
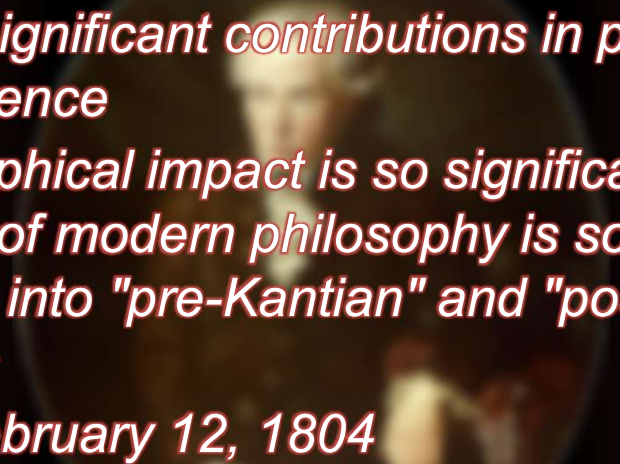
A circular portrait of Immanuel Kant, an elderly man with white hair, wearing a dark coat and a white cravat, set against a dark background.

Immanuel Kant:

Discovering the Powers and the Limits of Reason

- 
- A circular portrait of Immanuel Kant, an elderly man with white hair, wearing a dark coat and a white cravat, set against a dark background.
- *born in Königsberg, East Prussia, April 22, 1724*
 - *attended the University of Königsberg and later taught there*

- 
- *made significant contributions in philosophy and science*
 - *philosophical impact is so significant that the history of modern philosophy is sometimes divided into "pre-Kantian" and "post-Kantian" periods*
 - *died February 12, 1804*

Immanuel Kant

**Critique
of
Pure Reason**

Translated by
Werner S. Pluhar

Introduction by
Patricia W. Kitcher

Immanuel Kant

**Prolegomena
to Any Future
Metaphysics**

Second Edition

and the
Letter to Marcus Herz, February 1772

**Significant Philosophical
Works by Kant**



*One major influence
on earlier stages of
Kant's philosophy
was Christian Wolff.*



Christian Wolff
(1679-1754)

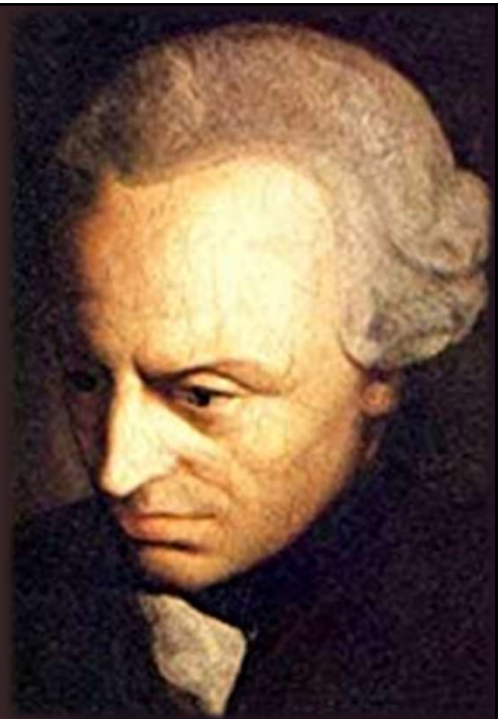
While immersed in the system of Wolff, Kant's thinking was overturned and he embarked in a new direction because of his reading of Hume.



