel Press, 1974:54)**

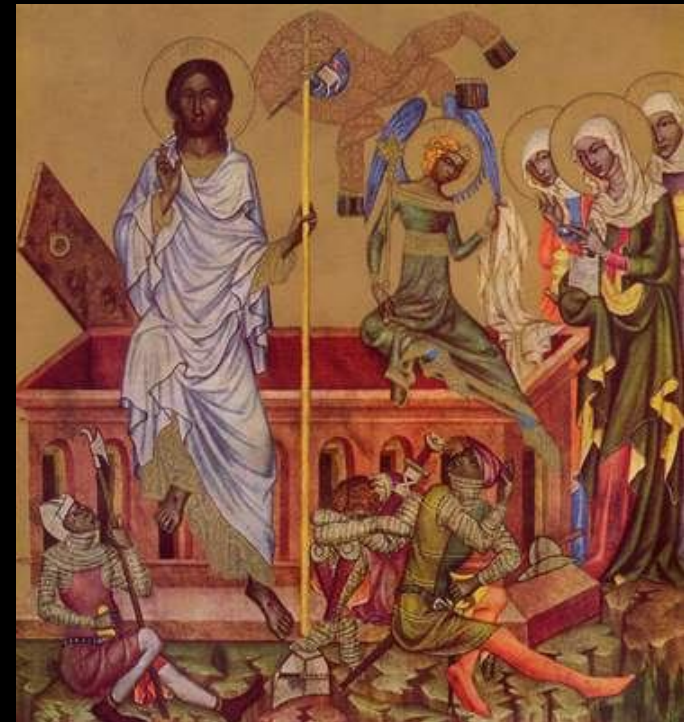


**Basilica di San Marco, Florence, Italy, 1440-1442**

# A miracle it must be a literary device

“... as to the account given of his resurrection and ascension, it was the necessary counterpart to the story of his birth ...”

Thomas Paine, *The Age of Reason*, Secaucus, Citadel Press, 1974:54.

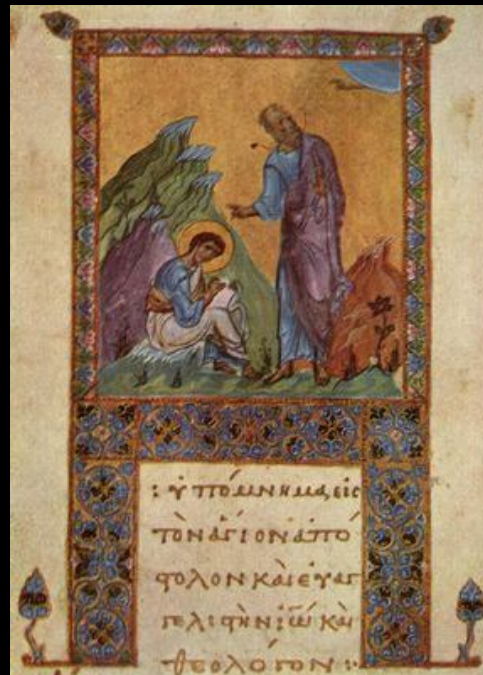




# The New Testament

**“Not a line of what is called the New Testament is of his writing ...”**

**Thomas Paine, *The Age of Reason*, Secaucus, Citadel Press, 1974:54**



# Old Testament Criticism

**“... five books of Moses, Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. My intention is to show that those books are spurious, and that Moses is not the author of them ...”**

**Thomas Paine, *The Age of Reason*, Secaucus, Citadel Press, 1974:106-107**



# Prophecy

**“... the Prophets, are works of the Jewish poets and itinerant preachers ...”**

**(Thomas Paine, *The Age of Reason*, Secaucus, Citadel Press, 1974:62)**

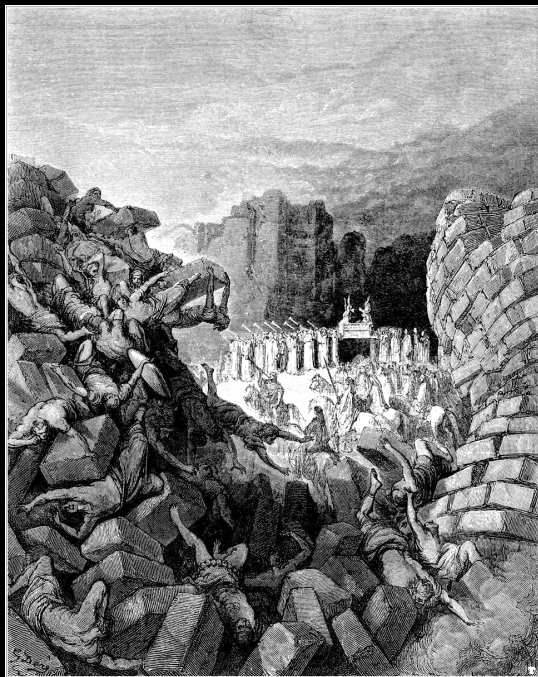




# Biblical Morality

**“It is a history of wickedness that has served to corrupt and brutalize mankind and for my part I detest everything that is cruel”**

