

## A Roster of Well-Known Modern Freethinkers

Here is a roster of 581 freethinkers (including several Deists and Unitarian Universalists), several of whom have severely criticized Christianity, but have presumably led or lead lives guided by admirable personal ethics. Throughout their lives, many people keep their true beliefs private or unclear. I have tried not to include them, surely erring on the side of exclusion. For example, the religious beliefs of John Adams and Abraham Lincoln are unclear, and therefore they are not included. Nonetheless, despite the care I have taken, verifying a person's beliefs can be difficult, particularly if they have changed over his or her adult life. So I am sure a few — but hopefully very few — people have found their way onto this list who do not belong on it. To those living or dead, I apologize.

**A** Douglas Adams, James Luther Adams, Alfred Adler, Felix Adler, Louisa May Alcott, Horatio Alger, Ayaan Hirsi Ali,\* Ethan Allen, Steve Allen, Woody Allen, Ralph Alpher, Eric Ambler, Sir Kingsley Amis, Martin Amis,\* Susan B. Anthony, Matthew Arnold, Isaac Asimov, Janet Asimov, Kemal Atatürk, Sir David Attenborough, Margaret Atwood,\* AJ Ayer (22)

**B** Kevin Bacon, James Baldwin, Antonio Banderas, Javier Bardem, Dan Barker, P.T. Barnum, Bella Bartok, Clara Barton, William Bateson, Charles Baudelaire, Bruno Bauer, L. Frank Baum, Pierre Bayle, Simone de Beauvoir, Samuel Beckett, Ludwig von Beethoven, Alexander Graham Bell, Jeremy Bentham, Ingmar Bergman, Irving Berlin, Sir Isaiah Berlin, Hector Berlioz, Leonard Bernstein, Ambrose Bierce, Susan Blackmore, Niels Bohr, Simone Bolivar, Napoleon Bonaparte, George Boole, Daniel Boorstin, Marcus Borg, Jorge Luis Borges, Max Born, Alain de Botton, Pascal Boyer, Ray Bradbury, Charles Bradlaugh, Johannes Brahms, Marlon Brando, Richard Branson, Benjamin Britten, Robert Browning, William Cullen Bryant, Bill Bryson, Pearl S. Buck, Henry Thomas, Warren Buffett, Luther Burbank, Robert Burns, Sir Richard Francis Burton, Samuel Butler, Lord Byron (52)

**C** Michael Caine, John C. Calhoun, Tim Callahan, James Cameron, Joseph Campbell, Albert Camus, Richard Carls, George Carlin, Thomas Carlyle, Rudolf Carnap, Andrew Carnegie, John Carpenter, Richard Carrier, Rachel Carson, Catherine the Great, Henry Cavendish, Dick Cavett, Neville Chamberlain, Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar, William Ellery Channing, Charlie Chaplin, Noam Chomsky, Sir Winston Churchill, Sir Arthur C. Clarke, Georges Clémenceau, WK Clifford, George Clooney, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Anthony Collins, Auguste Comte, Marquis de Concorcet, Joseph Conrad, Aaron Copland, Sir Noël Coward, Michael Crichton, Francis Crick, David Cronenberg, e.e. Cummings, Marie Curie, Nathaniel Currier (40)

**D** Salvador Dali, Rodney Dangerfield, Clarence Darrow, Charles Darwin, Paul Davies, Richard Dawkins,\* L Sprague deCamp, Morris Dees, Daniel Dennett,\* Johnny Depp, Alan Dershowitz, Marquis deSade, John Dewey, Charles Dickens, Emily Dickinson, Denis Diderot, Marlene Dietrich, Paul Dirac, Dorothea Dix, Phil Donahue, Carl Van Doren, Paul Douglas, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, John William Draper, Theodore Dreiser, Richard Dreyfuss, Ann Druyan, WEB DuBois, Isadora Duncan, Émile Durkheim, Will Durant, Alexander Dumas (fils), Freeman Dyson (33)

**E** Thomas Eakin, Roger Ebert, Umberto Eco, Thomas Edison, Barbara Ehrenreich, Albert Einstein, Bart Ehrman, George Eliot, Charles William Eliot, Albert Ellis, Havelock Ellis, Harlan Ellison, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Paul Erdős, Paul Ehrlich, Friedrich Engels (16)

**F** Gabriel Fauré, Enrico Fermi, Timothy Ferris, Ludwig Feuerbach, Richard Feynman, W.C. Fields, Millard Fillmore, Tom Flynn, Ken Follet, EM Forster, Jodie Foster, Joseph Fourier, Robin Lane Fox, John Fowles, Anatole France, Barney Frank, Benjamin Franklin, Sir James Frazer, Frederick the Great, Sigmund Freud, Betty Friedan, Milton Friedman, Erich Fromm, Robert Frost, Stephen Fry, Margaret Fuller, R. Buckminster Fuller (27)

**G** Matilda Joslyn Gage, William M. Gaines, John Kenneth Galbraith, John Galsworthy, Francis Galton, Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Gardner, Yuri Gagarin, Giuseppe Garibaldi, Elizabeth Gaskell, Bill Gates, Annie Laurie Gaylor, Murray Gell-Mann, George Gershwin, Paul Giamatti, Edward Gibbon, André Gide, John Gielgud, James Gleick, William Godwin, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Emma Goldman, Rebecca Newberger Goldstein, Gora, Mikhail Gorbachev, Maxim Gorky, Stephen Jay Gould, Horace Greeley, Stephen Greenblatt, Germaine Greer, Kathy Griffiin (31)

**H** Jürgen Habermas, Ernst Haeckel, Hans Hahn, J.B.S. Haldane, Edward Everett Hale, Edith Hamilton, William Hamilton, Thomas Hardy, