

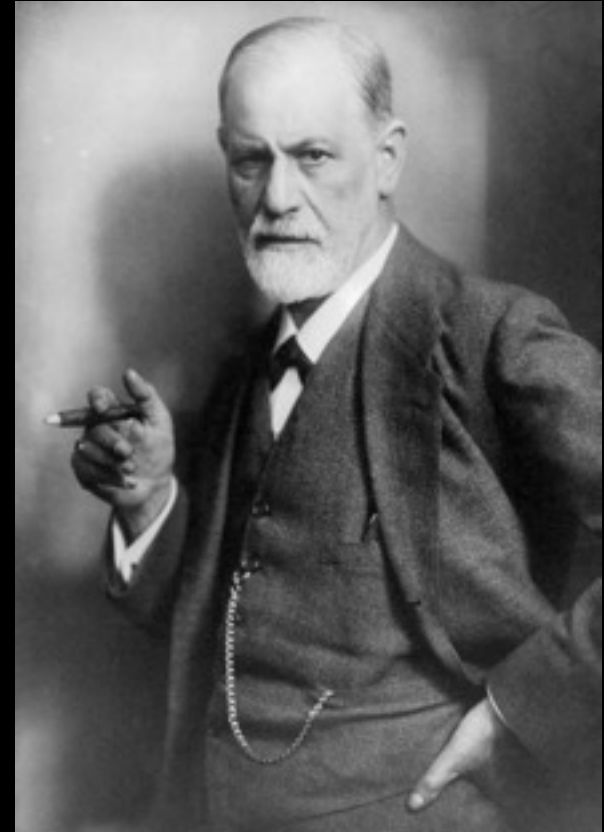
Civilization and Its Discontents

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Freud

- 1856-1939
- In a phrase: Human behavior is mostly controlled at the unconscious level