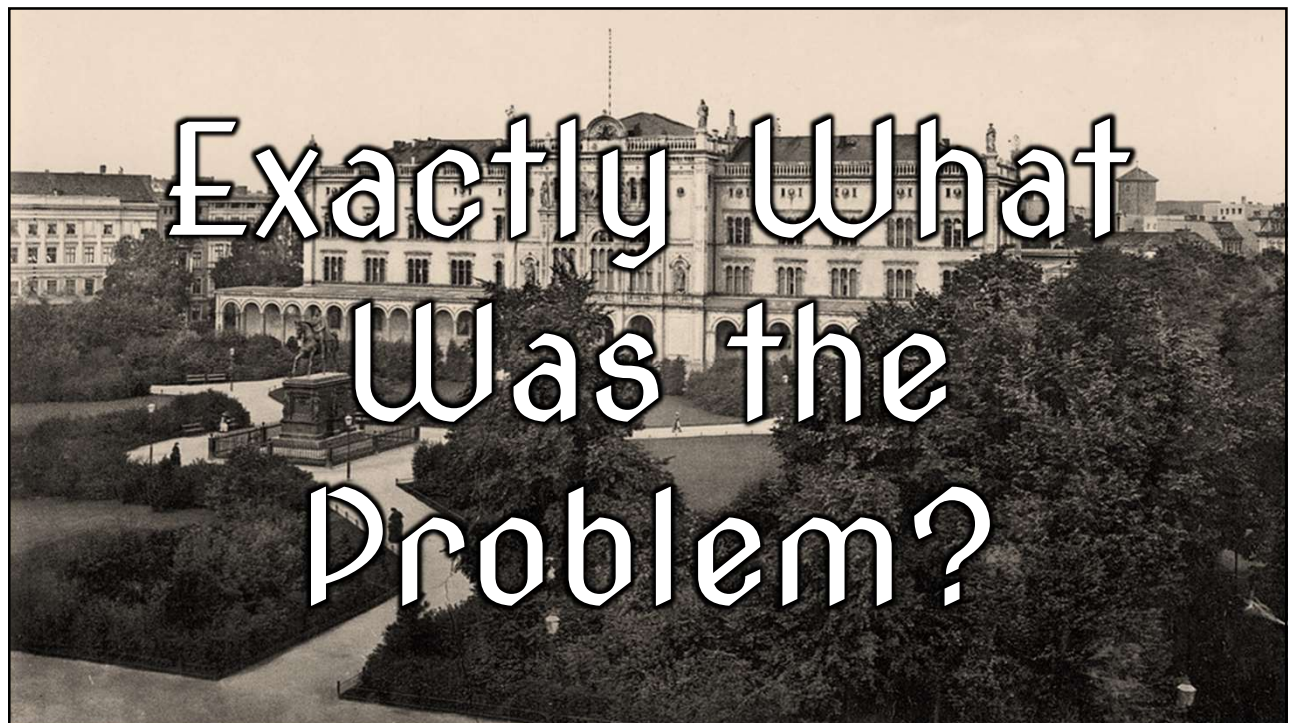
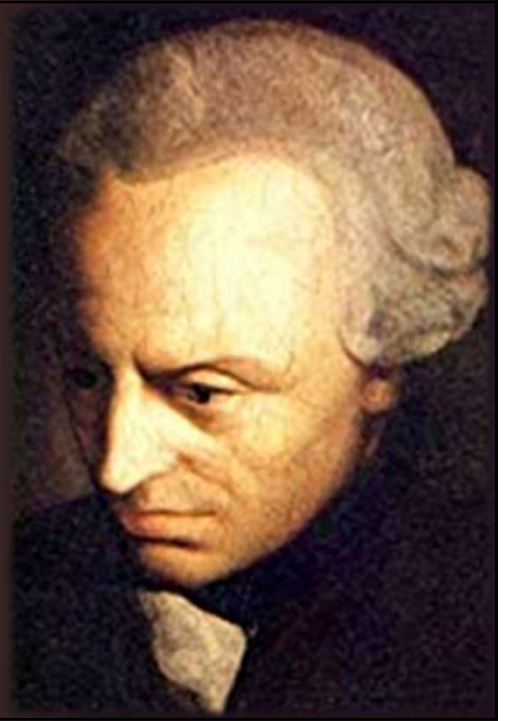
Christian Wolff
(1679-1754)

"I openly confess my recollection of David Hume was the very thing which many years ago first interrupted my dogmatic slumber and gave my investigations in the field of speculative philosophy a quite new direction."

[Immanuel Kant, *Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics*, ed. Lewis White Beck (Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill, 1950), 8]



Kant embarked on the task of resolving the tensions between his earlier rationalism and the insights of empiricism.



*The philosophers of the day
(the Rationalists and the
Empiricists) distinguished
two kinds of truths*

Truths of Reason	Truths of Fact
a. Hume referred to them as relations of ideas.	a. Hume referred to them as matters of fact.
b. logical truths (i.e., established by the logical law of non-contradiction)	b. experiential truths (i.e., not established by the logical law of non-contradiction)
c. necessary and universal	c. contingent and probable
d. known " <i>a priori</i> "	d. known " <i>a posteriori</i> "
e. The predicate is contained in the subject. (Bachelors are unmarried.)	e. The predicate is not contained in the subject. (My dog is brown.)
f. Kant labeled these "analytic propositions or judgments."	f. Kant labeled these "synthetic propositions or judgments."
g. e.g., mathematical truths	g. e.g., scientific truths

- *The Rationalists, including Kant, held that even scientific truths (e.g., causality, time, space) could ultimately be reduced to logical truths.*
- *However, because of the devastating critique of Hume, Kant was convinced that reason could not establish even these scientific truths.*
- *Since they served as the foundation for the natural sciences, Kant took Hume's philosophy as a threat to the very survival of science itself.*

Kant set out to develop a new understanding of knowledge that would undergird science and steer a course between:

