

KAREN HORNEY

(1885-1952)

Freud's pessimism as regards neuroses and their treatment arose from the depths of his disbelief in human goodness and human growth. Man, he postulated, is doomed to suffer or to destroy. . . . My own belief is that man has the capacity as well as the desire to develop his potentialities and become a decent human being. . . .I believe that man can change and go on changing as long as he lives (Horney, 1945)

Horney, like Freud, took an **absolute deterministic point of view**. She also believed, like Freud, in **unconscious motivation**, and the existence of **emotional, nonrational motives**. She also believed that **personality develops in early childhood**

Basic Anxiety “the feeling a child has of being isolated and helpless in a potentially hostile world.”

Need for safety, security, and freedom from fear and threat.

She denies any universal instinctual phases as an oral

stage or the Oedipus or Electra complex. If a person develops anal, oral or phallic tendencies, this is because of parental behaviors.

To understand the reason why people develop the personalities that they do, look to the culture and social-environmental factors.

**Neurotic Needs”
modes of defense against anxiety**

Movement Toward People
(As in need for love and acceptance of helplessness)

Movement Away From People
(As in need for independence
and staying apart from others)

Movement Against People
(As in the need for power
and acceptance of hostility, rebellion
and aggression against others)