**(Thomas Paine, *The Age of Reason*, Secaucus, Citadel Press, 1974:60-61; 114-115)**



**Battle of Jericho  
Joshua 5-7**

**Gustave Dore  
(1832-1883  
Bible Images**



**Samson  
Judges 14-16**

# Paine's Anti –Semitism

**“... the flattering appellation of *His chosen people* is no other than a *lie* which the priests and leaders of the Jews had invented to cover the baseness of their own characters, ...”**

**Thomas Paine, *The Age of Reason*, Secaucus, Citadel Press, 1974:125**



# The Jews and Gentiles

**“We know nothing of what the ancient Gentile world (as it is called) was before the time of the Jews ... But, as far as we know to the contrary, they were a just and moral people, and not addicted, like the Jews, to cruelty and revenge ...”**

**Thomas Paine, *The Age of Reason*, Secaucus, Citadel Press, 1974:135**



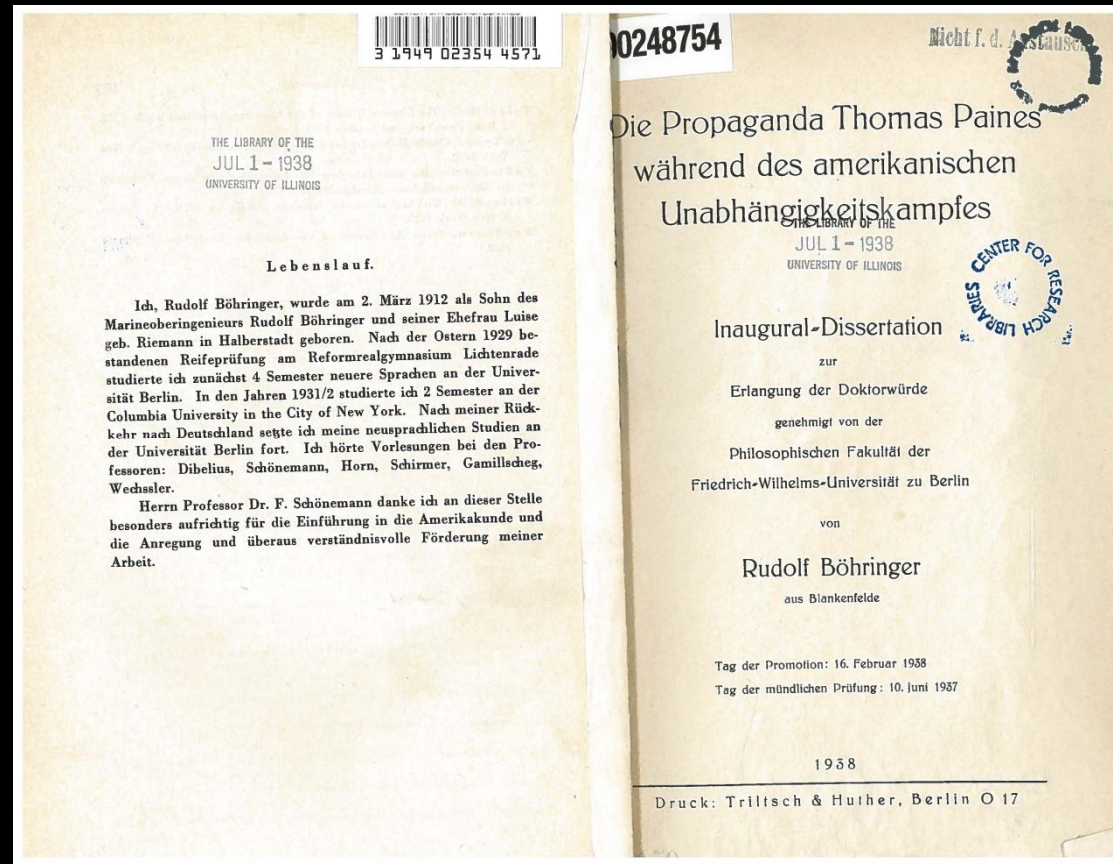


# Influence of Paine

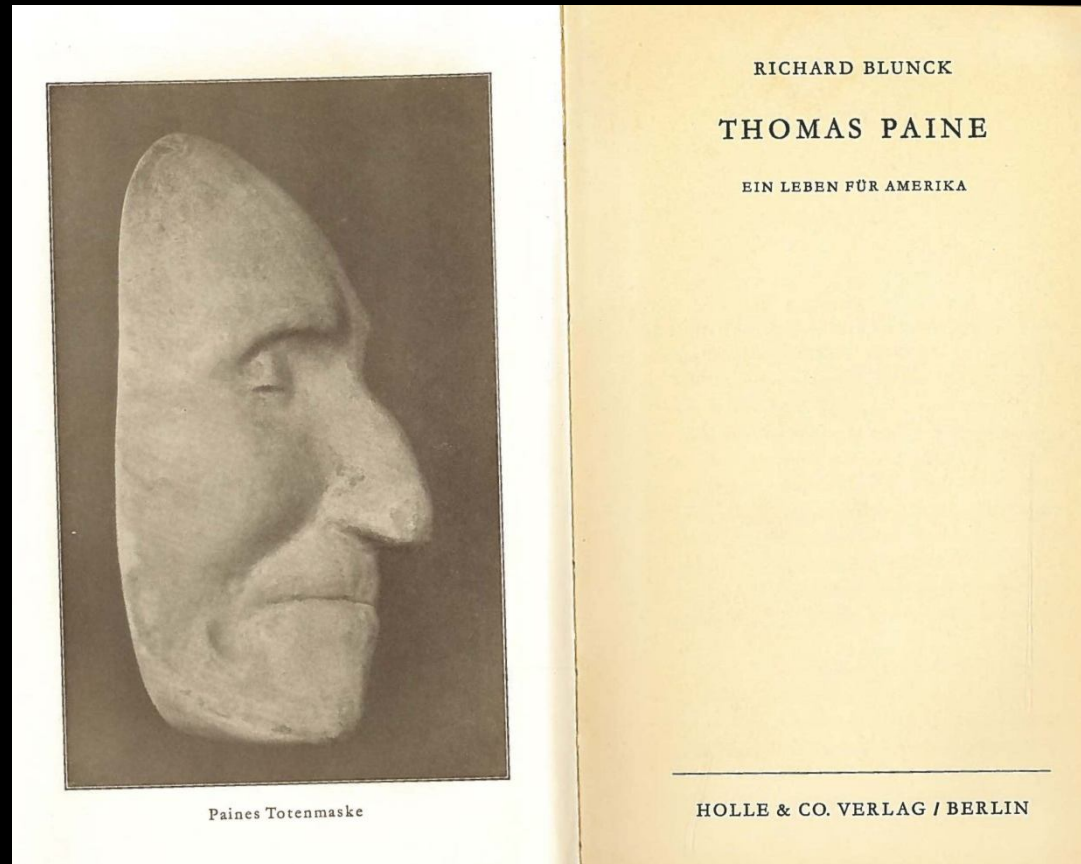
**Sociologist Susan Budd,  
“The Loss of Faith: Reasons for Unbelief among Members  
of the Secular Movement in England, 1850-1950,”  
*Past and Present*, 1967, No. 36, pp. 106-125.**



# Tom Paine's Afterlife



# Tom Paine and the Gestapo





# **Paine' influence on Ludwig Feuerbach**

**“... the famous America philosopher Tom Paine ...”**

***Sämtliche Werke*, Stuttgart, Günther Holzboog, Verlag,  
Vol. 8, p. 173.**

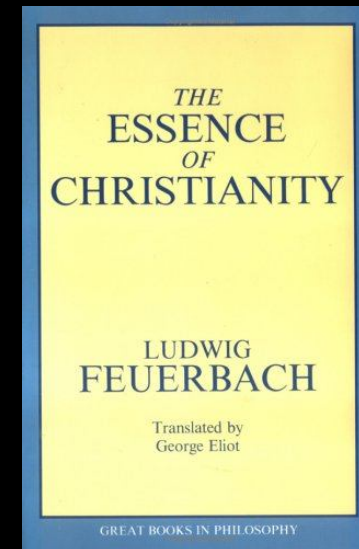
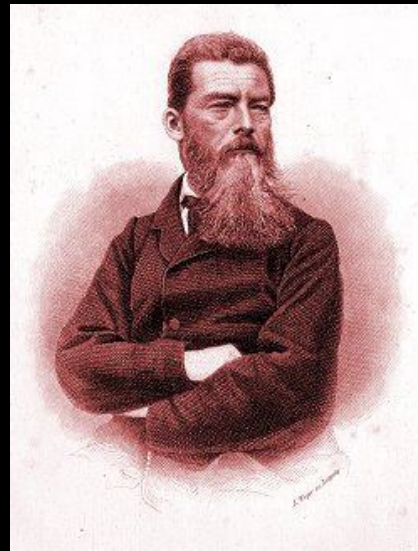
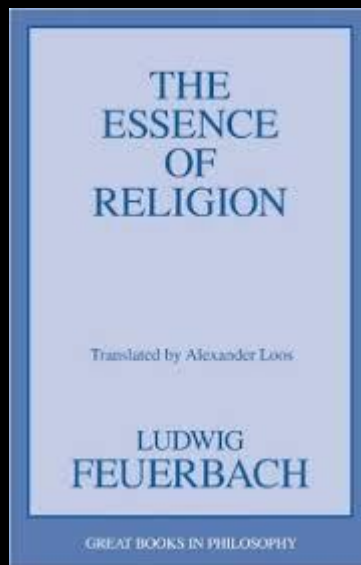


