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Winds of Doctrine

Studies in Contemporary Opinion

By: George Santayana

**Edited by: David E Spiech, Martin A. Coleman,
Faedra Lazar Weiss**

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Chronology of the Life and Work of George Santayana

Adapted and abridged from William G. Holzberger, "Chronology," *The Letters of George Santayana*, 1:443–60.

- 1849 Josefina Borrás (c. 1826–1912), George Santayana's mother, marries George Sturgis (1817–1857) of Boston, aboard a British warship in Manila Bay.
- 1857 George Sturgis dies in Manila at age forty.
- 1862 Josefina Borrás Sturgis marries Agustín Santayana (1814–1893) in Madrid.
- 1863 George Santayana born on 16 December at No. 69, Calle Ancha de San Bernardo, Madrid.
- 1864 Santayana christened Jorge Agustín Nicolás on 1 January in parish church of San Marcos, Madrid.
- 1868 (or 1869) Santayana's mother, with daughters Susana and Josephine, moves to Boston, to honor her first husband's wish that his children be raised in America (her son Robert had moved to Boston as a 13-year-old in 1867); Santayana remains with his father in Spain.
- 1872 Santayana and his father travel to America in June; his father returns to Ávila several months later.
- 1882 Santayana graduates from Boston Latin School; attends Harvard College in autumn.
- 1883 Santayana visits his father in Spain for first time since coming to America. Advised by William James at Harvard not to pursue philosophy.
- 1885 Santayana meets John Francis ("Frank") Stanley, 2nd Earl Russell and elder brother of Bertrand Russell, who becomes a close friend.
- 1886 Santayana's Bachelor of Arts degree is awarded *summa cum laude* and *in absentia*. Santayana begins study in Germany.
- 1889 Santayana completes dissertation on "Lotze's System of Philosophy" under direction of Josiah Royce; awarded Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy degrees by Harvard University; begins as Instructor in Philosophy at Harvard.
- 1893 Santayana's father dies at age 79 during summer in Ávila; Santayana's student and friend Warwick Potter dies in October; at the end of this year Santayana undergoes his *metanoia* or fundamental change of heart,

- resulting in renunciation of the world. Spends a year at Cambridge University; appears in court in October to testify on behalf of Frank Russell, defending against charges by his estranged wife.
- 1897 Santayana resumes teaching at Harvard; lives with his mother.
- 1898 Santayana promoted from instructor to assistant professor.
- 1899 *Lucifer: A Theological Tragedy* published.
- 1900 *Interpretations of Poetry and Religion* published.
- 1904 Santayana sails from New York to Plymouth, England, in mid-July; visits Belgium, Germany, France, Spain, and Italy.
- 1905 Visits Egypt, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, Greece, Turkey, Hungary, Germany, England, Spain, and France. While still abroad, Santayana invited by Harvard to become Hyde Lecturer at the Sorbonne for 1905–6. First four volumes of *The Life of Reason; or, the Phases of Human Progress* published.
- 1906 Fifth volume of *The Life of Reason* published. Santayana returns to America in September; resumes teaching at Harvard.
- 1907 Santayana promoted from assistant professor to full professor.
- 1910 *Three Philosophical Poets: Lucretius, Dante, and Goethe* published as first volume in the series Harvard Studies in Comparative Literature.
- 1911 In April Santayana delivers his final lecture at Harvard. Travels to Wisconsin and California.
- 1912 Santayana departs America for the last time on 24 January. Mother dies on 5 February. Takes an extended holiday through Italy from September–November, finishing in Florence, Italy, where he stays with his friends, the Berensons.
- 1913 *Winds of Doctrine: Studies in Contemporary Opinion* published in January while Santayana is in Monte Carlo. Travels to Brussels from 3–6 July to visit Baron Albert von Westenholz. Following this trip, the two men lose contact until 1920 because of the war.
- 1914 World War I breaks out; Santayana remains in England, with his home base in Oxford, until April 1919.
- 1915 *Egotism in German Philosophy* published (published in London in 1916). Santayana moves to 22 Beaumont Street, Oxford, England, which becomes his permanent residence during the war.
- 1919 Santayana leaves Oxford for London in April. In June, Santayana leaves England for the first time since 1914. He travels to Paris and resides at Charles Strong's apartment from 26 June to 26 November.
- 1920 Santayana begins spending winters in Rome; continues to summer in Paris, Ávila, Glion, at Lake Geneva, or Cortina d'Ampezzo. *Character and Opinion in the United States* published. "Three Proofs of Realism"

