Freud’s Legacy
Freud’s Contributions to Sexual Theory

- Managed to rise above the sexually repressive Victorian era
- Taught that libido is an important part of personality
- Took sex out of the closet, brought it to the attention of the general public, suggested people can talk about it.
- Made sex an appropriate topic for scientific research.
Psychoanalytic Theory

- Saw sex as one of the key forces in human life
- Coined the term libido – the sex drive or sex energy
Personality Components (Freud)

- Superego
- Ego
- Id
Defense Mechanisms

- Denial
- Rationalization
- Displacement
- Sublimation

- Repression
- Regression
- Projection
- Reaction Formation
Freud's View of the Human Mind: The Mental Iceberg

- Conscious Level: Thoughts, Perceptions
- Preconscious Level: Memories, Stored Knowledge
- Unconscious Level: Fears, Unacceptable Sexual Desires, Violent Motives, Irrational Wishes, Immoral Urges, Selfish Needs, Shameful Experiences
“In your case, I don’t think dreaming about luggage symbolizes travel.”
Erogenous Zones

- A part of the skin or mucous membrane that is extremely sensitive to stimulation.
- Touching it in certain ways produces feelings of pleasure.
- Zones include: lips & mouth, genitals, rectum & anus.
Vaginal vs. Clitoral Orgasms

- During childhood, girls rub their clitorises to produce orgasm.
- As they grow into adulthood, women need to shift their focus to having orgasm during heterosexual intercourse.
- Freud maintained that the later was more mature & hence, better. This is not supported by research by Masters & Johnson.
## Stages of Psychosexual Development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Focus</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oral</td>
<td>Pleasure centers on the mouth—sucking, biting, chewing</td>
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<tr>
<td>(0–18 months)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anal</td>
<td>Pleasure focuses on bowel and bladder elimination; coping with demands for control</td>
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<tr>
<td>(18–36 months)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phallic</td>
<td>Pleasure zone is the genitals; coping with incestuous sexual feelings</td>
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<tr>
<td>(3–6 years)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Latency</td>
<td>Dormant sexual feelings</td>
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<tr>
<td>(6 to puberty)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Genital</td>
<td>Maturation of sexual interests</td>
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<tr>
<td>(puberty on)</td>
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</tbody>
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Human Figure Drawing

- Correlation research based on psychoanalytic theory
Draw a Person
Draw a a Tree
Draw a House
Family Drawing
Contributions of Freudian Personality Theory

- At the heart of human nature is the struggle between life and death instincts
- Notion that the human personality has a tripartite structure
- Dynamics of the unconscious and its influence on behavior
- Role that anxiety and life stages play in personality development
Major Criticisms of Freudian Personality Theory

- Based on case studies and self-analysis rather than empirical research
- Often perceived as based on upper- and middle-class values
- Geared more toward individualist than collectivist cultures
- Ambiguity may be a problem for individuals from some minority groups, who may prefer more structured and problem oriented approaches to therapy
Major Criticisms of Freudian Personality Theory

- Approach tends to direct too much attention to the mother’s role in personality development and not enough to the father’s influence
Cultural and Historical Factor’s That Shaped Freudian Theory

- Born in 1856, the first of 7 siblings; was mother’s favorite
- His father, like others of the time and place, was very authoritarian
- Family moved from Czech Republic to Vienna when he was 4
- Had many interests but career choices were restricted by his Jewish heritage
- Studied medicine and engaged in physiological research but prospects for a career in scientific research were blocked by prejudice and discrimination
Devastation of World War I influenced his tendency to focus on humanity’s destructive tendencies.

His extreme pessimism was a reflection of the destruction produced by the war.

He asserted that human sexuality and aggression are fundamental human instincts.

Human nature and civilization are involved in an irresolvable basic conflict.