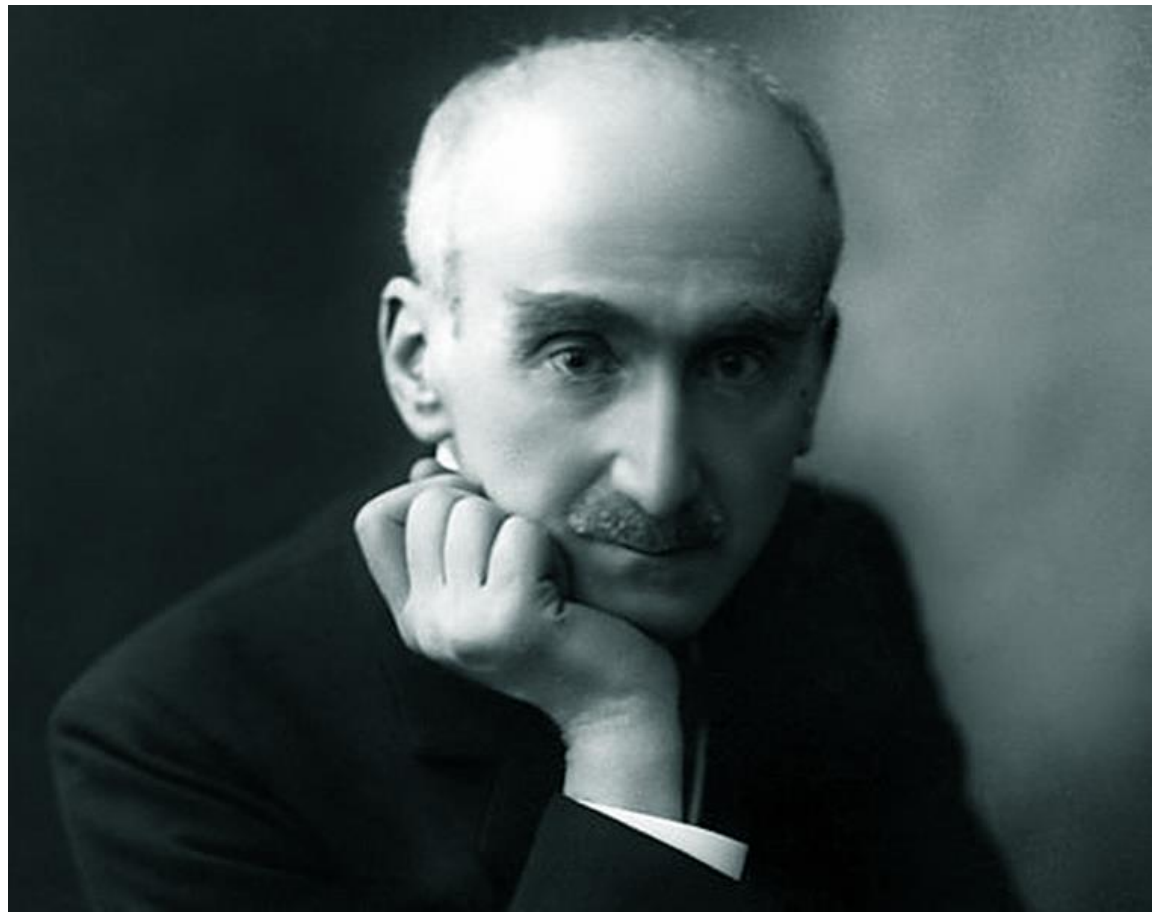


HENRI BERGSON

Biography

- Born 1859 in France
 - ↳ Dad was a Jewish composer/pianist who fled Polish anti-Semitism. Mom was from English-Jewish and Irish-Jewish decent.
- 1891, married Louise
- 1896, daughter Jeanne is born deaf
 - ↳ She will become an artist/sculptor, dies 1961
- 1914, invited to teach/lecture in the United States
- He will participate in the negotiations which will lead to the entry of the United States into World War I
- 1922, Bergson and Albert Einstein debate physics!
- 1927, Received the Nobel Prize for literature
- 1930s, he started to suffer from a degenerative illness, which left him part-paralyzed at least once
- 1937, converts to Catholicism
- 1940, After the fall of France, Jews were required to register at police stations. He did not want to appear to want to leave the persecuted or his heritage.
 - ↳ When completing his police form, Bergson made the following entry: "Academic. Philosopher. Nobel Prize winner. Jew."
- Died 1941 in occupied France of bronchitis



Philosophy (major ideas)

Bergson regarded **planning beforehand for the future as impossible**, since time itself unravels unforeseen possibilities.

Closed societies with their concern for social order and cohesion produce religions of authority, ritual, and hierarchy, as well as morality focused on law.

Life is immensely richer than our intellectual cognition of it.

Bergson believed that mental and spiritual aspects of human experience were greatly neglected as a result of focusing so single-mindedly on the physical and material.