*the dogmatism of
the rationalists*

and

*the skepticism of
the empiricists [i.e., Hume]*

*while retaining the
insights of each.*



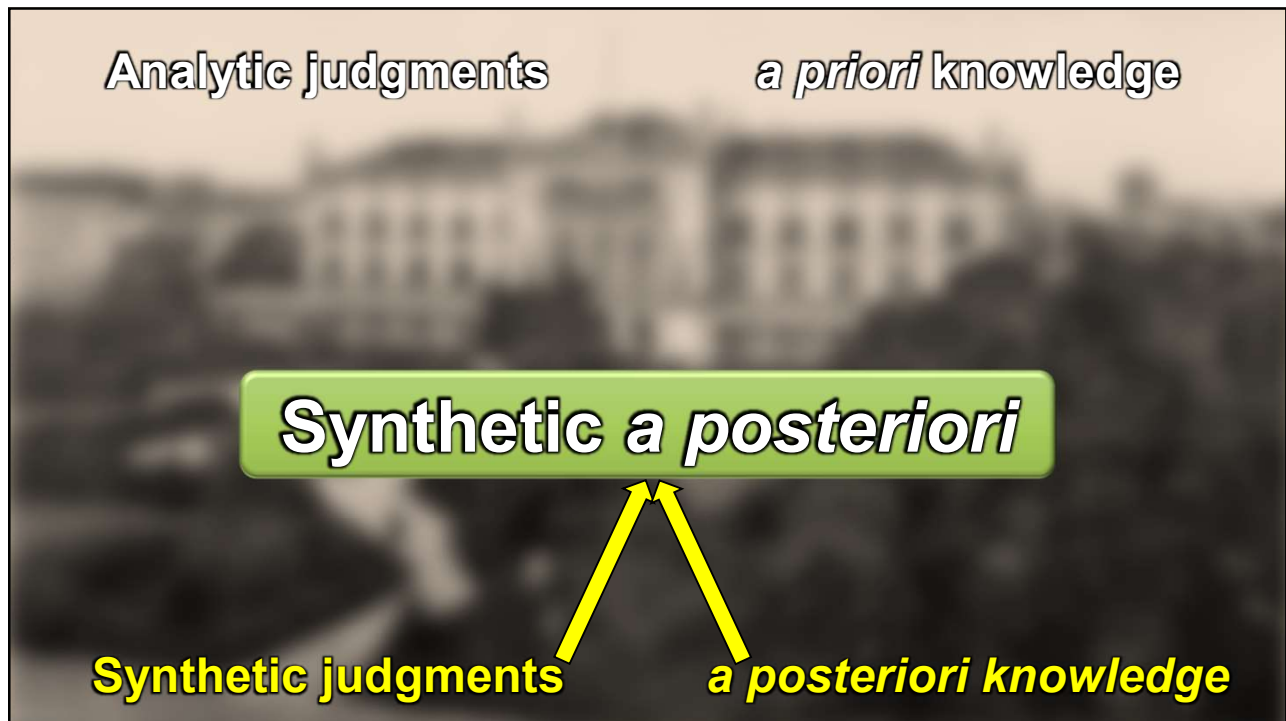
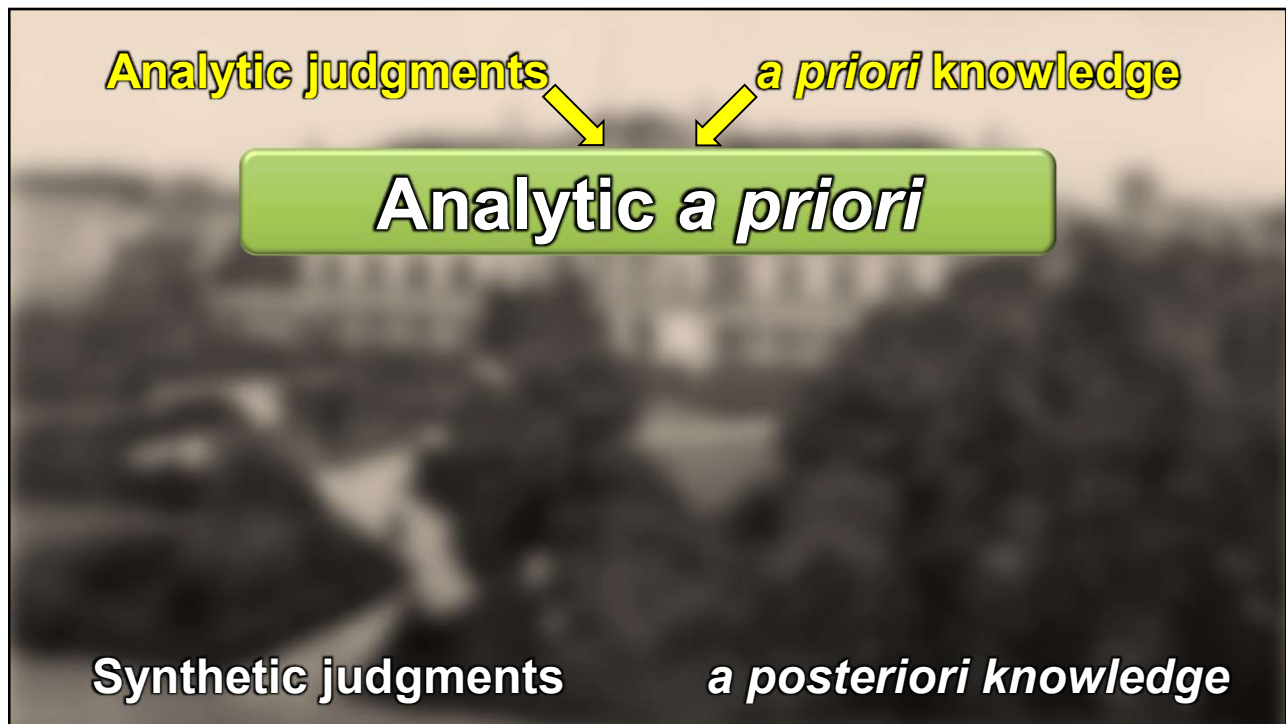
Immanuel Kant
(1724-1804)