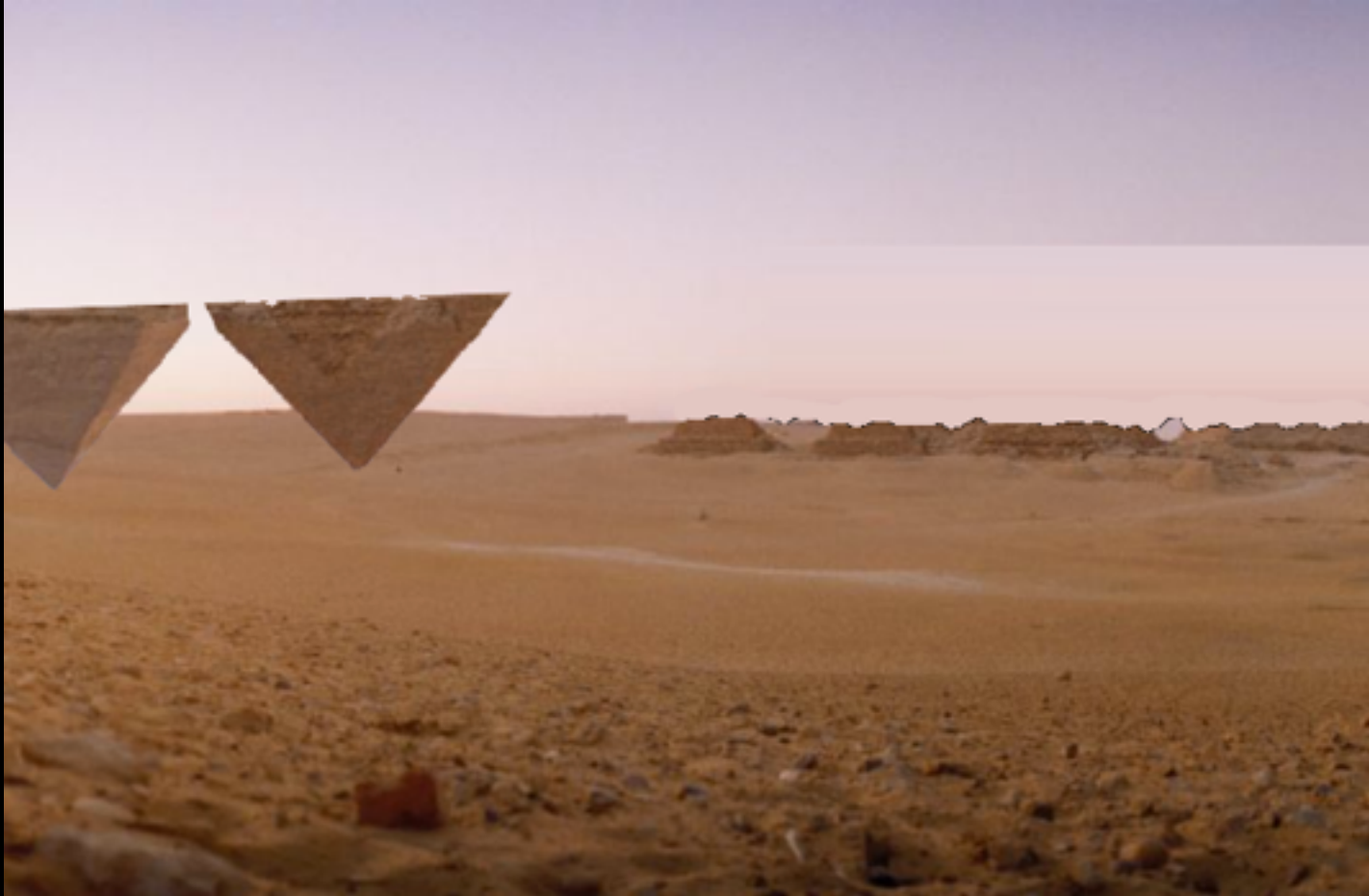




Civilization's Task Daunting



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Civilization's Task Daunting

- *Homo homini lupus* : Aggression, etc. natural
- Civilization always on verge of collapse
 - Constant control of sexual life, unnatural exhortation to love one's neighbor as oneself, etc.
- Rational cooperation (social contract) can't help...
- ...because passions are stronger than rationality

Three sources of human suffering



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Three sources of human suffering



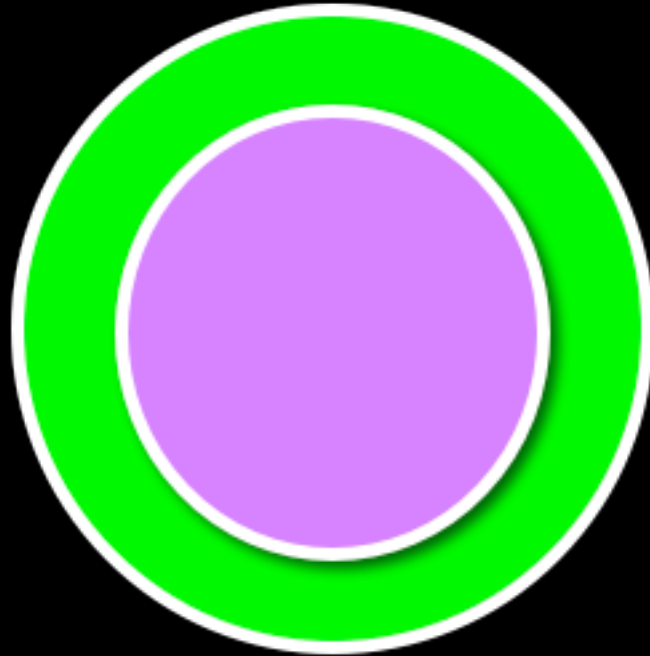
Three sources of human suffering

- Nature
- Bodies
- Social Relationships
 - First two OK: inevitable and deal-with-able
 - Third problematic: doesn't society help?
 - In fact, F. says, our record is so bad on this front (e.g., wars) that maybe misery of social relations is human nature).
- “...civilization is largely responsible for our misery.”