**Ludwig Feuerbach  
(1804-1872)**

# Feuerbach on Christianity

***“Man is the God of Christianity, Anthropology the mystery of Christian Theology. The history of Christianity has had for its grand result the unveiling of this mystery - the realisation and recognition of theology as anthropology”***

**(Ludwig Feuerbach, *The Essence of Christianity* (New York, Harper and Row, 1967:336 )**



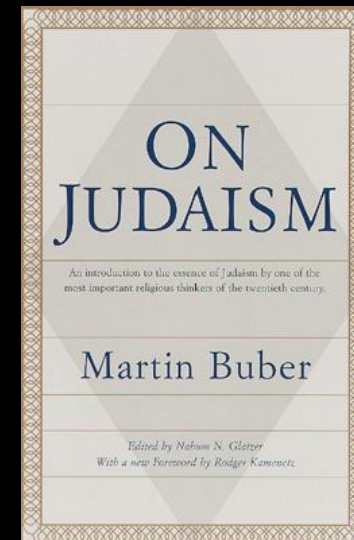
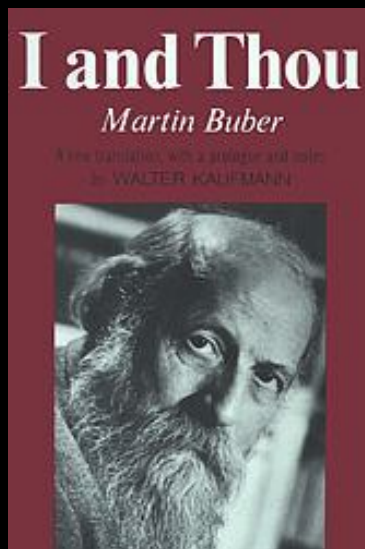
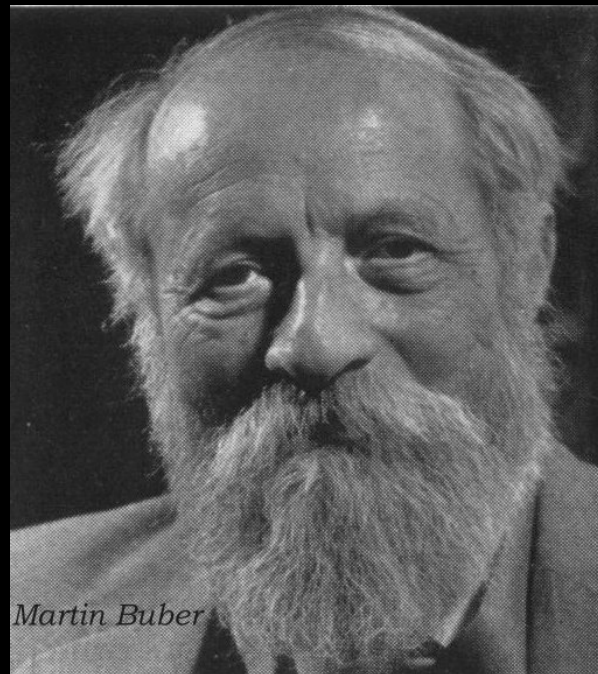
# **The source of knowledge**

**“The truth speaks to us, not from within our own preoccupied self, but from another. Only through communication, only through the conversation of man with man, do ideas arise ...”**

**<http://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/feuerbach/>**



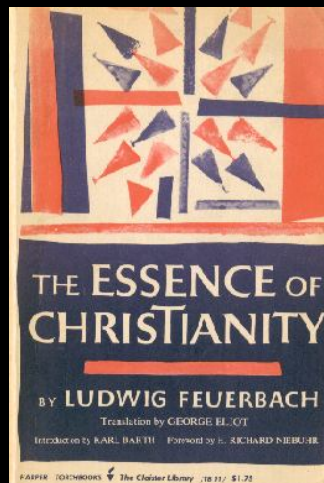
# Martin Buber (1878-1965)



