

ROMANTICISM:

The Artistic Expression of Liberalism

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The Spirit of the Age (1790-1850)

- A sense of a shared vision among the Romantics.
- Early support of the French Revolution.
- Rise of the individual → alienation.
- Dehumanization of industrialization.
- Radical poetics / politics → an obsession with violent change.

1. Emotions!

Passion!

Irrationality!

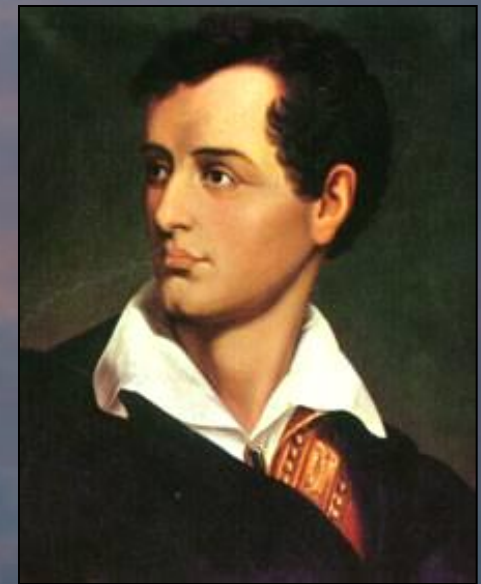
A Growing Distrust of Reason



- The essence of human experience is subjective and emotional.
- Human knowledge is a puny thing compared to other great historical forces.
- "Individual rights" are dangerous efforts at selfishness → the community is more important.

The Romantic Movement

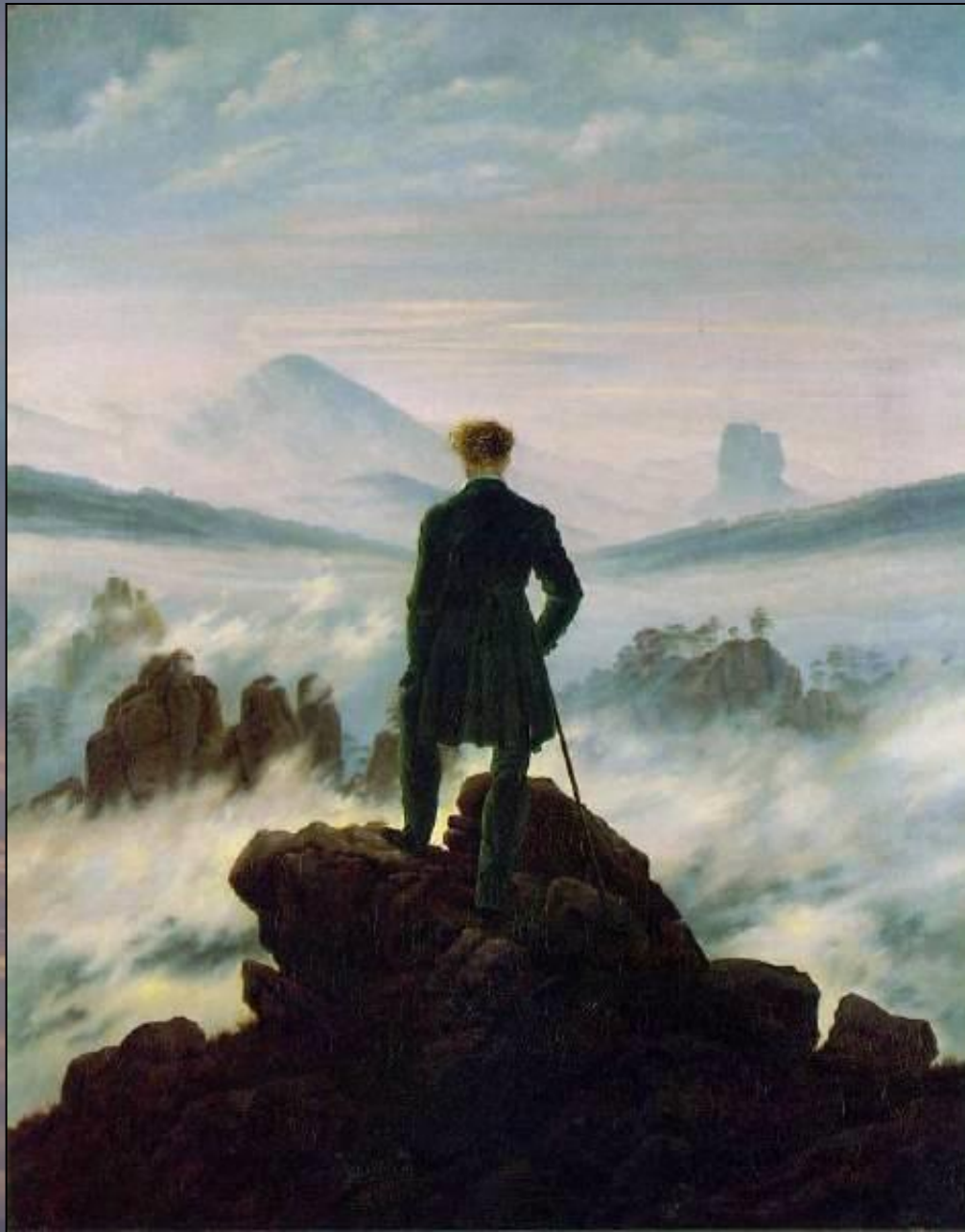
- Began in the 1790s and peaked in the 1820s.
- Mostly in Northern Europe, especially in Britain and Germany.
- A reaction against classicism.
- The "Romantic Hero:"
 - Greatest example was Lord Byron
 - Tremendously popular among the European reading public.
 - Youth imitated his haughtiness and rebelliousness.



