Concept of development

- New time, new society, new conditions
- New view of history, geology, biology
- Mass education
- Old ideas about stability, heredity, and given characteristics

Theoretical grounds

- **Nativism** (maturity but same basic structures)
- **Empiricism** (more associations)
- **Constructivism** (more new structures based on reorganization of few innate ones)
Nativism
Gibson’s theory of perception:
- Affordances & higher-order patterns of stimulation, direct perception
- Intermodality and innate structures
Occlusion experiment: 4 month children show object permanence

Empiricism
Behaviorism:
- Classical conditioning is the association between two stimuli. Elicited behavior.
- Operant conditioning is the association between a behavior and its result. Emitted behavior, voluntary.

Constructivism
Piaget's development theory:
- Compromise between heredity and environment
- Development goes through:
  - A mechanism,
  - Many stages
- Methods of investigation: Clinical interview and observation
Mechanism
Contains two parts:
1. Adaptation process for construction of cognitive schemata
   - Functions assimilation & accommodation
   - Equilibrium process: Disequilibrium
2. Mental organization and structuring process

Stages
What kinds of problems is the person confronted with and tries to solve during different phases
Invariant, universal, but not integrated entities
- Senso-motoric, 0-2 years
- Preoperational, 2-7 years
- Concrete operational, 7-11 years
- Formal operational, 11-adult

Senso-motoric stage, 0-2 years
Object permanence missing. Main features are play, imitation and egocentrism.
Substages:
  - Reflexive schemata, 0-1 months
  - Primary circular reactions, 1-4 months
  - Secondary circular reactions, 4-8 months
  - Coordination of sec. circ. reactions, 8-12 months
  - Tertiary circular reactions, 12-18 months
  - Mental representations, 18-24 months
Preoperational stage, 2-7 years

Development of symbolic activities, language, pretend play, drawing, conservation problems

Limitations:
- Egocentrism
- Animistic thinking
- Perception bound thinking
- Focus
- Static contra transformation
- Irreversibility
- Transductive thinking
- No hierarchic classification
- No transitivity
- No identity constancy

Concrete operational stage, 7-11 years

Logical, flexible and organized thinking
Copes with earlier problems

Limitations:
- Can solve concrete problems. Cannot formalize, generalize or handle abstract problems

Formal operational stage, 11-

Can think what the case might be not only what it is now and here.
- Creates hypotheses and tests them systematically
- Proposition logical thinking