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# Philosopher Erich Fromm Is Dead



UPI Telephoto

## ERICH FROMM He broke with Freud

### New York

Dr. Erich Fromm, the psychoanalyst and social philosopher whose influential writings ranged over subjects from the alienation of the individual to the sanity of society, died yesterday of a heart attack at his home in Muralto, Switzerland. He would have been 80 years old Sunday.

Fromm wrote 20 books, most of them hailed as major works in the field of psychology, including "The Art of Loving" (1956), in which he called love "the only sane and satisfactory answer to the problem of human existence."

He sought a solution to political difficulties as well, and in 1957 helped to organize the National Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy, or SANE, which took its name from his book, "The Sane Society" (1955).

Fromm was schooled in Germany in the analytical technique of Sigmund Freud, but he developed his own theories and his own style of psychoanalysis.

Similarly, although he was born into a Jewish family as the descendant of a long line of rabbis and reared according to orthodox teachings, he abandoned Judaism when he was 26. As he said in 1962 to a reporter, "I gave up my religious convictions and practices because I just didn't want to participate in any division of the human race, whether religious or political."

Born in Frankfurt on March 23, 1900, Fromm became a pacifist at the age of 14 when World War I began. He sought American citizenship after visiting the United States in 1933 and emigrated from Germany, then dominated by the Nazis, in 1934.

His theory of human nature cut a middle path between the instinctivists, who held that innate qualities were fixed at birth, and

the behaviorists, who taught that all responses are the result of learning.

"Every character trait is inter-related with every other," Fromm wrote in 1972, "and a single trait cannot be changed without changes in the whole system. That is why to change the character of a person can be compared to splitting an atom; to change only his behavior can be done by conditioning."

Fromm's work was closely associated with that of American psychoanalysts Karen Horney and Harry Stack Sullivan.

Together, the three formed a group known as the neo-Freudian psychoanalysts, whose theories examined the social influences contributing to neuroses, thus moving away from Freud's emphasis on purely individual experiences and family relationships.

These theories led Fromm to assert that the social and economic conditions of a society produced specific personality types.

But these theories, lumped together under the concept of the "acculturation" of man, did not mean the individual should allow himself to be formed and shaped by authoritarian societies such as the Nazi regime he himself fled.

No subject relating to human experience was beyond his consideration. The late Margaret Meade, anthropologist and author, praised Fromm for this scope when she said of his book, "Escape From Freedom" (1941), "It bridges the gap between economics and psychology and shows how no theory which invokes only man's way of earning a living or man's human nature alone is sufficient."

Fromm entered the field of psychoanalysis from philosophy, not medicine. He earned his doctoral degree from the University of Heidelberg in 1922, and also

trained at the University of Munich and the Psychoanalytic Institute in Berlin.

He began seeing patients in 1925 and began what was to be a distinguished teaching career in 1929 at the Frankfurt Psychoanalytic Institute and the Institute for Social Research at the University of Frankfurt.

He lectured all over the world and held formal faculty appointments at Columbia University, Bennington College, Yale University, Michigan State University — where he founded the school's Institute of Psychology — New York University and the National University of Mexico.

In the 1950s Fromm saw a danger in spreading technology and warned about the possibility of people turning into robots. He participated in a conference on unions in 1956, where he warned that a 20-hour work week, which was being advocated then, would produce nervous breakdowns in people who would not know what to do with their time.

Fromm was married three times. His first marriage, to Frieda Reichmann in 1926, ended in divorce. Henny Gurland, who became his second wife in 1944, died in 1952. He is survived by Annis Freeman Fromm, whom he married in 1953.

His literary agent, Ruth Liepman, said that no funeral arrangements would be announced, in accordance with his wish to have only his family present at the service.

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