Characteristics of Romanticism

The Engaged & Enraged Artist:

- The artist apart from society.
- The artist as social critic/revolutionary.
- The artist as genius.



*Wandering
Above the Sea
of Fog*

Caspar David
Friedrich,
1818

Lady Macbeth - Henry Fuseli, 1794





2. The
“Rugged”
Individual

Characteristics of Romanticism

The Individual / The Dreamer:

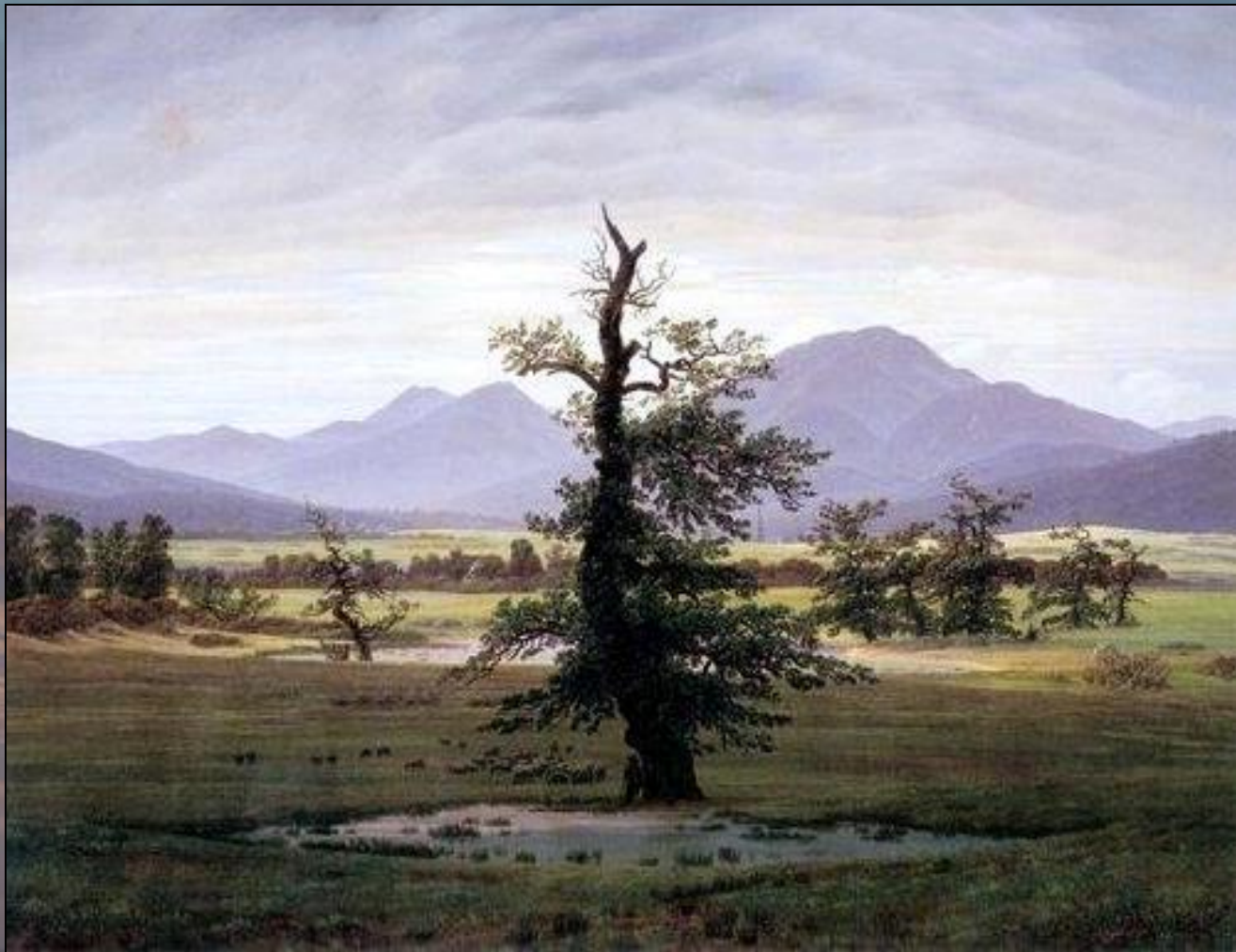
- Individuals have unique, endless potential.
- Self-realization comes through art
 - Artists are the true philosophers.

