**Existentialism** (  or  ) is a tradition of philosophical enquiry which takes as its starting point the experience of the human subject—not merely the thinking subject, but the acting, feeling, living human [individual](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Individual).It is associated mainly with certain 19th- and 20th-century European philosophers who, despite profound doctrinal differences  shared the belief in that beginning of philosophical thinking.

While the predominant value of existentialist thought is commonly acknowledged to be freedom, its primary virtue is [authenticity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Authenticity_(philosophy)).In the view of the existentialist, the individual's starting point is characterized by what has been called "the existential angst" (or variably, existential attitude, dread, etc.), or a sense of disorientation, confusion, or [dread](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Existential_dread) in the face of an apparently meaningless or [absurd](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Absurdism) world. Many existentialists have also regarded traditional systematic or academic philosophies, in both style and content, as too abstract and remote from concrete human experience.

[Søren Kierkegaard](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/S%C3%B8ren_Kierkegaard) is generally considered to have been the first existentialist philosopher, though he did not use the term existentialism. He proposed that each individual—not society or religion—is solely responsible for giving [meaning](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meaning_(existential)) to life and living it passionately and sincerely, or "authentically

Existentialism became popular in the years following World War II, thanks to [Jean-Paul Sartre](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean-Paul_Sartre), who read [Martin Heidegger](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martin_Heidegger) while in a[POW](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prisoner_of_war) camp, and strongly influenced many disciplines besides [philosophy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philosophy), including theology, drama, art, literature, and psychology.

Pragmatism as a philosophical movement began in the [United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) in the 1870s. [Charles Sanders Peirce](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Sanders_Peirce) (and his Pragmatic Maxim) is given credit for its development,[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pragmatism" \l "cite_note-HaackLane2006-4) along with later twentieth century contributors, [William James](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_James) and [John Dewey](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Dewey).[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pragmatism#cite_note-BiestaBurbules-5) Its direction was determined by [The Metaphysical Club](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Metaphysical_Club) members Charles Sanders Peirce, William James, and [Chauncey Wright](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chauncey_Wright), as well as John Dewey and [George Herbert Mead](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Herbert_Mead).

The first use in print of the name *pragmatism* was in 1898 by James, who credited Peirce with [coining the term](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neologism) during the early 1870s.[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pragmatism#cite_note-6) James regarded Peirce's "Illustrations of the Logic of Science" series (including "[The Fixation of Belief](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/The_Fixation_of_Belief)" (1877), and especially "[How to Make Our Ideas Clear](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/How_to_Make_Our_Ideas_Clear)" (1878)) as the foundation of pragmatism.[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pragmatism#cite_note-7)[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pragmatism#cite_note-8) Peirce in turn wrote in 1906[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pragmatism#cite_note-9) that [Nicholas St. John Green](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicholas_St._John_Green) had been instrumental by emphasizing the importance of applying [Alexander Bain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_Bain)'s definition of belief, which was "that upon which a man is prepared to act". Peirce wrote that "from this definition, pragmatism is scarce more than a corollary; so that I am disposed to think of him as the grandfather of pragmatism". John Shook has said, "Chauncey Wright also deserves considerable credit, for as both Peirce and James recall, it was Wright who demanded a [phenomenalist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phenomenalist" \o "Phenomenalist) and [fallibilist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fallibilism" \o "Fallibilism) [empiricism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Empiricism) as an alternative to rationalistic speculation."[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pragmatism#cite_note-10)

Peirce developed the idea that inquiry depends on real doubt, not mere verbal or [hyperbolic doubt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hyperbolic_doubt),[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pragmatism" \l "cite_note-11) and said that, in order to understand a conception in a fruitful way, "Consider the practical effects of the objects of your conception. Then, your conception of those effects is the whole of your conception of the object",[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pragmatism" \l "cite_note-Peirce1878-2) which he later called the [pragmatic maxim](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pragmatic_maxim). It equates any conception of an object to the general extent of the conceivable implications for informed practice of that object's effects. This is the heart of his pragmatism as a method of experimentational mental reflection arriving at conceptions in terms of conceivable confirmatory and disconfirmatory circumstances—a method hospitable to the generation of explanatory hypotheses, and conducive to the employment and improvement of verification. Typical of Peirce is his concern with inference to explanatory hypotheses as outside the usual foundational alternative between deductivist rationalism and inductivist empiricism, although he was a [mathematical logician](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Sanders_Peirce#Mathematics) and a [founder of statistics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Founders_of_statistics).

Peirce lectured and further wrote on pragmatism to make clear his own interpretation. While framing a conception's meaning in terms of conceivable tests, Peirce emphasized that, since a conception is general, its meaning, its intellectual purport, equates to its acceptance's implications for general practice, rather than to any definite set of real effects (or test results); a conception's clarified meaning points toward its conceivable verifications, but the outcomes are not meanings, but individual upshots. Peirce in 1905 coined the new name [pragmaticism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pragmaticism" \o "Pragmaticism) "for the precise purpose of expressing the original definition",[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pragmatism#cite_note-12) saying that "all went happily" with James's and [F. C. S. Schiller](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/F._C._S._Schiller)'s variant uses of the old name "pragmatism" and that he nonetheless coined the new name because of the old name's growing use in "literary journals, where it gets abused". Yet in a 1906 manuscript he cited as causes his differences with James and Schiller.[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pragmatism#cite_note-13) and, in a 1908 publication,[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pragmatism#cite_note-NA-14) his differences with James as well as literary author [Giovanni Papini](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giovanni_Papini). Peirce in any case regarded his views that truth is immutable and infinity is real, as being opposed by the other pragmatists, but he remained allied with them on other issues.[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pragmatism#cite_note-NA-14)

Pragmatism enjoyed renewed attention after [Willard Van Orman Quine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Willard_Van_Orman_Quine) and [Wilfrid Sellars](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wilfrid_Sellars" \o "Wilfrid Sellars) used a revised pragmatism to criticize [logical positivism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Logical_positivism) in the 1960s. Inspired by the work of Quine and Sellars, a brand of pragmatism known sometimes as [neopragmatism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neopragmatism" \o "Neopragmatism) gained influence through [Richard Rorty](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Rorty), the most influential of the late twentieth century pragmatists along with [Hilary Putnam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hilary_Putnam) and [Robert Brandom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Brandom). Contemporary pragmatism may be broadly divided into a strict [analytic tradition](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Analytic_philosophy) and a "neo-classical" pragmatism (such as [Susan Haack](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Susan_Haack)) that adheres to the work of Peirce, James, and Dewey.

**Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche** ([/ˈniːtʃə, ˈniːtʃi/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA/English), German: [[ˈfʁiːdʁɪç ˈvɪlhɛlm ˈniːtʃə]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA/Standard_German) ([About this sound](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:De-Friedrich_Nietzsche.ogg)[listen](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/fc/De-Friedrich_Nietzsche.ogg)) or [[- ˈniːtsʃə]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA/Standard_German); 15 October 1844 – 25 August 1900) was a German [philosopher](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philosopher), [cultural critic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cultural_critic), [composer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Composer), [poet](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poet), and [philologist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philology) whose work has exerted a profound influence on [modern intellectual history](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Contemporary_philosophy).[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friedrich_Nietzsche#cite_note-15)[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friedrich_Nietzsche#cite_note-iep.utm.edu-16)[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friedrich_Nietzsche#cite_note-Raymond_A._Belliotti_2013-17)[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friedrich_Nietzsche#cite_note-Russell_1945_766_&_770-18)[[19]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friedrich_Nietzsche#cite_note-Friedrich_Nietzsche-19) He began his career as a [classical philologist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Classical_philology)before turning to philosophy. He became the youngest ever to hold the Chair of Classical Philology at the [University of Basel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Basel)in 1869 at the age of 24.[[20]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friedrich_Nietzsche#cite_note-SEP-20) Nietzsche resigned in 1879 due to health problems that plagued him most of his life; he completed much of his core writing in the following decade.[[21]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friedrich_Nietzsche#cite_note-21) In 1889, at age 44, he suffered a collapse and afterward a complete loss of his mental faculties.[[22]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friedrich_Nietzsche#cite_note-FOOTNOTEMagnus1999-22) He lived his remaining years in the care of his mother until her death in 1897 and then with his sister[Elisabeth Förster-Nietzsche](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elisabeth_F%C3%B6rster-Nietzsche). Nietzsche died in 1900.[[23]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friedrich_Nietzsche#cite_note-matthews-23)

Nietzsche's writing spans philosophical [polemics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polemic), poetry, [cultural criticism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cultural_critic), and fiction while displaying a fondness for [aphorism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aphorism" \o "Aphorism)and [irony](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irony).[[24]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friedrich_Nietzsche#cite_note-24) Prominent elements of his philosophy include his radical critique of [truth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Truth) in favor of [perspectivism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Perspectivism" \o "Perspectivism); his[genealogical](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genealogy_(philosophy)) critique of religion and [Christian morality](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_morality) and his related theory of [master–slave morality](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Master%E2%80%93slave_morality);[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friedrich_Nietzsche#cite_note-iep.utm.edu-16)[[25]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friedrich_Nietzsche#cite_note-25) his aesthetic[affirmation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nietzschean_affirmation) of existence in response to the "[death of God](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/God_is_dead)" and the profound crisis of [nihilism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nihilism);[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friedrich_Nietzsche#cite_note-iep.utm.edu-16) his notion of the [Apollonian and Dionysian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apollonian_and_Dionysian); and his characterization of the human [subject](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subject_(philosophy)) as the expression of competing [wills](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Will_(philosophy)), collectively understood as the [will to power](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Will_to_power).[[26]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friedrich_Nietzsche#cite_note-26) He also developed influential concepts such as the [*Übermensch*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%9Cbermensch) and the doctrine of [eternal return](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eternal_return).[[27]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friedrich_Nietzsche#cite_note-27)[[28]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friedrich_Nietzsche#cite_note-28)In his later work, he became increasingly preoccupied with the creative powers of the individual to overcome social, cultural and moral contexts in pursuit of [new values](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transvaluation_of_values) and aesthetic health.[[19]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friedrich_Nietzsche#cite_note-Friedrich_Nietzsche-19) His body of work touched a wide range of topics, including art, philology, history, religion, [tragedy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tragedy), culture, and science, and drew early inspiration from figures such as philosopher [Arthur Schopenhauer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arthur_Schopenhauer),[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friedrich_Nietzsche#cite_note-IEP-5) composer [Richard Wagner](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Wagner),[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friedrich_Nietzsche#cite_note-IEP-5) and writer [Johann Wolfgang von Goethe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johann_Wolfgang_von_Goethe).[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friedrich_Nietzsche#cite_note-IEP-5)