# Religion as projection

**“Man – this is the mystery of religion – projects his being into objectivity, and then again makes himself an object thus converted into a subject; he thinks of himself as an object to himself but as the object of another being than himself. Thus here. Man is the object of god”**

**(Ludwig Feuerbach, *The Essence of Christianity* (New York, Harper and Roy, 1957:29-30.)**



# God as projection

Love – justice – mercy-power

Reason-kindness-fairness





# Resurrection

**“Man, at least in a state of ordinary well-being, has the wish not to die... But this wish involves the further wish for the certainty of its fulfilment. Reason can afford no such certainty... Such a certainty requires an immediate personal assurance, a practical demonstration ... the Resurrection is a realized wish ...”**

**(Ludwig Feuerbach, *The Essence of Christianity* (New York, Harper and Row, 1967:135-136))**





# Heaven ?



**“These ... fantastic desires ... find their fulfillment within the human race and in the course of human history ... Faith in a future life is therefore only faith in the *true* life of the present”**

**(Ludwig Feuerbach, *The Essence of Christianity* (New York, Harper and Row, 1981:181))**

# Positive Christianity

**“Faith does not limit itself by the idea of a world, a universe, a necessity. For faith there is nothing but God, limitless Subjectivity ... Faith does not limit itself by the idea of a world, a universe, a necessity. For faith there is nothing but God, limitless subjectivity ... which is not properly separable from the other elements of Christian belief, and with the renunciation of which, true, positive Christianity is renounced and denied ...”**

**“Miracle is an essential object of Christianity, and essential article of faith. But what is miracle? A supernaturalistic wish realised – nothing more.”**

(Ludwig Feuerbach, *The Essence of Christianity* (New York, Harper and Row, 1981:128-129)

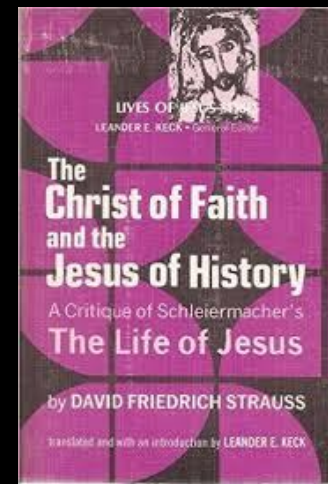
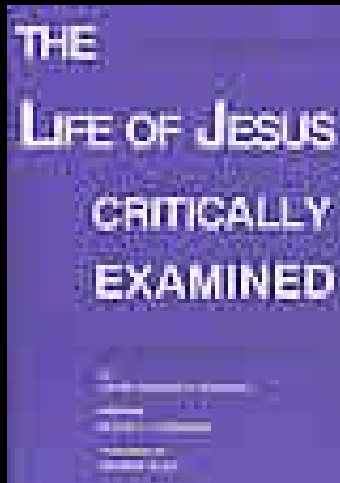
# Ancestral neo-Paganism

“... it is only natural” that men “should worship not nature in general but *the nature of this country*, for it is to *this* country alone that I owe my life and what I am. I myself am *not man as such* but *this particular, individual man*. I, for example, am a man who speaks and thinks in German ... my life is inseparably bound up with a specific soil, a specific climate ...”

(Ludwig Feuerbach, *The Essence of Religion*, (New York: Harper and Row, 1967:38-39).