The Dreamer

Gaspar David Friedrich, 1835



Solitary Tree
Caspar David Friedrich, 1823





3. The Power
& Fury
of Nature

Characteristics of Romanticism

Glorification of Nature:

- Peaceful, restorative qualities [an escape from industrialization and the dehumanization it creates].
- Awesome, powerful, horrifying aspects of nature.
 - Indifferent to the fate of humans.
 - Overwhelming power of nature.

An Avalanche in the Alps
Philip James de Loutherbourg, 1803



Sunset After a Storm On the Coast of Sicily – Andreas Achenbach, 1853



The Deluge
Francis Danby, 1840



Tree of Crows

Caspar David Friedrich, 1822



The Wreck of the Hope (aka The Sea of Ice)
Caspar David Friedrich, 1821



Shipwreck – Joseph Turner, 1805



The Raft of the Medusa
Théodore Géricault, 1819



The Eruption of Vesuvius – John Martin



4. Science
Can Be
Dangerous!

Isaac Newton – William Blake, 1795



Dr. Frankenstein's Adam & Eve??



5. The "New"
Technology
Is Dehumanizing

Rain, Steam, and Speed
Joseph Mallord William Turner, 1844



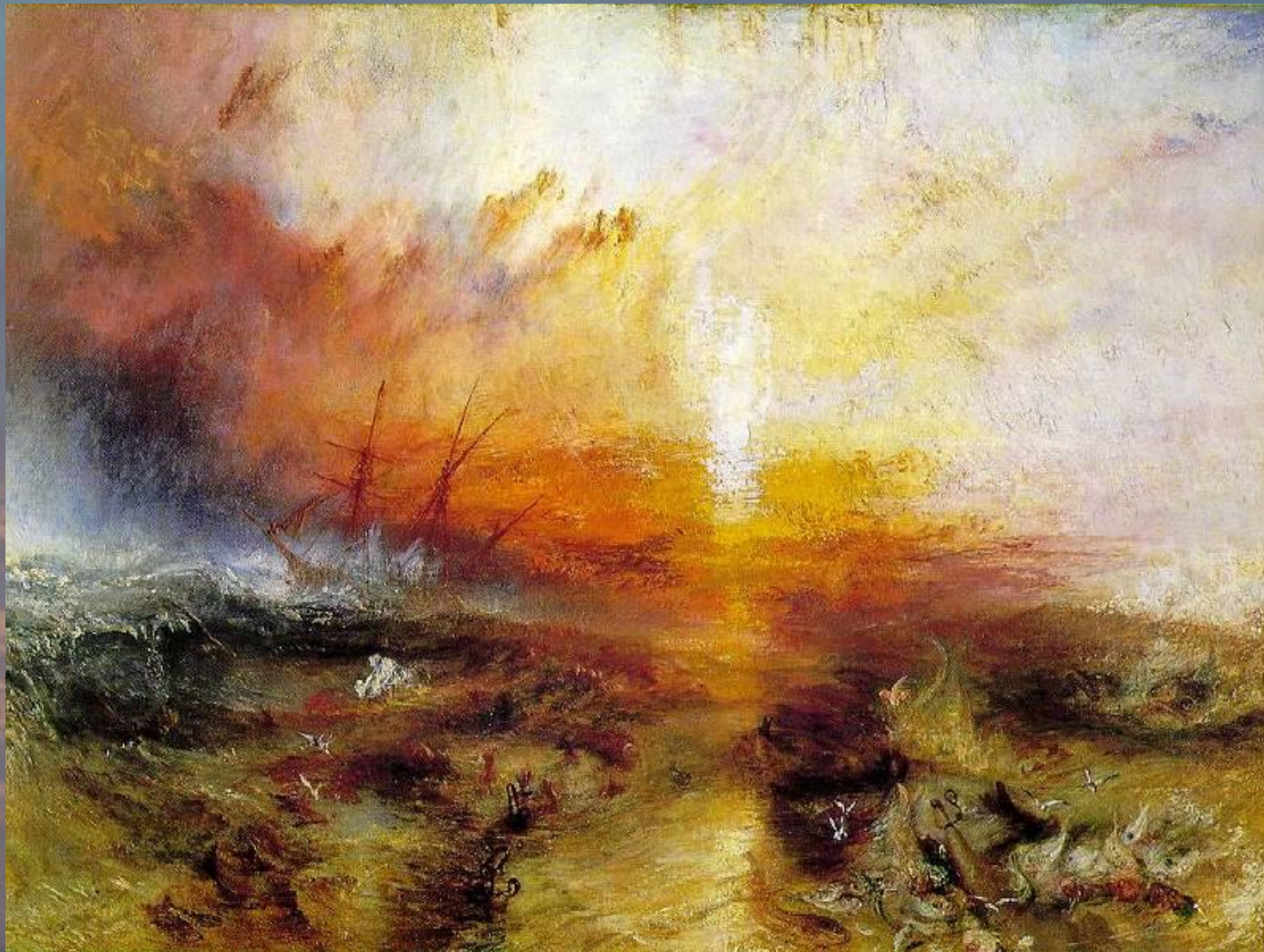
*Rain,
Steam,
& Speed*

(details)



The Slave Ship

Joseph Mallord William Turner, 1842





*The
Slave
Ship*

(details)

6. Romanticizing

Country Life

Flatford Mill – John Constable, 1817





*The Corn
Field*

John Constable,
1826

The Hay Wain – John Constable, 1821





7. The Gothic:
“Romanticizing”
the Middle Ages

Characteristics of Romanticism

Revival of Past Styles:

- Gothic & Romanesque revival.
- "Neo-Gothic" architectural style.
- Medieval ruins were a favorite theme for art and poetry.

Salisbury Cathedral from the Bishop's Ground
John Constable, 1825



Salisbury Cathedral from the Meadows
John Constable, 1831



Hadleigh Castle – John Constable, 1829



Eldena Ruin

Gaspar David Friedrich, 1825



Winter Landscape with Church
Gaspar David Friedrich, 1811



British houses of Parliament

