

## REFERENCE WORK FOR THE PHILOSOPHY CAFÉ

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### MODERNITY AND T.S. ELLIOT

**Modernism** was an early 20th-century movement in literature, visual arts, and music that emphasized experimentation, [abstraction](#), and [subjective](#) experience.<sup>[1]</sup> Philosophy, politics, architecture, and [social issues](#) were all aspects of this movement. Modernism centered around beliefs in a "growing [alienation](#)" from prevailing "[morality, optimism, and convention](#)"<sup>[2]</sup> and a desire to change how "[human beings in a society interact and live together](#)".<sup>[3]</sup>

As a counterpoint to T.S. Elliot (1888-1965), the modernist poets of his generation were:

#### EARLY WRITERS

Robert Browning (1812-1889)

Walt Whitman (1819-1892)

Emily Dickinson (1830-1886)

Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844-1889)

Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)

Arthur Symonds (1865-1945; Early English Symbolist)

Ezra Pound (1885-1972)

#### LATER PERIOD IN IMAGISM

[Imagism](#) was a movement in early-20th-century poetry that favored precision of imagery and clear, sharp language.

Ford Madox Ford (1873-1939)

James Joyce (1882-1941)

Ezra Pound (1885-1972)

D. H. Lawrence (1885-1930)

Marianne Moore (1887-1972)

From [Wikipedia](#).

The main periods in question are often grouped by scholars as [Modernist literature](#), [Postmodern literature](#), flowering from roughly 1900 to 1940 and 1960 to 1990<sup>[1]</sup> respectively, roughly using [World War II](#) as a transition point. After 1960, the somewhat malleable term "[contemporary literature](#)" widely appears.

From [Wikipedia](#).

As historiography, there are two periods: [Long Nineteenth Century](#) and the [Short Twentieth Century](#).

The **long nineteenth century** is a term for the 125-year period beginning with the onset of the [French Revolution](#) in 1789, and ending with the outbreak of [World War I](#) in 1914. It was coined by Soviet writer [Ilya Ehrenburg](#)<sup>[1]</sup> and later popularized by British historian [Eric Hobsbawm](#). The term refers to the notion that the period reflects a progression of ideas which are characteristic to an understanding of the 19th century in Europe. A more generalized version of the long 19th century, lasting from 1750 to 1914, is often used by Peter N. Stearns in the context of the world history school.

In [The Age of Extremes: The Short Twentieth Century, 1914–1991](#) (1994), Hobsbawm details the **short 20th century** (a concept originally proposed by [Iván T. Berend](#)), beginning with [World War I](#) and ending with the [fall of the Soviet Union](#), between 1914–1991.

The life of T.S. Elliot overlapped both periods, but he is better understood as a figure of the short 20th century.

From [Wikipedia](#).