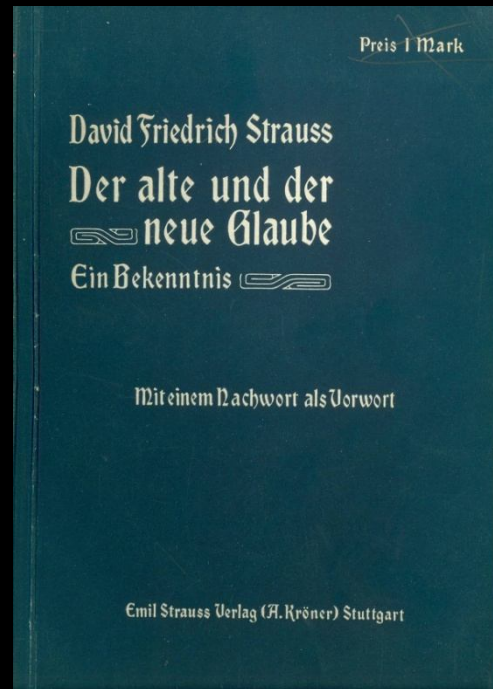
# David Friedrich Strauss

## (1808-1874)

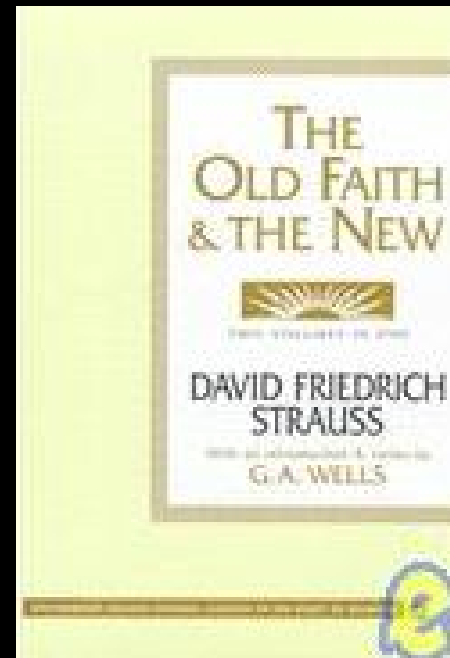




# Strauss' New Religion



(1872)



(1873)

# Strauss and Feuerbach

**“To this extent Feuerbach is right when he declares the origin, nay the true essence of religion to be the wish ...”**

**Immortality in one's people**

**Poets and music**

**The importance of one's land**

**(David Friedrich Strauss, *The Old Faith and the New*, New York, Henry Hold and Company, 1873:155. Translated by Mathilde Blind)**

# Ancestors and land

By our previous investigations we have severed ourselves from the Cosmic conception of ancient Christianity, inasmuch as that part of religion to which we still prefer a claim rests on a basis essentially different from the traditional religious ideas. Now the question is, what do we propose to put in the vacant place ?

For as man did not come forth from the hand of God, but arose from depths of Nature, his first estate was not paradisaical, but almost brutal.

“Schiller, nevertheless, knew and expressed it with the whole force of his sterling judgment, that the individual must ‘attach himself closely to his own native land,’ because here only lay ‘the strong roots of his energy’ ...”

(David Friedrich Strauss, *The Old Faith and the New*, London, Asher and Co, 1873:168, 262, 302)

# Chamberlain and Strauss

**“...the works of Darwin, however widespread they were, were not bought to one-tenth the extent of those of Strauss and Renan ...”**

"Strauss never had the least notion what a myth is, what mythology means, how it is produced by the confusion and mingling of popular myths, poetry and legends. That however is another story ... The progress of historico-critical research on the one hand, and on the other the increasing tendency to direct attention not to the theological and subordinate, but to that which is living and decisive, causes one to look upon the mythological standpoint of Strauss as so unintelligent that one cannot turn over the leaves of this honest man's writings without yawning. And yet one must admit that such men as he and Renan (two concave mirrors which distort all lines, the one by lengthening, the other by broadening) have accomplished an important work—by drawing the attention of thousands to the great miracle of the fact of Christ and thus creating a public for profounder thinkers and wiser men."

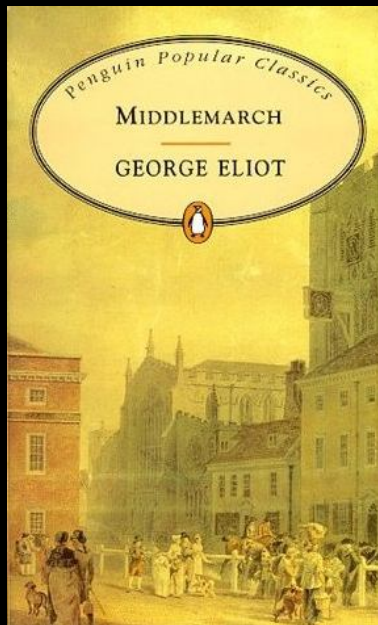
**(Chamberlain, *Foundations of the Nineteenth Century* Vol. 1:180-181)**