1840-1865



All Saints Chapel, Sewanee, Tennessee (University of the South)



8. The Exotic,
the Occult,
and the Macabre!

Characteristics of Romanticism

The Supernatural:

- Ghosts, fairies, witches, demons.
- The shadows of the mind—dreams & madness.
- The romantics rejected materialism in pursuit of spiritual self-awareness.
- They yearned for the unknown and the unknowable.

Cloister Cemetery in the Snow
Caspar David Friedrich, 1817-1819



Abbey in an Oak Forest

Caspar David Friedrich, 1809–1810



*Mad Woman
With a
Mania
of Envy*

Theodore
Gericault,
1822-1823



Pity - William Blake, 1795





*The Great Red
Dragon and the
Woman Clothed
with the Sun*

*William Blake,
1808–1810*

Stonehenge – John Constable, 1836



Nightmare (The Incubus)

Henry Fuseli, 1781



Manfred and the Witch of the Alps
John Martin - 1837





*Witches
Sabbath*

Francisco Goya,
1798

Procession of Flagellants on Good Friday
Francisco Goya, 1793



*Saturn Devours
his Son*

Francisco Goya,
1819–1823



9. Nationalism

Signing of the Declaration of Independence

John Trumbull 1819



Surrender of Cornwallis

John Trumbull 1820



Washington Crossing the Delaware
Emanuel Lutz 1851



*Greece on the
Ruins of
Missolonghi*

*Eugène Delacroix,
1827*



Liberty Leading the People
Eugène Delacroix, 1830





Detail of the
Musket Bearer

Delacroix, himself

The Rise of the Carthaginian Empire Joseph Turner, 1815



His Majesty's Ship, "Victory"
(Trafalgar) – John Constable, 1806





*An Officer of the
Imperial Horse
Guard*

*Théodore Géricault,
1814*

*Napoleon
at the
St. Bernard
Pass*

*David,
1803*



The Shooting of May 3, 1808
Francisco Goya, 1815



Pandemonium – John Martin, 1841





10. Interest in
Exotic
Foreign Lands

Characteristics of Romanticism

Exoticism:

- The sexy "other."
- A sense of escape from reality.
- A psychological/moral justification of imperialism?