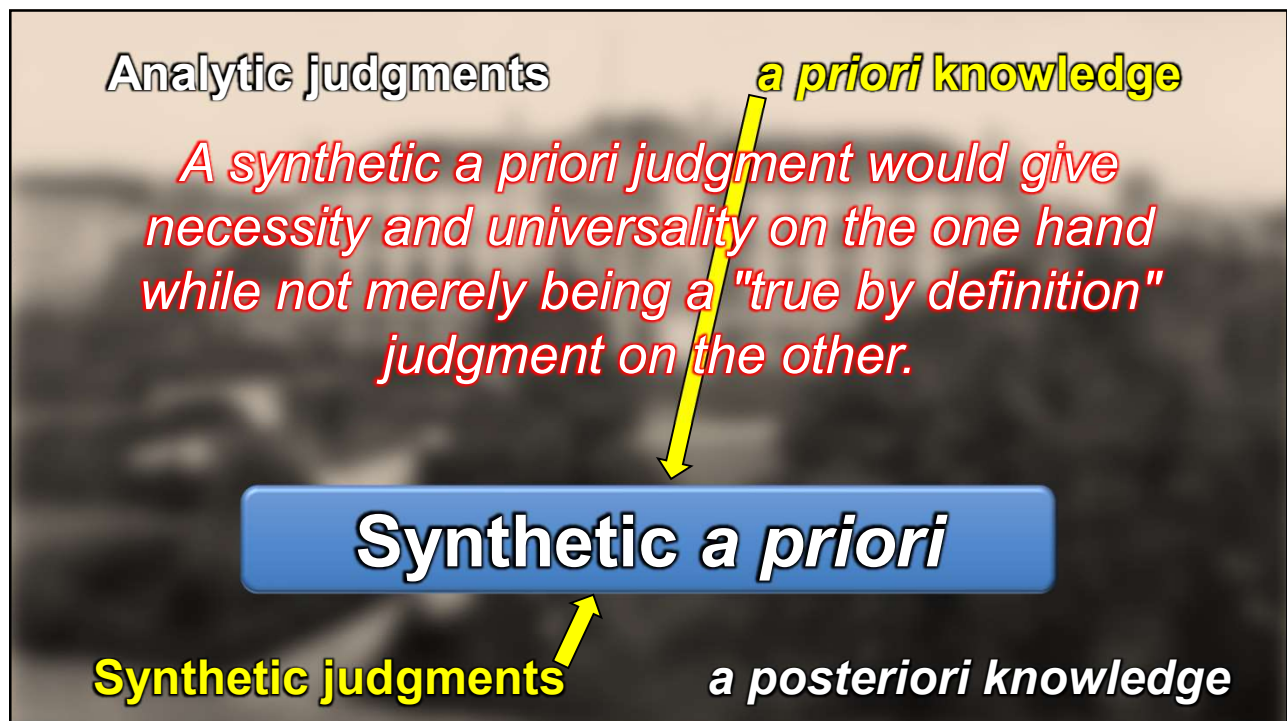
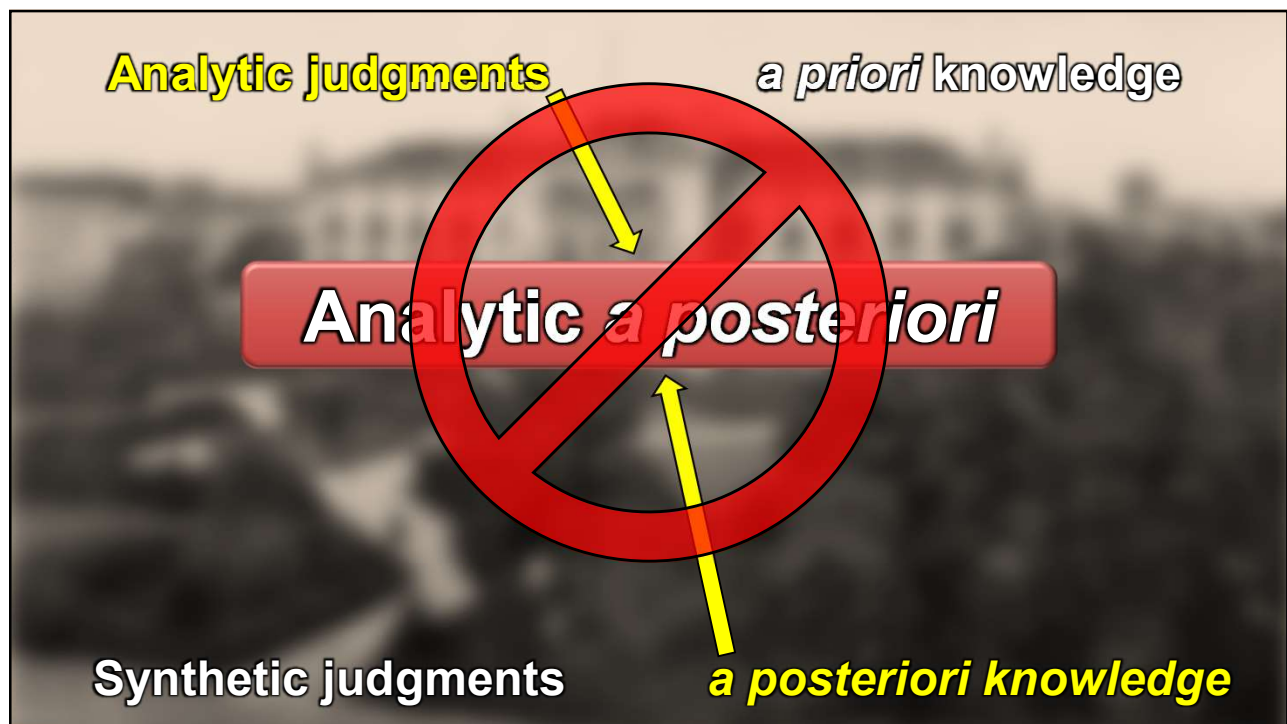


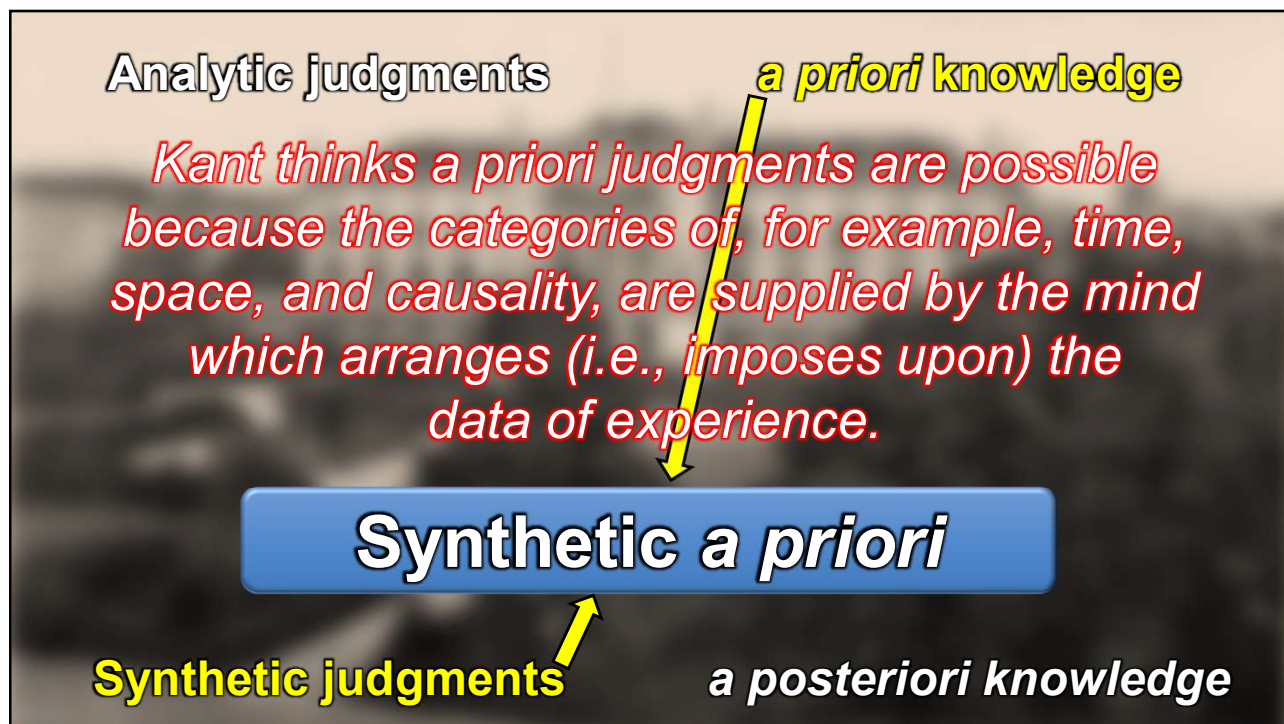
***"There can be no doubt
that all our knowledge
begins with experience.
... But though all our
knowledge begins with
experience, it does not
follow that it arises out
of experience."***