**Links Kant to Feuerbach who he is positive about**

**(Chamberlain, *Foundations of the Nineteenth Century* Vol. 2:442)**



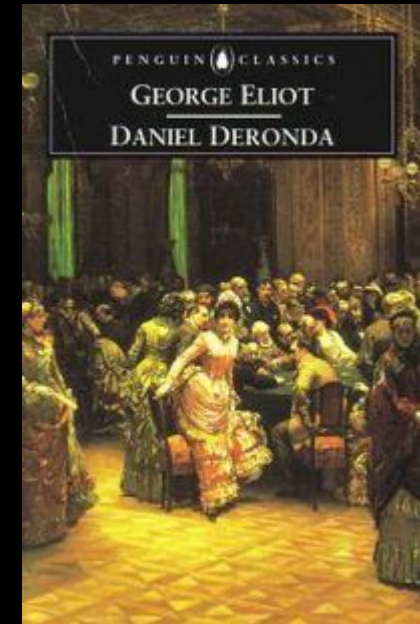
# Spreading the Message



**(1871-1872)**



**George Elliot  
(1819-1880)**

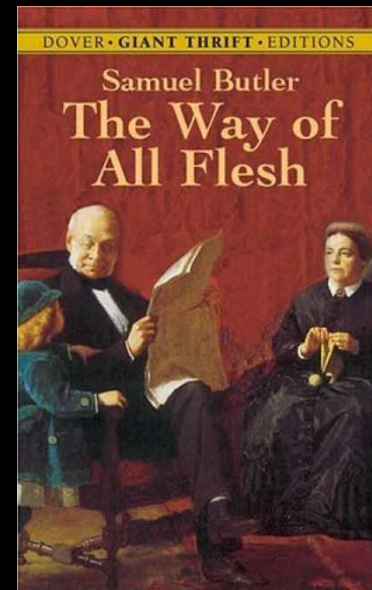


**(1876)**

# The message takes hold



Samuel Butler  
(1835-1902)



(1904)

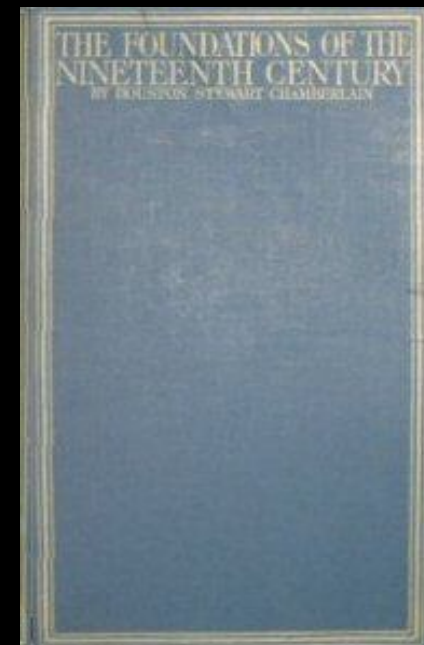
# ***The Foundations of the Nineteenth Century***



**1899**

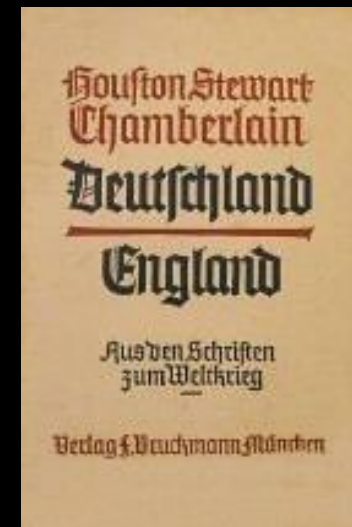
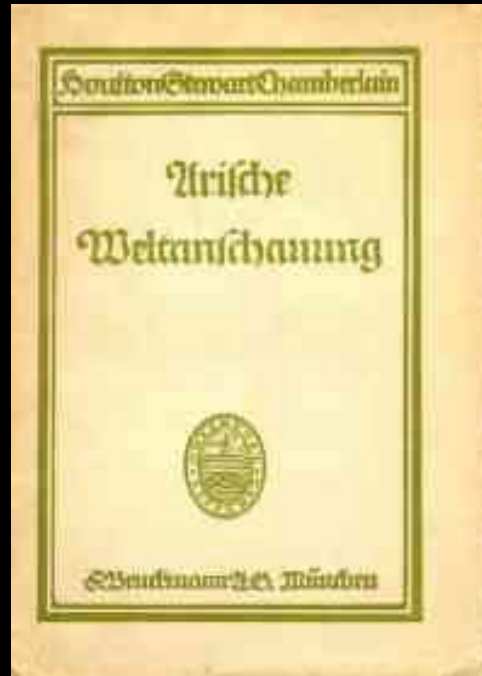
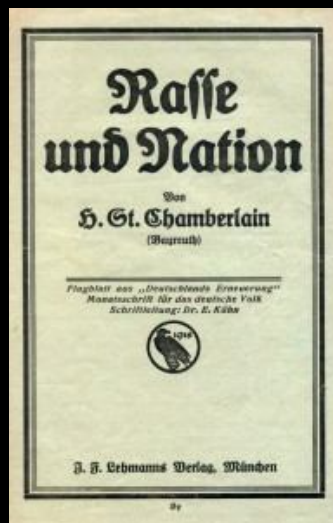