Grand Canal, Venice

Joseph Mallord William Turner, 1835



Massacre of Chios – Eugène Delacroix, 1824



The Fanatics of Tangiers
Eugène Delacroix, 1837-1838



The Sultan of Morocco and his Entourage

Eugène Delacroix, 1845



Women of Algiers in Their Apartment Eugène Delacroix, 1834



The Bullfight – Francisco Goya

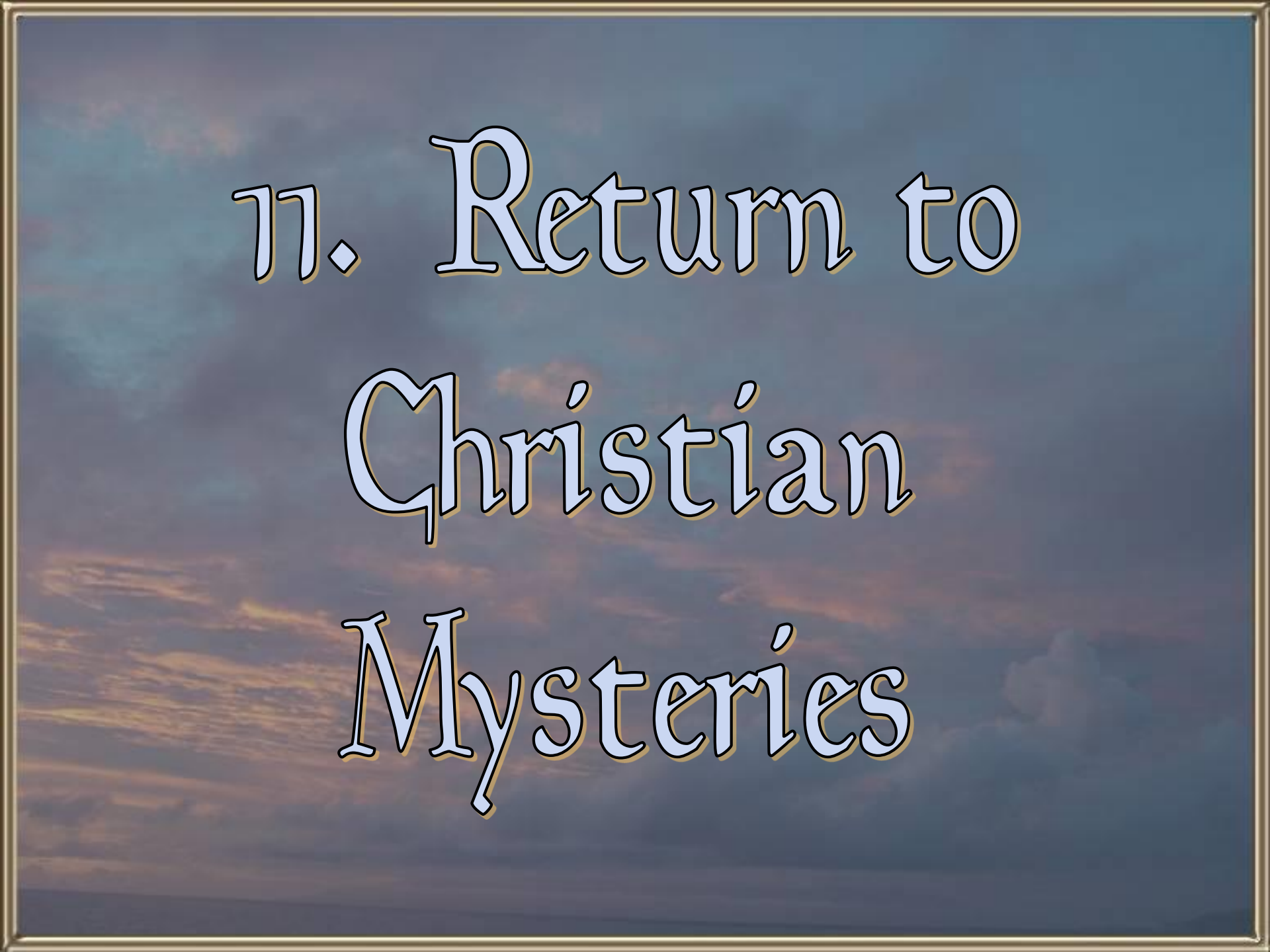


Charge of the Mamelukes, May 2nd, 1808
Francisco Goya, 1814



The Royal Pavillion at Brighton
John Nash, 1815-1823





11. Return to
Christian
Mysteries

God as the Architect – William Blake,

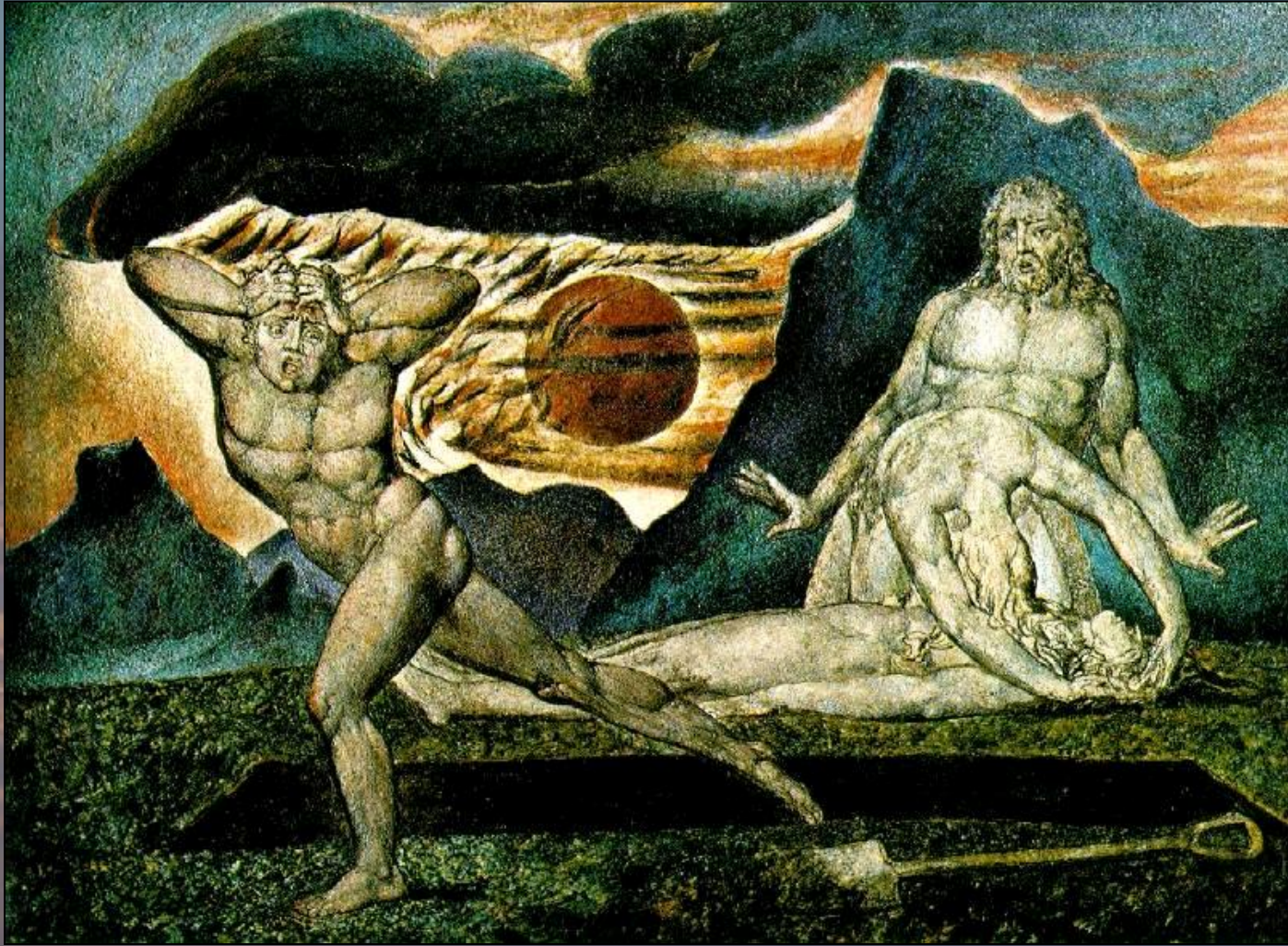
1794



Elohim Creating Abraham
William Blake, 1805



Body of Abel Found by Adam and Eve
William Blake, 1825



Faust and Mephistopheles
Eugène Delacroix, 1826–1827



The Seventh Plague of Egypt

John Martin, 1823



The Cathedral

Gaspar David
Friedrich,
1818





*The Cathedral
(details)*

Gaspar David
Friedrich,
1818

The Great Age of the Novel

- Gothic Novel:

Jane Eyre - Charlotte Bronte (1847)

Wuthering Heights - Emily Bronte (1847)

- Historical Novel:

Ivanhoe - Sir Walter Scott (1819)

Les Miserables - Victor Hugo (1862)

The Three Musketeers - Alexander Dumas
(1844)

