

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