**Houston Stewart  
Chamberlain  
(1855-1927)  
Richard Wagner's son-in-law**



**1911**

# The Aryan Worldview





# Karl Marx (1818-1883)

**“For Germany the *criticism of religion* is in the main complete, and the criticism of religion is the premise of all criticism ... The basis of irreligious criticism is: *Man makes religion*, religion does not make man.”**



**What does Marx mean by this?**

**Is the criticism of religion also complete in America?**

**(Karl Marx, *Contribution to the Critique of Hegel's Philosophy of Right*, 1844. In K. Marx and F. Engels, *On Religion*, Moscow, Foreign Languages Publishing House, 1955:41)**

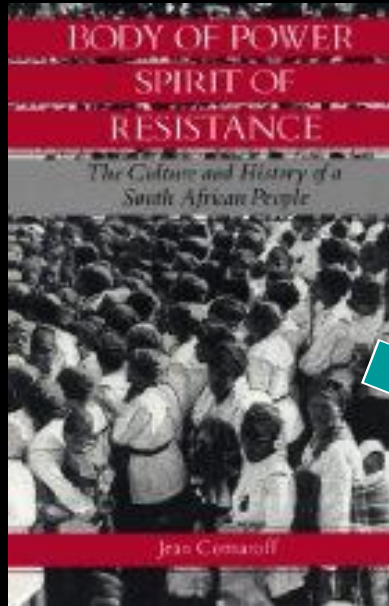
# The Collapse of Marxist States



## The Berlin Wall 1961-1989

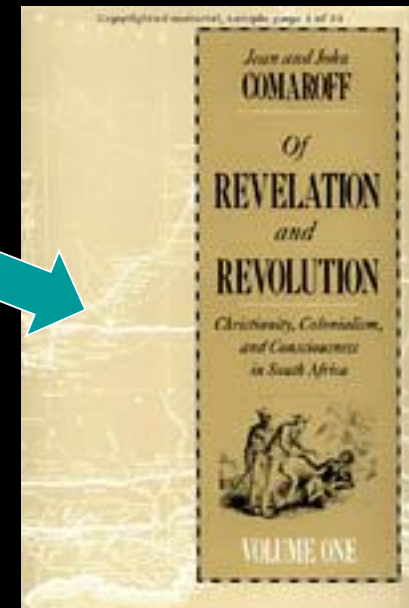


# Degeneration of Marxism



**Marxist**

**Jean Comaroff**

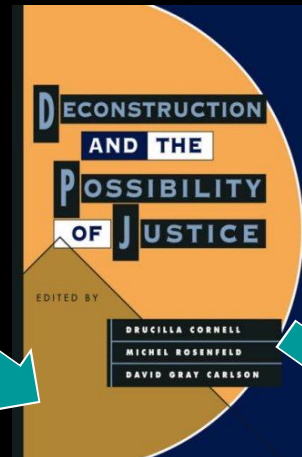


**Deconstruction**

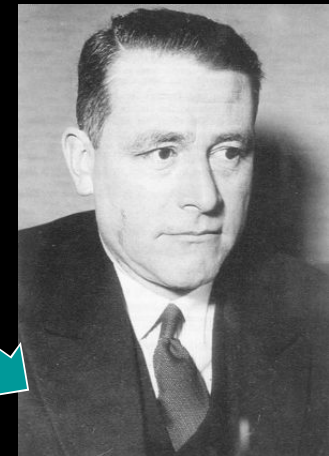
# Marxism-Deconstruction-Fascism



**Jacques Derrida  
(1930-2004)**



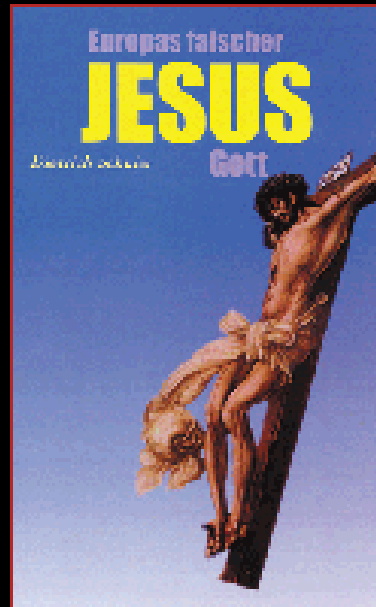
**Carl Schmitt  
(1888-1985)**



**Derrida's essays "The Force of Law" and  
"The Mystical Foundation of Authority" in D. Cornell, et al,  
*Deconstruction and the Possibility of Justice* (1992)**



# Paine's Feuerbachian neo-Paganism Today



**Dietrich Schuler**  
***Jesus: Europas falscher Gott* (2005)**  
**Heilbronn, Volk in Bewegung**  
**Verlag & Medien**

# Forced conversion?