The Great Age of the Novel

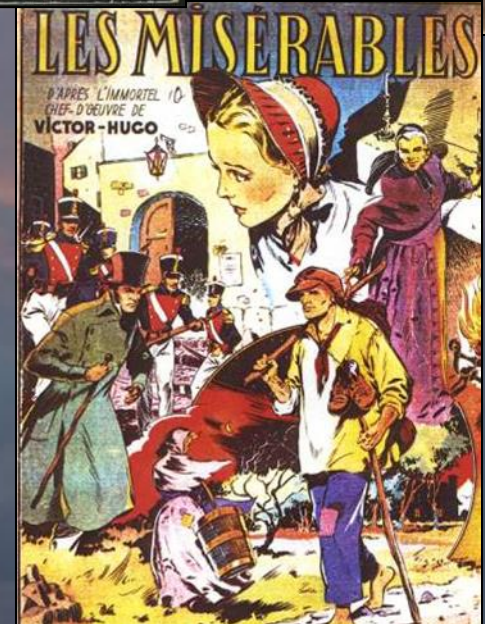
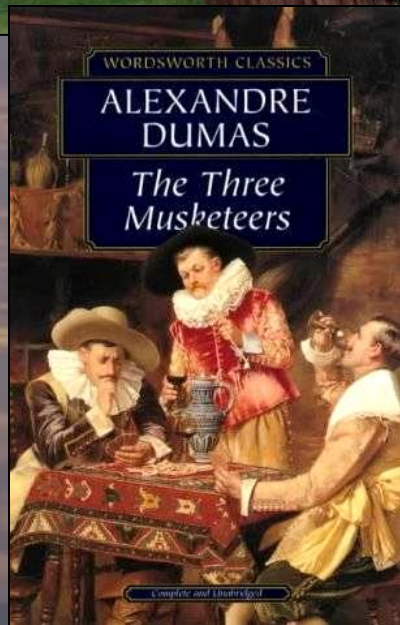
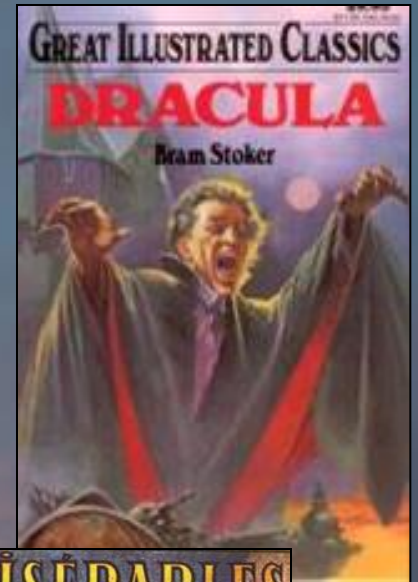
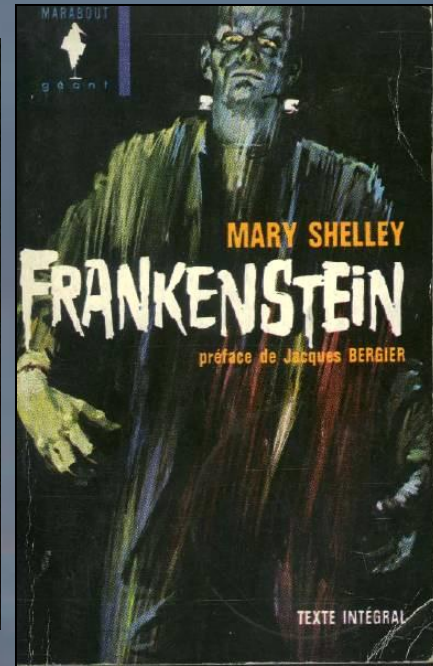
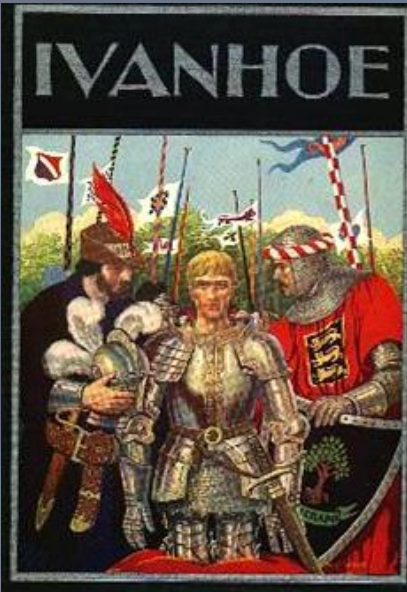
- Science Fiction Novel:

Frankenstein - Mary Shelley (1817)

Dracula - Bramm Stoker (1897)

- Novel of Purpose:

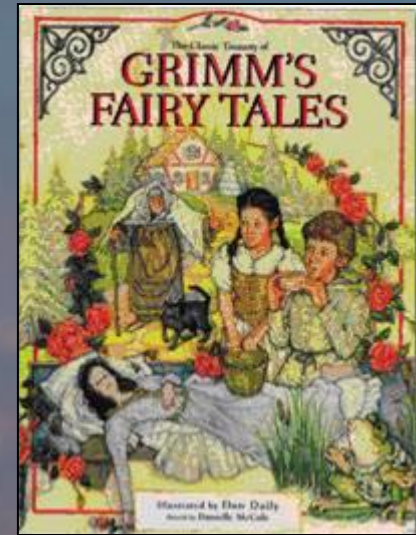
Hugh Trevar - Thomas Holcroft (1794)



Other Romantic Writers

Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm

- *Grimm's Fairy Tales*
(1814-1816)



Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
- *Faust* (1806-1832)

The Romantic Poets

- Percy Byssche Shelley
- Lord Byron (George Gordon)
- Samuel Taylor Coleridge
- William Wordsworth
- John Keats
- William Blake

George
Gordon's
(Lord Byron)
Poem

*The
Prisoner
of Chillon*



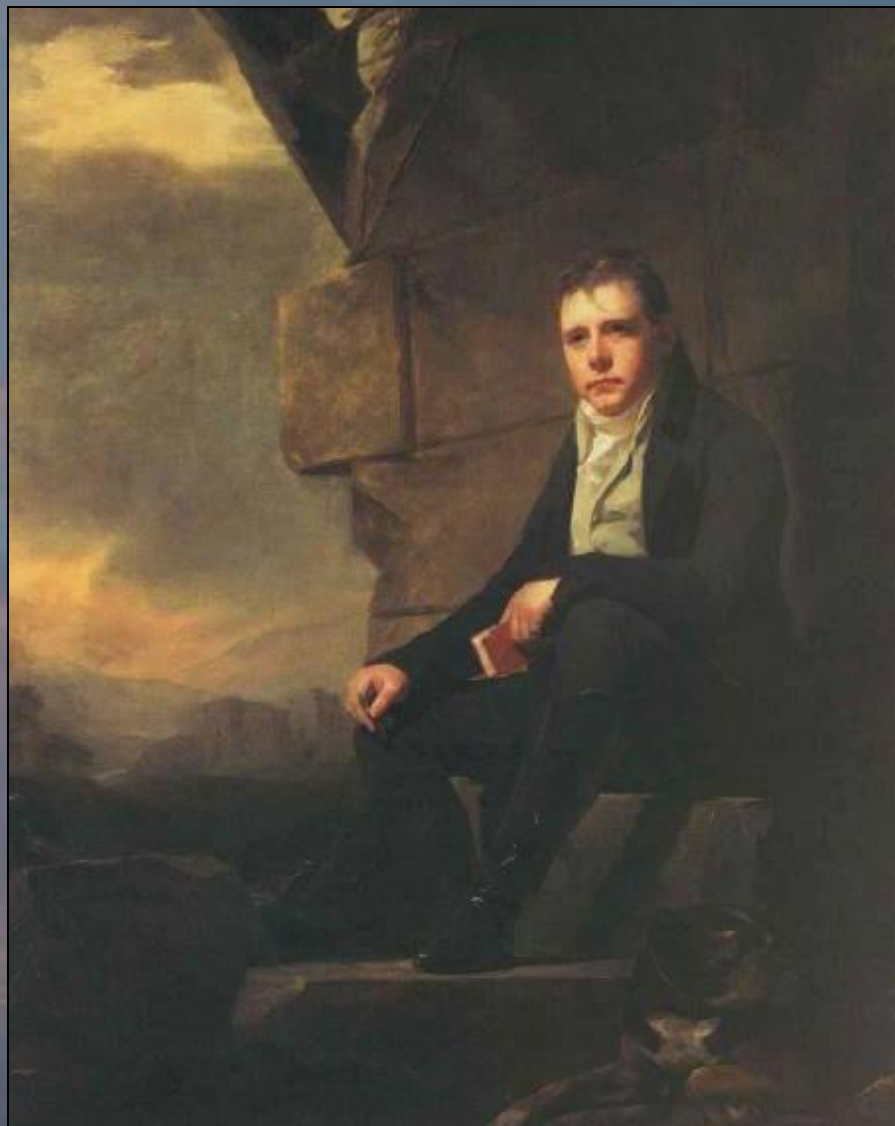
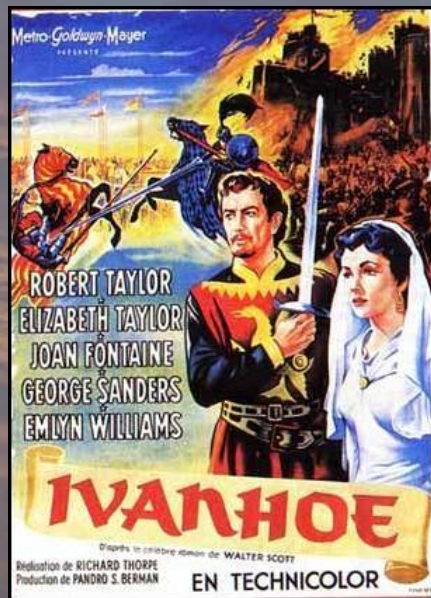


Mary
Shelley

Frankenstein

Sir
Walter
Scott

Ivanhoe






William
Wordsworth's
Poem,

*Tintern
Abbey*

Samuel
Taylor
Coleridge's
Poem,

*The Rime
of the
Ancient
Mariner*





Romanticism:
The Great
Paradox

The Political Implications

- Romanticism could reinforce the greatest themes of political liberalism or political conservatism.
- Contributed to growing nationalist movements.
 - The concepts of the *Volk* and the *Volkgeist*.
 - The uniqueness of cultures was emphasized.

Bibliographic Sources

- *CGFA: A Virtual Art Museum.*
<http://cgfa.sunsite.dk/fineart.htm>
- *"Romanticism" on Artchive.*
<http://artchive.com/artchive/romanticism.html>