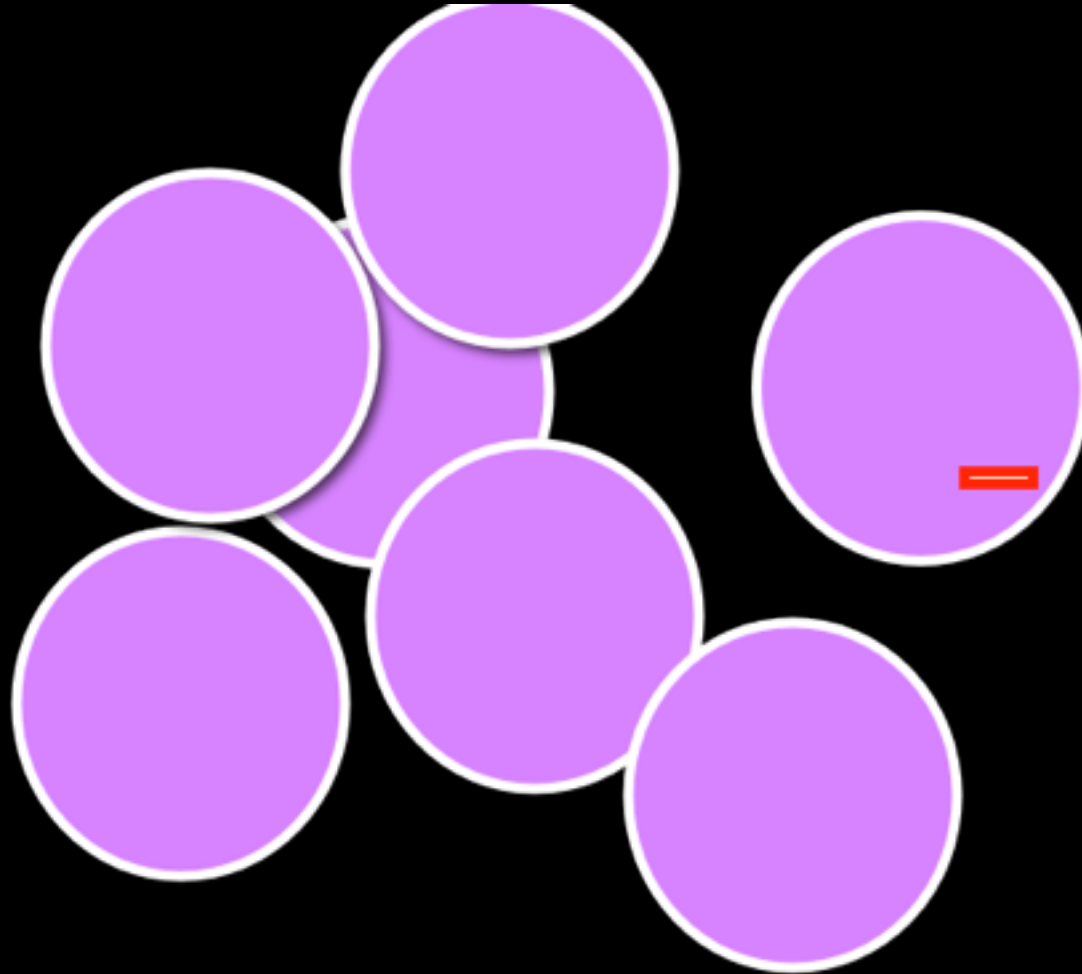
Communism Gets it Wrong

- “private property corrupted human nature”
- Aggressiveness not created by property
- Property just one instrument of aggression
- After material property, sexual prerogatives?

How are Groups Possible? (224)



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- “...always possible to bind together a considerable number of people in love, so long as there are other people left over to receive the manifestations of their aggressiveness” (224)
- “narcissism of small differences”

Freud's Social Contract (224)

- If civilization imposes such great sacrifices not only on human sexuality but on aggressivity, we can understand better why it is hard to be happy in that civilization.
- Civilized humans have exchanged a portion of the possibility of happiness for a portion of security.

What Means does Civilization Employ?

- “Aggressiveness is introjected...sent back to where it came from...directed toward his own ego”

Freud's Tripartite Self

