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The foundations of early bourgeois realism were laid
by **Daniel Defoe** and **Jonathan
Swift**

- The **moral** and **philosophical** meaning of **literary
action**
- Bourgeois values and morality are **fake** and **superficial**

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Novels that reconstruct a past age, often when two
cultures are in
conflict (**Historical Novels**)

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The London Times called him "pre-eminently a writer of
the people and for the people . . . the 'Great
Commoner' of English fiction." (**Harriet Martineau**)

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Sir Walter Scott is considered the father of the historical
novel

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Pioneers of the English Novel
(**Samuel Richardson– Henry Fielding**)

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The **Novel of Manners** Novels dominated by the customs, manners, conventional behavior and habits of a particular social class

–Contemporary Gothic novelists include **Anne Rice** and **Stephen King**

–**Frankenstein** One of the most famous gothic novels

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Novels of Sentiment Novels in which the characters, and thus the readers, have a heightened emotional response to events

–Social or Sociological novels deal with the **nature, function** and **effect** of the society

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Muckrakers exposed corruption in industry and society

Propaganda novels advocate a doctrinaire solution to social problems

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The new markets demand a new type of worker:

1–skilled and literate.

2–The establishment of grammar schools..

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By including varieties of poor people in all his novels, **Dickens** brought the problems of poverty to the attention of his readers

- In the 17th and 18th centuries, **prose** was still not recognized as a literary form.

- Only Greek and Latin and English verse were considered “**high culture.**”

- English prose** was what lower or middle class people read and wrote.

- The first novels were published as **serial stories** in newspapers.

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- Daniel Defoe Born in **1660** in **London**

- His mother and father were **Presbyterian dissenters**

- Defoe developed a taste for **travel** that lasted throughout his life

- his characters **Moll Flanders** and **Robinson Crusoe** both change their lives by **voyaging** far from their

native England.

– Defoe **published** his first novel, Robinson Crusoe, in **1719**, when he was around **60 years** old

– Robinson Crusoe was based on the true story of a shipwrecked seaman named **Alexander Selkirk** and was passed off as history

– In the **second** journey Crusoe becomes the **slave** of a Moor

– he manages to escape and is rescued and befriended by the

– he calls the Island of **Despair**

– He keeps a calendar by making marks in a **wooden** cross which he has built.

– Years later, he discovers native cannibals who occasionally visit the island to **kill and eat** prisoners.

– when a prisoner manages to escape, Crusoe helps him, naming his new companion "**Friday**"

– The term "**Robinsonade**" was coined to describe the genre of stories similar to **Robinson Crusoe**.

- In the **1850s** it was still common to find people who forbid their families from reading novels
- To tell stories, especially fiction, was still considered by some to be **a sin**.

-The audience for the novel grew enormously during the **19th century**

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“A novel is a splendid thing after a hard day’s work, a sharp practical tussle with the real world”

This is how one of the characters in Mary Braddon’s **The Doctor’s Wife (1864)** described the novel.

- Novel writers were told in the Saturday Review 1887 that the average reader of novels is not **a critical person**,

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Until the end of the 19th century, there were palpable demands on novel writers to make their novels have **a happy ending**.

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Dickens is known to have changed the ending of some

of his novels to please the reader with a happy ending.

– **George Eliot** is known to have opposed the idea

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Realist writers sought to narrate their novels from an **objective, unbiased perspective** that simply and clearly represented the factual elements of the story.

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The realists endeavored to accurately represent **contemporary culture** and **people** from all walks of life

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Realist writers are widely celebrated for their mastery of **objective, third-person** narration.

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The Realist novel of the **19th century** was written in **opposition** to the **Romance of medieval times**

–By the end of the **19th century**, artists and novelists

were already becoming **unsatisfied** with realism.

–Rejection of Realism and Naturalism became **common**

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Breakfast in the Studio– **Realist Art**

Weeping Woman– **Modernist Art**

–According to Conrad,**Heart of Darkness** is based
on **real events**–

–Conrad is "**Marlow**" in the novella.

– Heart of Darkness is set in the **Congo** at the time of
the **Belgian colonization**

– **Africa** was **the last** continent to be overtaken by
Europeans.

–**Leopold II** financed exploration of the Congo area, laid
claim to it, and made it his **private colony**.