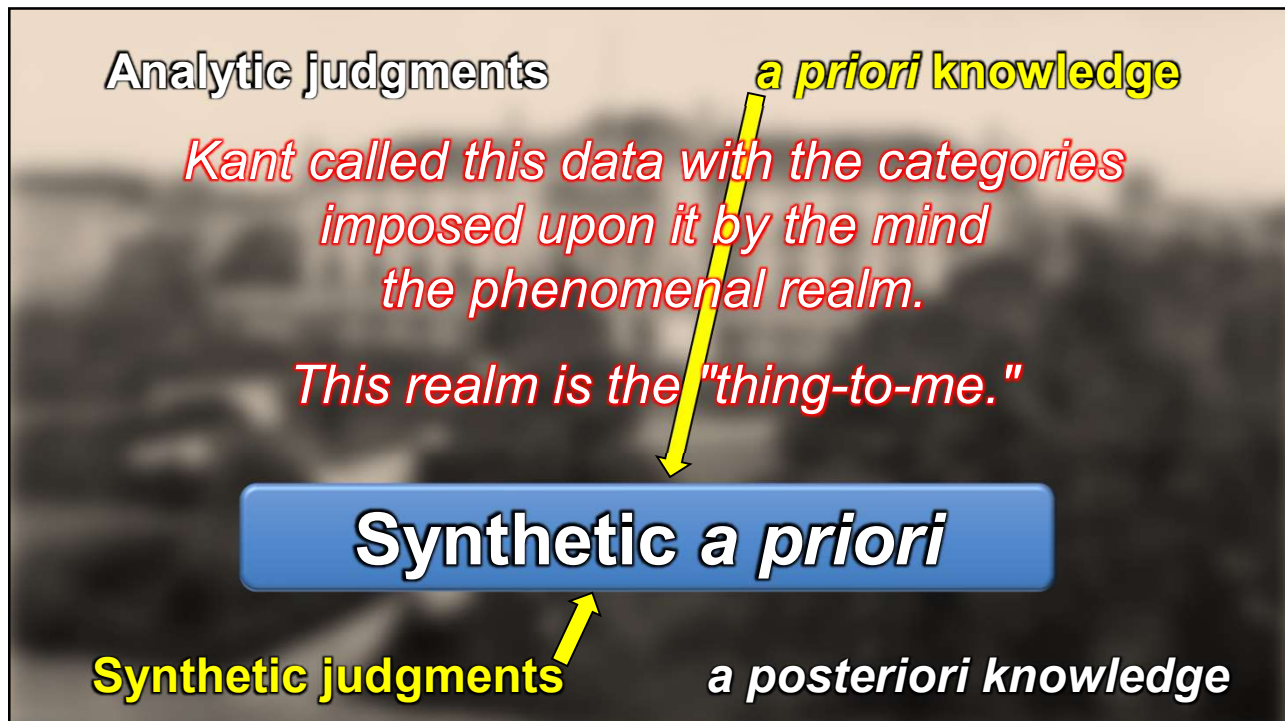
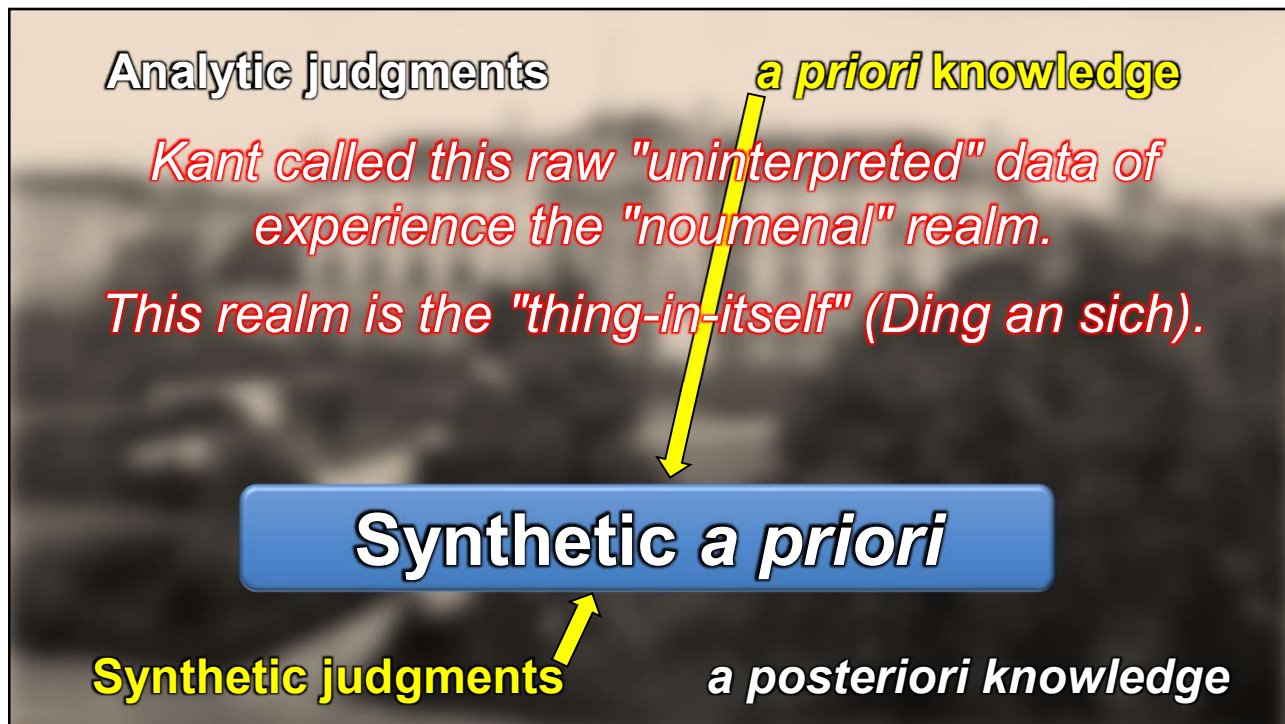
[*Critique of Pure Reason*, trans. Norman Kemp Smith (New York: St. Martin's Press), 41]