After his death, his sister Elisabeth became the curator and editor of Nietzsche's manuscripts, reworking his unpublished writings to fit her own [German nationalist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_nationalism#1871_to_World_War_I,_1914–1918) ideology while often contradicting or obfuscating Nietzsche's stated opinions, which were explicitly [opposed to antisemitism and nationalism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philosophy_of_Friedrich_Nietzsche#Nietzsche's_criticism_of_anti-Semitism_and_nationalism). Through her published editions, Nietzsche's work became associated with [fascism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fascism) and [Nazism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nazism);[[29]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friedrich_Nietzsche#cite_note-Golomb_2002-29) 20th century scholars contested this interpretation of his work and corrected editions of his writings were soon made available. Nietzsche's thought enjoyed renewed popularity in the 1960s and his ideas have since had a profound impact on 20th and early-21st century thinkers across philosophy—especially in schools of [continental philosophy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Continental_philosophy) such as [existentialism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Existentialism), [postmodernism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postmodernism) and [post-structuralism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Post-structuralism)—as well as art, literature, [psychology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Psychology), politics and popular culture**Islamic philosophy** is a development in [philosophy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philosophy) that is characterised by coming from an [Islamic tradition](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_tradition). Two terms traditionally used in the [Islamic world](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_world) are sometimes translated as [philosophy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philosophy)—*falsafa* (literally: "philosophy"), which refers to philosophy as well as [logic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Logic_in_Islamic_philosophy), [mathematics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mathematics_in_medieval_Islam), and [physics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Physics);[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_philosophy#cite_note-Hassan-2013-1) and *[Kalam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kalam" \o "Kalam)* (literally "speech"), which refers to a [rationalist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rationalism) form of Islamic[theology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schools_of_Islamic_theology).

[Early Islamic philosophy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Early_Islamic_philosophy) began with [al-Kindi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Kindi) in the 2nd century of the [Islamic calendar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_calendar) (early 9th century [CE](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Common_Era)) and ended with[Averroes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Averroes) (Ibn Rushd) in the 6th century AH (late 12th century CE), broadly coinciding with the period known as the [Golden Age of Islam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golden_Age_of_Islam). The death of Averroes effectively marked the end of a particular discipline of Islamic philosophy usually called the [Peripatetic Islamic school](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peripatetic_school), and philosophical activity declined significantly in Western Islamic countries such as [Islamic Iberia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Andalus) and [North Africa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Africa).

Islamic philosophy persisted for much longer in Muslim Eastern countries, in particular [Safavid Persia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Safavid_Persia" \o "Safavid Persia), [Ottoman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman_Empire) and [Mughal Empires](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mughal_Empire" \o "Mughal Empire), where several schools of philosophy continued to flourish: [Avicennism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Avicennism" \o "Avicennism), [Averroism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Averroism" \o "Averroism), [Illuminationist philosophy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illuminationist_philosophy" \o "Illuminationist philosophy), [Mystical philosophy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sufi_philosophy), [Transcendent theosophy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transcendent_theosophy), and [Isfahan philosophy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/School_of_Isfahan). [Ibn Khaldun](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibn_Khaldun" \o "Ibn Khaldun), in his *[Muqaddimah](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muqaddimah" \o "Muqaddimah)*, made important contributions to the [philosophy of history](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philosophy_of_history). Interest in Islamic philosophy revived during the [Nahda](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Nahda" \o "Al-Nahda) ("Awakening") movement in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and continues to the [present day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Contemporary_Islamic_philosophy).

Islamic philosophy had a major impact in Christian Europe, where translation of Arabic philosophical texts into Latin "led to the transformation of almost all philosophical disciplines in the medieval Latin world", with a particularly strong influence of Muslim philosophers being felt in natural philosophy, psychology and metaphysics