

## Chapter Eight: Psychology of Consciousness

### Study Questions

1. Is science, the study of the natural world, incompatible with beliefs about that which we cannot observe? Are science and moral concepts such as *Bildung* irreconcilable?
2. Consider the ancient Greek value of *eudaemonia*. How is it similar to the German concept of *Bildung*? How is it dissimilar?
3. Multiple psychological disciplines view the mind in different ways (e.g. Cognitive psychology—computational processes; social psychology—group and individual psychological mechanisms). Theorists have disagreed on the nature of the mind for centuries—how has modern study resolved, or not resolved, this debate?
4. We generally regard systematic introspection as insufficiently scientific: how else can we study intentions within the mind? Are such studies possible?
5. How did Descartes' Way of Ideas influence conceptions of the mind? What alternative models to the Cartesian model of the mind were proposed?
6. The Germans were strongly influenced by their history: their desire to bolster their cultural superiority based on intellectual advancement led to an ideal of German superiority which can be argued to have formed the intellectual background for the rise of National Socialism. In what ways can intellectual and beliefs about moral superiority inform the cultural *zeitgeist*? In what ways can such elitism be harmful? Can it be beneficial?
7. Who was Wilhelm Wundt? What were his major contributions to the development of psychology as an independent discipline? How did his theories of psychology change throughout his career?
8. What were the main theories proposed by the Wurzburg school? Why did their theories fail to gain credibility in the scientific community?
9. Why was the growth of psychology inhibited in Germany during the early twentieth century? Contrast this with the growth of psychology in America during this time.
10. Describe the second brand of Wundt's work, *Volkerpsychologie*. What were Wundt's contributions to the comparative-historical method? Why did Wundt consider this method so important?
11. Describe Wundt's introspection; how was this different from other types of introspection? In Wundt's experiment, what did he find? How did he explain these results?
12. Wundt made perhaps his most significant contribution to the study of language. Describe Wundt's theory of language; make specific reference to sentence production. How did Wundt divide language? Why did Wundt feel language was so important in understanding the evolution of the human mind?
13. Compare and contrast Wundt's two branches of psychology.