The trend characteristic of the latter 19th century into the next decades in society had been that of ever-progressive and certain progress regarding man and more matter, concerning all aspects of people and the universe. With the Great Depression emerged the Age of Anxieties, during which time new theories in Physics and Psychology harked to do away with outdated ones, and served to expose the gradual erosion and influence of the human mind, as well as the external forces and abstract and society-people and tendencies of the universe in which we live.

Previous knowledge of Physics began to unravel with the discovery that the atom, once thought to be the most minute particle, could be split. Heisenberg's Principle of Uncertainty diminished (at least temporarily) any hope of in-depth study on atoms, on their location, and speed dependent on each other, could not be determined. The most significant contribution came with Einstein's development of his Theory of Relativity, which linked time and space; and more importantly, directly implied that the universe's characteristics, once thought to be concrete numbers and figures, were rather abstract tendencies, which precluded trends and as well an ending to the point of absolute certainty.

The notion of the human mind as a single, rational psychological state was directly contested...
With the work of psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud, the divided nature of our mind into three distinct parts was represented: ID, Ego, and Superego. These processes developed from our evolution from a less-developed life form. The Ego was the most part of the process that tells us what our law or in capable of doing. Lastly, the superego implies the highest level of thinking what we should do, which takes into account various values, ideas, and motives.

With this thesis, Freud discovered the subconscious elements of the mind, a discovery which illuminated those who preferred to believe in a single line of thought, a rational and restrained deductive mechanism devoid of subconscious and primal urges.

Advances in physics and psychology discarded old theories, and it induced a re-evaluation of the individual and society. The individual once thought to be purely rational was found to act based on several subconscious elements—some of which turned out to be completely irrational (ID).

Einstein’s Theory of Relativity implied the abstractness and unpredictability of the universe, which was then related to the ways and happenings of society. Plastic changes in the beliefs in humans regarding these two areas may have toppled old notions of certainty, but have given rise to new discoveries.
and ways of thinking that will continue to inch closer and closer to the greater certainty of the truth, rather simply being that of our own our own assertion theories.
The period from 1900 to 1939 and beyond was characterized by a move from the rationality and emphasis on natural laws of the Scientific Revolution and Enlightenment to a reflection on this change, through artists such as Pablo Picasso, whose modern style represented irrationality. But what caused this shift from the intellectual ideals followed for a century and a half? Advances in physics and psychology played a key role in altering the theory of reason.

In physics, a new interest in atoms led to a startling discovery. Previously, Newton’s law of gravitation had fueled the idea that all of nature can be explained through universal laws, or Rules, that are true all of the time. However, while studying the atom, scientists discovered that the path of an electron is random, with no law governing its movement. This led scientists to wonder if all of nature could really be explained by laws, as they had previously believed. Also, one of the most brilliant physicists of all, Albert Einstein, discovered led to even more uncertainty. His theory that as speed increases, time slows caused upset among intellectuals, as it defied rationality. Thus, advances in physics led to uncertainty about the world’s workings and a realization that all of nature could not be explained by reason, some abstractness and randomness was also involved.

Another field which had long been dominated by the ideal of the natural law was psychology. Many early psychologists stressed the idea that human behavior was also driven by natural laws, and by reason. However, the advances of Freud opened up a new idea: actions were not controlled solely by the conscious and rational thought, but also by the workings of the subconscious. Carl Jung furthered this idea by theorizing that even the rationality of a subconscious was not correct. In other words,
humans were not rational. These theories led to a feeling of being lost, even in your own mind. Suicide, Alcoholism, depression, etc. were seen as individuals lost a sense of reason or rationality.

Thus, advances in physics and psychology led to a furthering of the irrationality advocated by the romantics of the late 1800's. Also, without natural laws governing society and science, people were unsure of where truth lay. The distraction and turmoil caused by World War I only furthered the confusion people felt about themselves and their world.