

Erich Fromm

1900 (Germany) – 1980 (Switzerland)

- Only child of orthodox, Jewish parents
- Studies law and sociology at university. PhD
- He becomes strongly involved in Zionism
 - ↳ 1926, turned away from orthodox Judaism and instead applied secular interpretations to scriptural ideas
- 1923, met Karen Horney. Professional colleagues
- 1926, married psychoanalyst Frieda, but they separated shortly later
- After the Nazi's take control of Germany, Fromm moved to Switzerland and later to New York (1934).
- Relationship with Karen Horney for years. It does not end well.
- 1949-56, resided in Mexico City. Professor. Then to Michigan
- Back to Mexico City 1965-1974, then moved to Switzerland 1974-1980 passing



Developed the concept that freedom was a fundamental part of human nature
Fromm believed that freedom was an aspect of human nature that we either embrace or escape. He observed that embracing our freedom of will was healthy, whereas escaping freedom through the use of escape mechanisms was the root of psychological conflicts.

Neo-Freudian psychologist, who later challenging the theories of Sigmund Freud

He suggested a theory of personality based on two primary needs: the need for freedom and the need for belonging.

↳ How does he differ from Freud?

↳ Freudians approach personality is biologically oriented whereas Erich Fromm's theory of personality has a social orientation. He viewed human beings basically as social beings

He suggested that people develop certain personality styles or strategies in order to deal with the anxiety created by feelings of isolation.

He argued that social systems make it difficult or impossible to satisfy the different needs at one time, thus creating both individual psychological and wider societal conflicts.