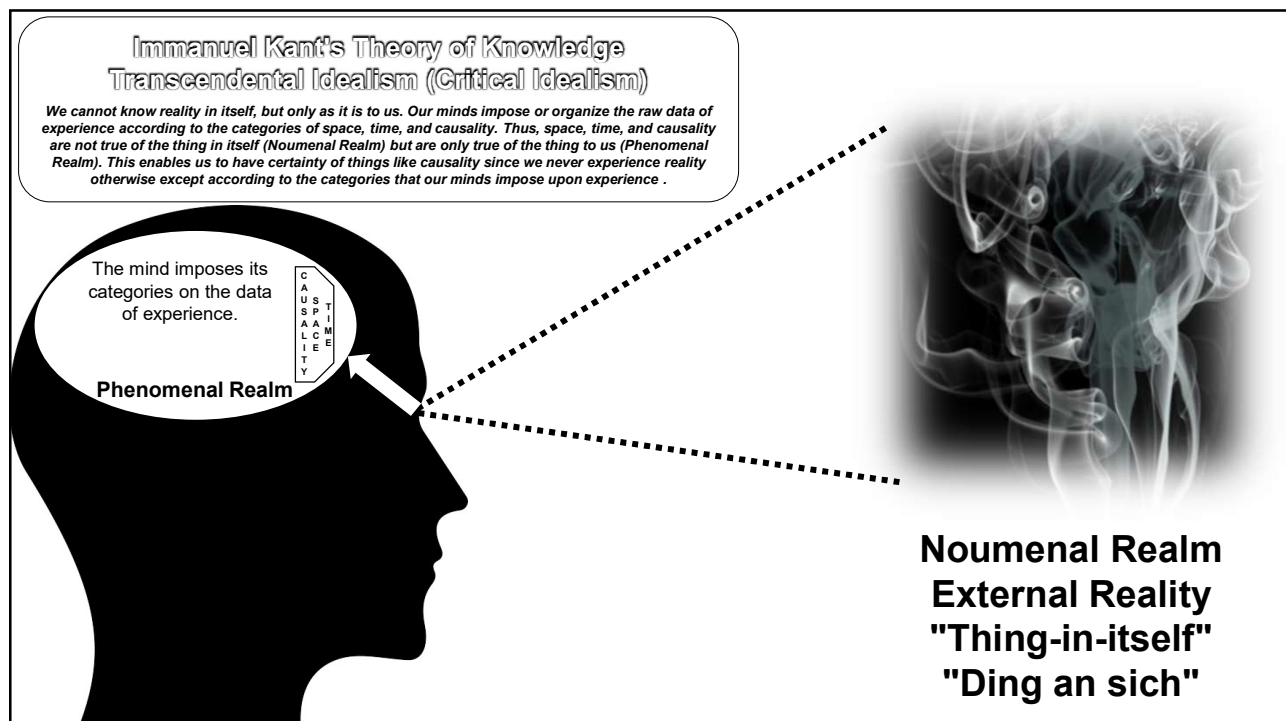


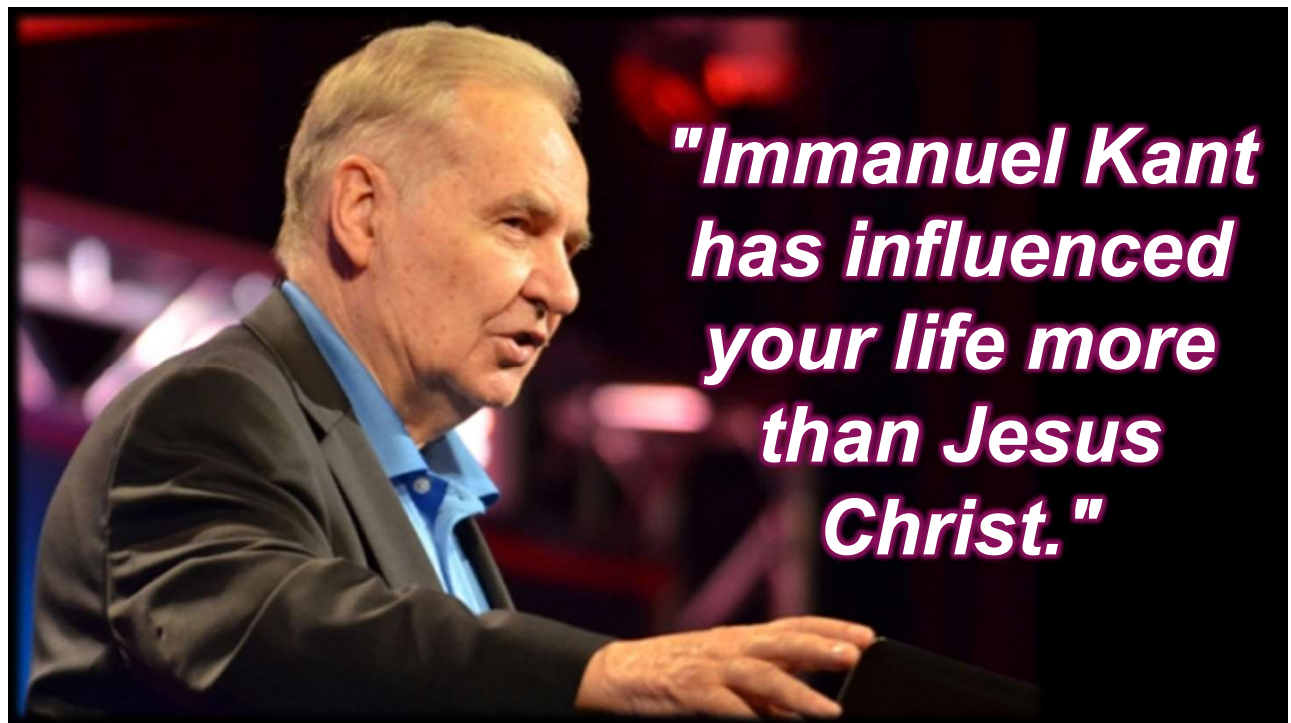
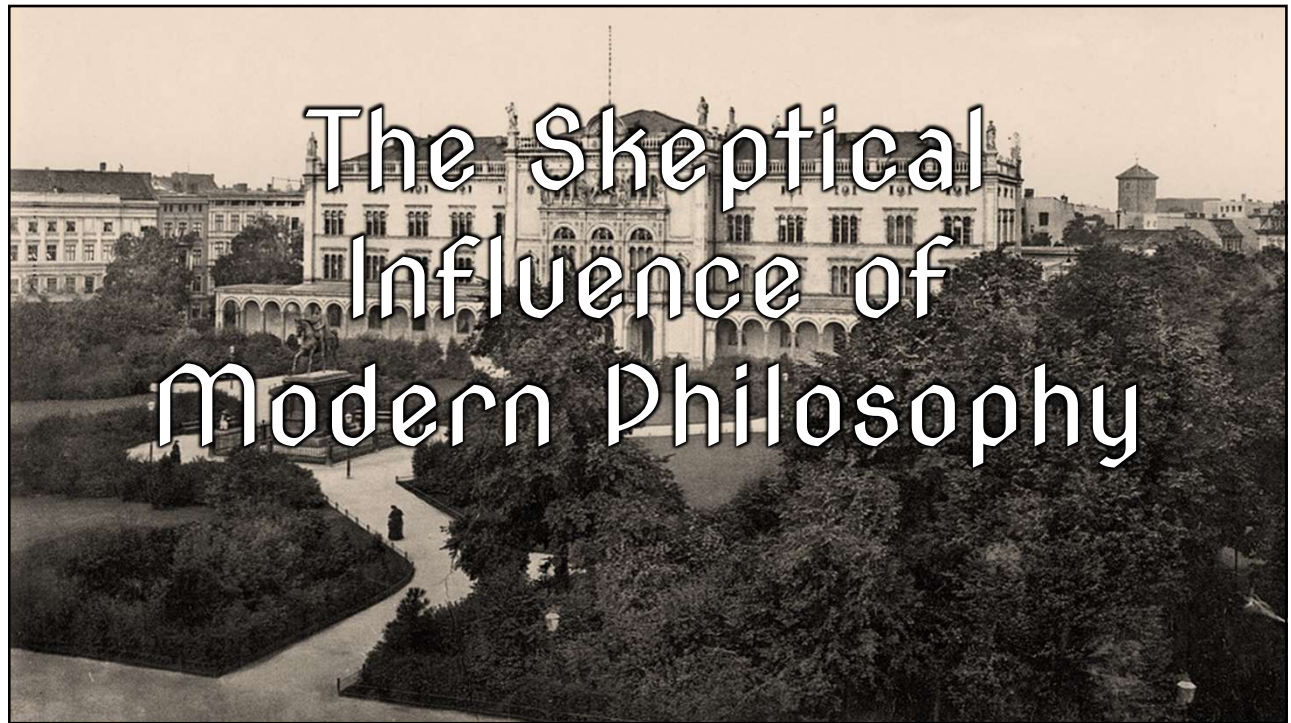


