



Courtesy of Joseph Kallo.

John Dewey

Educator, philosopher (1859 – 1952)



John Dewey was an American philosopher, psychologist, and educational reformer whose thoughts and ideas continue to be influential in the U.S. and around the world. He is recognized as one of the founders of the philosophical school of pragmatism and was a leading representative of the progressive movement in U.S. education during the first half of the 20th century.

Dewey was born in Burlington and attended the University of Vermont, graduating Phi Beta Kappa in 1879. After three years of teaching high school, he attended Johns Hopkins University and received a Ph.D. in 1884. He then taught at the University of Michigan until 1894 when he joined the newly founded University of Chicago.

It was at the University of Chicago where he shaped the ideas that resulted in several books, including *The School and Society* (1899) and *Studies in Logical Theory* (1903). In 1899, Dewey was elected President of the American Psychological Association, and in 1905 he became President of the American Philosophical Association. Disagreements with the administration ultimately led to his resignation from the University at which point he left for the East Coast.

Along with the historian Charles Beard, economists Thorstein Veblen and JAMES HARVEY ROBINSON, Dewey was one of the founders of The New School for Social Research in 1919. Although Dewey is best known for his works on education, he wrote on a wide range of subjects, producing over 700 articles in 140 journals, and roughly 40 books.

In 1935, Dewey, together with Albert Einstein and ALVIN JOHNSON, became a member of the United States section of the International League for Academic Freedom, and in 1940, together with Horace Kallen, edited a series of articles related to the infamous Bertrand Russell Case, when that philosopher was dismissed by CCNY for moral reasons.

Dewey married twice, first to Alice Chipman, who bore him six children, and then to Roberta Lowitz Grant. He died in 1952, a member of the Century since 1930.