

Chapter 28

Kellogg-Briand Pact:

In an attempt to stop the use of war to solve disputes and to prevent another Great War, the Kellogg-Briand Pact was signed in 1928. The pact is named for were Aristide Briand and Frank Kellogg, the former being the Prime Minister of France and the latter being the American Secretary of State. This contract was proposed to all nations, and it was approved by the United States, France, the British Empire, Germany, Italy, and Japan. After the rise of fascism and militarism, the pact became a failure; Japan and Germany no longer followed the pact and ultimately the war that the pact was trying to prevent occurred. This pact is important because it promoted peace after the Great War and eventually forced America to be less isolationist than it had been in the past. Symbolizing the optimism of the 1920s, this pact also saw American ideas being part of the world, unlike during their isolationist periods.

Friedrich Nietzsche:

Friedrich Nietzsche was a German philosopher and scholar who wrote several critical works on religion, philosophy, and science in the late nineteenth century. H Denouncing democracy, progress, and reason as harmful to development, he claimed that society stifled one's natural creativity because of its focus on rationality and also declared that "God is dead." His viewpoint suggested that people must overcome meaninglessness and find their own reason for existing. His work began to gain popularity after WWI and especially after WWII as the attitudes of Europeans changed during the Age of Uncertainty. Nietzsche is important because he influenced modern existentialism due to his perceived pessimistic and/or empowering ideas, and by leaving his mark on thinkers such as Jean-Paul Sartre and Albert Camus.

Modern Existentialism:

Modern Existentialism is a movement that gained momentum during the Age of Uncertainty after WWI ended in the mid-twentieth century. The movement first began in Germany after WWI, however also soon became influential in France after WWII ended. Jean-Paul Sartre and Albert Camus were highly influential in France, where individuals especially felt the need to define their actions during and after the world wars. Inspired by Friedrich Nietzsche, Jean-Paul Sartre and others, typically atheists, believed that people simply existed. Existentialists realized that people must act and make their life meaningful and overcome the absurdity of life. Modern existentialism is important because it was either seen as dark and pessimistic or inspirational and empowering and thus influenced existentialists in such ways. It was also symbolic of the Age of Uncertainty overall.