- published in *Essays in Critical Realism: A Cooperative Study of the Problems of Knowledge*.
- 1922 *Soliloquies in England and Later Soliloquies* published. Revised second edition of the five books of *The Life of Reason* published.
- 1923 “The Unknowable” delivered as the Herbert Spencer Lecture at Oxford in October. *Scepticism and Animal Faith* and the last collection of Santayana’s poetry to appear during his lifetime, *Poems: Selected by the Author and Revised*, are published in May and April respectively.
- 1925 *Dialogues in Limbo* published during the summer.
- 1927 Santayana meets Daniel Cory (age 22), who will become his assistant and friend. *Platonism and the Spiritual Life* published in April. *The Realm of Essence: Book First of Realms of Being* published in November.
- 1928 Santayana declines offer of the Norton Chair of Poetry at Harvard for 1928–29. Half-sister Susana dies in Ávila, on 10 February, at age 77.
- 1930 Half-sister Josephine dies in Ávila, on 15 October, at age 77. *The Realm of Matter: Book Second of Realms of Being* published in September.
- 1931 *The Genteel Tradition at Bay* published at the beginning of the year. In December, Santayana declines offer to become the William James Professor of Philosophy at Harvard.
- 1932 Santayana attends a philosophical congress commemorating the tercentenary of Spinoza’s birth, held at The Hague on 6–10 September; delivers a lecture on “Ultimate Religion.” Attends a meeting in London to commemorate the tercentenary of John Locke’s birth; on 19 October, delivers an address on “Locke and the Frontiers of Common Sense.”
- 1933 *Some Turns of Thought in Modern Philosophy* published.
- 1935 *The Last Puritan: A Memoir in the Form of a Novel* published in London in October (published in New York in 1936).
- 1936 *The Last Puritan* becomes a Book-of-the-Month Club bestseller.
- 1937 *The Realm of Truth: Book Third of Realms of Being* published in London in October (published in New York in 1938).
- 1938 First book-length biography published: *George Santayana*, by George Washburne Howgate.
- 1939 World War II breaks out in Europe; Santayana, denied a long-term visa by Swiss officials, decides to remain in Italy.
- 1940 *The Realm of Spirit: Book Fourth of Realms of Being* published. *The Philosophy of George Santayana* published in December.
- 1941 Santayana moves into a nursing home operated by the Blue Sisters of the Little Company of Mary, an order of Roman Catholic Irish nuns.
- 1944 *Persons and Places* published in December; becomes a bestseller.

- 1945 *The Middle Span* published. Santayana awarded the Nicholas Murray Butler Medal by Columbia University.
- 1946 *The Idea of Christ in the Gospels; or, God in Man: A Critical Essay* published.
- 1948 *Dialogues in Limbo, With Three New Dialogues* published.
- 1951 *Dominations and Powers: Reflections on Liberty, Society, and Government* published.
- 1952 On 4 June, Santayana falls on the steps of the Spanish Consulate in Rome; his injuries include three broken ribs and a bleeding head wound. The physician also finds patches of pneumonia on his lungs, but is amazed by Santayana's recovery. Santayana continues working until increasing blindness and illness make further labor impossible. On 26 September, Santayana dies of stomach cancer. On 30 September, his body is interred in the Tomb of the Spaniards.
- 1953 *My Host the World* published. *The Posthumous Poems*, together with two early plays, published as *The Poet's Testament: Poems and Two Plays*.
- 1955 *The Letters of George Santayana*, a selection of two hundred and ninety-six letters to eighty-six recipients (edited by Daniel Cory) published.



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