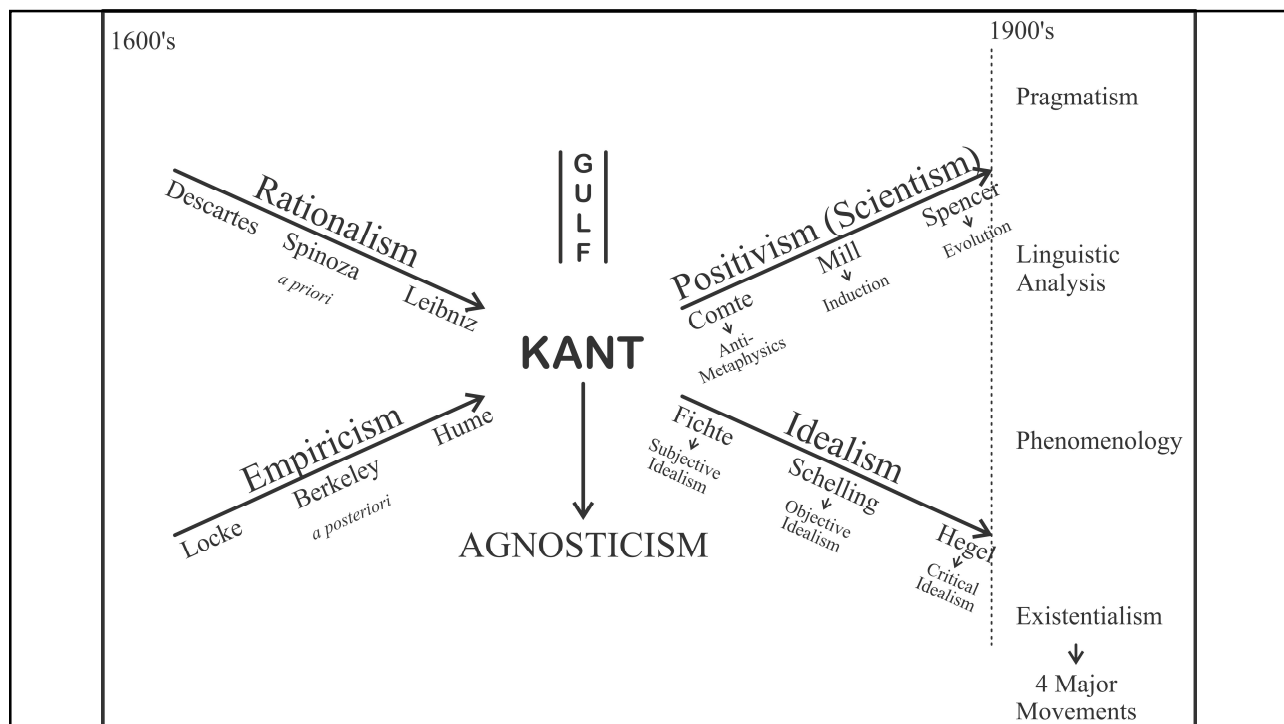


The upshot of Kant's philosophy was that it was not possible for one to objectively know the physical world in itself, but that one knows the physical world only as it appears to him.

The implication of Kant's philosophy has manifested in remarkable ways even down to today.







🌀 **Scientism** 🌀
All of reality is physical. (e.g., Richard Dawkins)

🌀 **Spiritism** 🌀
All of reality is spiritual. (e.g., New Age)

🌀 **Christian Fideism** 🌀
Reason is largely irrelevant to the Christian life.

🌀 **Christian Liberalism** 🌀
Christian doctrines should be modified to accommodate science.

🌀 **Christian Fundamentalism** 🌀
Science should be modified to accommodate Christian "doctrines."

🌀 **Postmodernism** 🌀
Truth is relative.



Immanuel Kant
(1724-1804)

