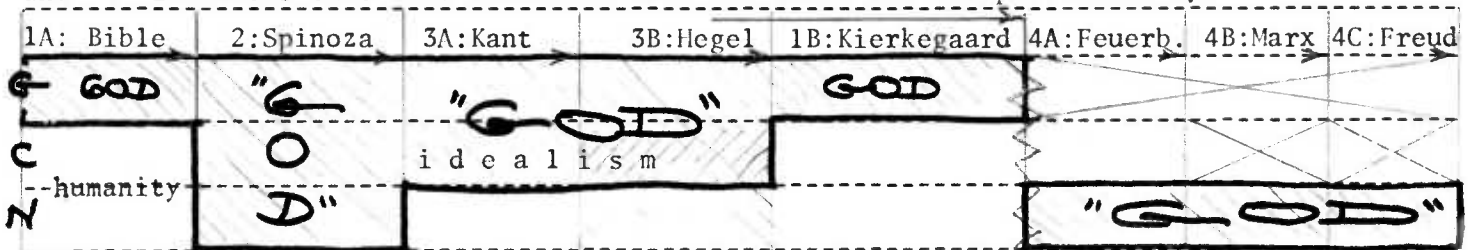


This thinksheet attempts to visualize simply but (I hope) without distortion the great conversation, in modern Western (and therefore world-impacting) thought (and therefore action!) as to how "God," "mind" (or "consciousness"), and "matter" (or "nature" or "the senses" or "the body") are related in reality and therefore to be related in thought and behavior. On this dialog depend our ways of conceiving "liberation," "freedom," "the state," "the church," "rights-responsibilities," "ethics" in the broadest-deepest sense. ...While the Anglo-American tradition beginning with Hume is also important, dominant is the European tradition beginning with Spinoza. With their birth here is the (Excellent thumbnails of all but the last two are in Cross' one-vol. THE OX. DICT. OF THE XN CHURCH; and great articles on all are in the four vol. Macmillan THE ENCY. OF PHILOSOPHY. ...Hellenic, Hellenistic, and Scholastic thinking encompassed these issues; but for most purposes it's unnecessary to plunge earlier than the Enlightenment in order to get at the factors and alternatives in economic, cultural, social, and political issues today [the one exception being the Bible, with which we start the display].) Now, to give point and simplicity, question: WHO/WHAT HAS DIVINE STATUS, ULTIMATE REALITY, IN EACH OF THESE WAYS OF SEEING-UNDERSTANDING? On the chart, I use the term "God" for the subject of this question-sentence. The ways are designated, for ease of commentation, as 1A,2,3A,3B,1B,4A,4B,4C. Solid lines enclose "God" areas, and "X" indicates that this dimension does not exist for the particular system.

CAST OF CHARACTERS:

Spinoza	1632
Kant	1724
Hegel	1770
Feuerbach	1804
Kierkegaard	1813
Marx	1818
Freud	1856.



COMMENTARY: The "G" level is the biblical God, reappearing here only in Kierkegaard, the only one to appear here out of birth order, and that so as to group the three materialists at the chart's end....Some may want to lay thinksheet #545 (on all possible relations between God/nature/self/other[s] vis-a-vis the ways of being religious) alongside the present chart, for exciting discoveries!....You may want to add to these Continentals these British: Hobbes' infl. on 2; Locke-Berkeley-Hume's infl. on 3A; and the infl. of 3A-3B on Wm. Temple....2 is radical pantheism, the most thoroughgoing in the history of philosophy, by S. "the God-intoxicated man." God is not only the "G" level, but also the "C" ("Consciousness" or "Mind") and the "N" ("Nature" or "Matter")....Note that "humanity" participates (1) in creation [i.e. C-N] and (2) in both consciousness [shared with "angels"] and nature [plants and animals sharing with us]....Much of the current fascination of Jung is that he moves to 2 on the basis of 4C, but freely uses the language of 1A infilled with his esoteric-intrasystemic meanings....In 1A-1B, humanity is that part of C-N creation that is spoken both to and for: the good life is through obedience to the Creator-Speaker (through Abraham-Moses-Jesus)....In 2, G is simply and complexly and profoundly All.... In 3A, God is Commander, as Herr General or Herr Professor or just Herr Vater: religion is not only "within the limits of" reason but also of morality (so no place for the mystical, the redemptive, the historical). God-freedom-immortality are unprovable as knowledge, since an essential component of kn. is the natural categories ["forms of perception"] we call space and time; but provable existentially in conscience-duty, by faith as transrational, not requiring a nature element. Religion is the recognition of duty as divine command....For 3B, God is Absolute Spirit, emphasis on the middle level--which two of H's students, K and F, reacted to in opposite directions!...3B leaned toward 2....1B saw God as does 1A, and so we "exist" primarily in SUBjectivity: 4A saw God as illusional projection of passion and ideality, and located reality in OBjectivity....4B-4C followed the projection-illusion notion, 4B in OBjectivity (so in economics-politics) and 4C in SUBjectivity (so in psychology and psychosociology), the modern world-scene version of the Manichean split [but note that Freud was as much based in mechanistic materialism as was Marx!]. Positively put, "God" is matter: theology collapses into philosophy collapses into anthropology.