Background

- Very similar to Melanie Klein and other women psychoanalysts.
- Trained in Europe with classical Freudian psychoanalysts.
- Objected to Freud’s view on women, instead, believing that culture, not anatomy was responsible for the psychic differences between men and women.
- Helped found the Chicago Psychoanalytic Institute.
- Close relationship with Eric Fromm which ended badly.

Horney & Freud

- She believed that strict adherence to psychoanalysis would lead to stagnation in theory and practice.
- Objected to Freud’s beliefs about women’s psyche.
- Psychoanalysis should move beyond instinct theory and emphasize the importance of cultural influences in shaping personality.
- Cannot overemphasize the importance of culture.

Culture

- Emphasizes competition among individuals.
- The basic hostility that emerges from competition results in feelings of isolation.
- These feelings of being alone in a potentially hostile world lead to intensified needs for affection, which cause people to overvalue love.
- As a result, many people see love and affection as the solution for their problems.
- Genuine love can be a healthy, growth producing experience but the desperate need for love provides a fertile ground for the development of neuroses.

Western culture contributes to this vicious cycle by:

- cultural teachings of kinship and humility that are contrary to the attitudes, namely aggression and the drive to win!
- Societies demand for success and achievement are nearly endless so that normal people have new, additional goals placed before them all the time.
- Furthermore, western society tells people that they are free and can accomplish anything with hard work and effort without regard to genetics, social position, and the competitiveness of others.