

Friedrich Nietzsche
1844-1900
“The Prophet of Nazism”

A. Introduction

One of the most influential modern thinkers
“God is dead”
Superman”

B. Early Years (1844-68)

1. Born Oct. 15, 1844, in Germany
2. Very religious home - Lutheran faith
3. Father died when Nietzsche was 5 years old
4. Raised by 5 females: mother, younger sister (Elizabeth), grandmother, two aunts
5. Attended a private school with classical education - he excelled
6. 1864 University of Bonn to study theology and classical philosophy - met Professor Friedrich Wilhelm Ritschl,
7. 1865 Ritschl and Nietzsche transfer to University of Leipzig - Nietzsche prospered under Ritschl’s tutelage
8. 1867 Military service (age 23), cavalry company - was injured - returned to University of Leipzig
9. Met and became **close** friends with the great operatic composer Richard Wagner

C. The Basel Years (1869-79) - (ages 25-35)

1. 1869 obtained a classical philosophy teaching position at University of Basel in Switzerland - upon Ritschl’s recommendation - granted Swiss citizenship
2. University of Leipzig granted him a doctorate degree without examination or dissertation
3. August 1870 volunteers as a medical orderly in the Franco-Prussian War
4. Becomes ill from dysentery and diphtheria - returns to Basel
5. Richard Wagner
 - a. Christian themes
 - b. devout patriotism
 - c. anti-Semitism
6. 1872 published his first book, The Birth of Tragedy

7. October 1876 obtained a sick leave and moved in with sister Elizabeth

D. Latter Years (1879-1900) - (ages 35-56)

1. Wrote:

- a. Thus Spoke Zarathustra
- b. Beyond Good and Evil
- c. On the Genealogy of Morals
- d. Twilight of the Idols
- e. The Antichrist
- f. The will to Power
- g. Ecce Homo

2. Seriously ill
3. Died Aug. 25, 1900

E. Philosophy

1. Thus Spoke Zarathustra - most notable book - issued to every German soldier during World War I
2. Origin and function of values in human life
3. Terms
 - a. Will to Power
 - b. Superman
 - c. Master-Slave
 - d. God is Dead
 - e. Beyond Good and Evil