

The background of the slide is an impressionist painting of a woman in a garden. The woman is on the left, wearing a long, light-colored dress and a hat, looking towards the right. The garden is filled with various flowers and greenery, rendered with soft, visible brushstrokes. The overall color palette is dominated by greens, blues, and yellows.

La Belle Époque *[1871–1914]:*

“The Beautiful Era”

Ms. Susan M. Pojer and Miss Raia

An impressionist painting of a woman in a white dress, possibly by J.M.W. Turner, shown in profile on the left side of the slide. The background is a soft, textured impressionist landscape with green and blue tones.

Characteristics of La Belle Epoch

1. Materialism

- Higher standard of living
- Increased consumption
- Sports attracted increased spectators and participants
- Increased numbers of women took part in bicycling and sports clubs
 - Started dressing in more comfortable clothing
- Cafes and Taverns
- Department stores
- Dance Halls and concert halls

Characteristics of La Belle Epoch

2. Increased European Population
3. Growth of Cities & Urban Life
4. Migration from Europe
 - 1850-1940 □ 60 million left Europe
 - Went to □ US, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Australia/N. Zeal.
5. "Second" Industrial Revolution
 - Steam □ electricity
 - Internal combustion & diesel engines.
 - Cars, planes, submarines.

Characteristics of La Belle Epoch

5. "Second" Industrial Revolution
Britain □ "The World's Industrial Workshop"
 - Corporations □ limited liability of investments.
 - Mass production.
6. Free Trade [esp. in England]
7. World Markets [Global Economy, Part II]
8. Advance of Democracy
 - Extension of the vote to the working class.





Characteristics of La Belle Epoch

9. The Appeal of Socialism

- By the 1880s, most socialist parties were Marxist [esp. Ger. & Fr.]
- Not very successful in England.

10. Faith in Science Alone

- Science at the core of industrialization.
- Charles Darwin
 - *Origin of Species* [1859]
 - “survival of the fittest”

Characteristics of La Belle Epoch

10. Faith in Science Alone [con't.]

- “Social Darwinism” □ Herbert Spenser
- Newtonian Science turned on its head
 - Einstein □ “Theory of Relativity”
□ nature & energy were separate & distinct.
 - Max Planck □ Quantum Physics

Characteristics of La Belle Epoch

10. Faith in Science Alone [con't.]

- Professionalization of “new” sciences [anthropology, archeaology, etc.]
- Psychology
 - Ivan Pavlov □ conditioned responses
 - Sigmund Freud □ psychoanalysis
 - *The Interpretation of Dreams* [1900]
 - The role of the unconscious [the id, ego, super ego].





Characteristics of La Belle Epoch

13. **Anti-Semitism**
 - Dreyfus Affair
 - Theodore Herzl □ *Der Judenstaat* [*The Jewish State*], 1896
 - “Father of Modern Zionism”
14. **Women's Movement**
 - Emmeline Pankhurst
15. **The “New” Imperialism**
16. **Militarism □ glorification of war**

The background of the slide is an impressionist painting. On the left side, there is a vertical strip showing a woman's profile, looking towards the right. The rest of the background is a soft, textured landscape with green and blue tones, suggesting a field or garden. The overall style is characteristic of Impressionism, with visible brushstrokes and a focus on light and color.

Characteristics of La Belle Epoch

17. Education

- State's role in education increased leading to further secularization of society
- By 1900 in England all children 5 to 12 were required to attend primary school
- Education was free
- French Ferry Laws required children ages 3-13 to attend primary schools
- Effects? - significant increase in literacy
- Girls had less access to secondary education than boys but schools for girls increased