

The background of the slide is an impressionist painting, likely by Claude Monet, depicting a woman in a garden. The woman is on the left, shown in profile, wearing a light-colored dress. The garden is filled with various flowers and greenery, rendered with soft, visible brushstrokes and a palette of greens, blues, and yellows. The overall style is characteristic of the Impressionist movement.

# La Belle Époque [1871–1914]:

## “The Beautiful Era”

Ms. Susan M. Pojer and Miss Raia



An impressionist painting of a woman in a white dress, possibly by J.M.W. Turner, shown in profile on the left side of the slide. The background is a soft, textured impressionist landscape with green and blue tones.

# *Characteristics of La Belle Epoch*

## **1. Materialism**

- Higher standard of living
- Increased consumption
- Sports attracted increased spectators and participants
- Increased numbers of women took part in bicycling and sports clubs
  - Started dressing in more comfortable clothing
- Cafes and Taverns
- Department stores
- Dance Halls and concert halls



# *Characteristics of La Belle Epoch*

2. Increased European Population
3. Growth of Cities & Urban Life
4. Migration from Europe
  - 1850-1940 □ 60 million left Europe
  - Went to □ US, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Australia/N. Zeal.
5. "Second" Industrial Revolution
  - Steam □ electricity
  - Internal combustion & diesel engines.
  - Cars, planes, submarines.



# *Characteristics of La Belle Epoch*

5. "Second" Industrial Revolution  
Britain □ "The World's Industrial Workshop"
  - Corporations □ limited liability of investments.
  - Mass production.
6. Free Trade [esp. in England]
7. World Markets [Global Economy, Part II]
8. Advance of Democracy
  - Extension of the vote to the working class.







# Characteristics of La Belle Epoch

## 9. The Appeal of Socialism

- By the 1880s, most socialist parties were Marxist [esp. Ger. & Fr.]
- Not very successful in England.

## 10. Faith in Science Alone

- Science at the core of industrialization.
- Charles Darwin
  - *Origin of Species* [1859]
  - “survival of the fittest”



# *Characteristics of La Belle Epoch*

## 10. Faith in Science Alone [con't.]

- “Social Darwinism” □ Herbert Spenser
- Newtonian Science turned on its head
  - Einstein □ “Theory of Relativity”  
□ nature & energy were separate & distinct.
  - Max Planck □ Quantum Physics



# Characteristics of La Belle Epoch

## 10. Faith in Science Alone [con't.]

- Professionalization of “new” sciences [anthropology, archeaology, etc.]
- Psychology
  - Ivan Pavlov □ conditioned responses
  - Sigmund Freud □ psychoanalysis
    - *The Interpretation of Dreams* [1900]
    - The role of the unconscious [the id, ego, super ego].







# Characteristics of La Belle Epoch

13. **Anti-Semitism**
  - Dreyfus Affair
  - Theodore Herzl □ *Der Judenstaat* [*The Jewish State*], 1896
    - “Father of Modern Zionism”
14. **Women's Movement**
  - Emmeline Pankhurst
15. **The “New” Imperialism**
16. **Militarism □ glorification of war**



The background of the slide is an impressionist painting. On the left side, there is a vertical strip showing a woman's profile, looking towards the right. The rest of the background is a soft, textured landscape with green and blue tones, suggesting a field or garden. The overall style is characteristic of the Impressionist movement, with visible brushstrokes and a focus on light and color.

# *Characteristics of La Belle Epoch*

## 17. Education

- State's role in education increased leading to further secularization of society
- By 1900 in England all children 5 to 12 were required to attend primary school
- Education was free
- French Ferry Laws required children ages 3-13 to attend primary schools
- Effects? - significant increase in literacy
- Girls had less access to secondary education than boys but schools for girls increased