

ERIK ERIKSON



Introducing ...

- Erik Erikson was born in Frankfurt, Germany in 1902.
- He moved to the United States in 1939.
- He based his theories on those of Sigmund Freud.
- He taught at Harvard, Yale, University of California at Berkeley.
- He was a Psychoanalyst.
- He is best known for his ideas on how human beings develop a sense of identity and the 8 stages of psychosocial development.
- Erikson died in Harwich, Massachusetts in 1994.

Psychology

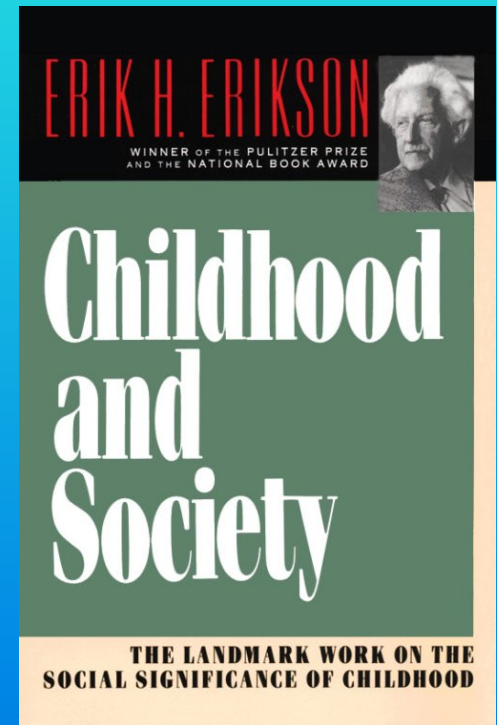
- Psychology: Scientific study of mental processes and behaviour.
- Psychologists observe and record how people and other animals relate to one another and to their environment.
- The Psychoanalytic Theory is based on a theory by Sigmund Freud. In the psychoanalytic, view of development children changes through conflicts.

8 Stages of Psychosocial Development

1. Trust vs. Mistrust (Infancy)
2. Autonomy vs. Shame and Doubt (1 – 3 Years)
3. Initiative vs. Guilt (3 – 6 Years)
4. Competence vs. Inferiority (6 – 12 Years)
5. Identity vs. Role Confusion (12 – 18 Years)
6. Intimacy vs. Isolation (18 – 40 Years)
7. Generativity vs. Stagnation (40 – 65 Years)
8. Integrity vs. Despair (65 Years – Death)

Other Contributions

- He became widely known for his studies of adolescence, mainly the idea of an adolescent *identity crisis*.
- He also wrote a lot of books such as, *Childhood and Society* and *Identity: Youth and Crisis*.



Importance

- He is credited for widening the scope of psychoanalytic theory to take a greater account of social, cultural and other environmental factors.
- He modified Freud's ideas. Where Freud focused on the psychological and biological aspects of development, Erikson said that social and cultural influences are also significant to development.

Interesting Information

- He was born Eric Homberger, and changed to Erikson when he moved to the U.S.A.
- As a young boy, Erikson experienced some conflict because of his Jewish faith and his Danish appearance. This may have helped to form his long-standing interest in identity as a research area.



Erikson and his wife.