–It belonged to the man, not to the country of Belgium.

It was therefore called a "**crown colony**."

–Profits from the area went into **his own pocket**, not into
the treasury of Belgium.

–**Belgian Congo area** was larger than Britain, France,
Spain, Italy and Germany **combined**.

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Leopold called it the "Congo Free State."

Later it became known as Zaire and is now called Democratic Republic of Congo

– Leopold hired the famous explorer Henry Morton Stanley to get control of the Congo.

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An 1884 treaty signed by Stanley and the chiefs gave the chiefs a piece of cloth in exchange for all of their waterways, roads, game, fishing, mining rights, and freedom-- FOREVER.

– Leopold declared a monopoly on rubber and ivory.
– Leopold set up a mercenary force called the Force Publique

– The only difference between forced labor and slavery is that the workers in forced labor situations are not actually owned by other people.

– The head of the Force Publique was Leon Rom
– Leon Rom kept a gallows permanently erected in his station to intimidate the workers

– The character Kurtz in the novella is based on Leon Rom.

– The Force Publique went into villages and captured the

natives for **forced labor**

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The women and children were **separated** from the men and held hostage until the men brought in their **quota** of rubber or ivory.

–Leopold claimed that his goal was ultimately **humanitarian**–

–**Leopold II** was responsible for the deaths of between ten and eleven million people in the Belgian Congo.

–Conrad, **author** of Heart of Darkness, said that Heart of Darkness is a **documentary**

–The novel begins on a yacht called the **Nellie** at the mouth of the river Thames in London.

–The five men, old friends held together by the **bond of the sea**

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Marlow recounts how he obtained a job with the Belgian “Company” through the influence of his **aunt** who had friends in the Company’s administration.

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The Company was **eager** to send Marlow to Africa, because one of the Company’s steamer captains had recently been **killed** in a fight with the natives.

- Marlow signs his contract, and goes to be checked by a doctor. The doctor takes **measurements** of his **skull**
- The doctor tells Marlow, **the changes take place inside.**

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Marlow is aware, though, that the Company operates for profit and not for the good of humanity, and he is bothered by his aunt's **naïveté**.

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The French steamer takes Marlow along the coast of Africa, stopping **periodically** to land soldiers and customs house officers

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Marlow sees a group of **black prisoners** walking along in **chains** under the guard of another **black man**, who wears **a shoddy** uniform and carries **a rifle**

-Marlow comes to a grove of trees and, to his horror, finds a group of dying **native laborers**.

-Marlow spends ten days waiting for **a caravan** to the next station.

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Marlow travels overland for two hundred miles with a caravan of **sixty men**. He has one **white companion** who falls ill and must be carried by the native bearers, who

start to desert because of the added burden.

–Marlow suspects the damage to the steamer may have been **intentional**, to keep him from reaching Kurtz.

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The manager tells Marlow that he took the boat out in a hurry to **relieve** the **inner stations**, especially the **one belonging** to Kurtz, who is rumored to be ill.

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One day , **a grass shed** housing some trade goods burns down, and the native laborers dance delightedly as it burns.

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One of the **natives** is accused of causing the fire and is **beaten** severely; he **disappears** into the forest after **herecovers**.

–Marlow overhears the **manager** talking with the **brickmaker** about **Kurtz** at the site of the burned hut.

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Marlow realizes the **brickmaker** had **planned** on being assistant manager, and Kurtz's arrival has upset his chances.

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Marlow **gives up** on ever receiving the rivets he needs

to repair his ship, and turns to wondering **disinterestedly** about **Kurtz** and his ideals.

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Marlow and his companions find **a hut** with a stack of firewood and a note that says, “**Wood for you. Hurry up.**

Approach cautiously.”

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The manager concludes that the **wood** must have been left by the **Russian trader**, a man about whom Marlow has overheard the manager complaining

–They stop again 8 miles away from Kurtz’ station because of the **fog**.

–The leader of the cannibals tells Marlow that his people **want to eat** the people making the **loud cries**
–the central theme in Heart of Darkness is **colonialism and imperialism**.

–The novel exposes the **hypocrisy** of colonialism and imperialism.

–Kurtz s **frank** about the fact that he is there to **steal** and **plunder** ivory

–no African is allowed to **speak** in the novel, and they are often portrayed as **sub-humans** and **primitives**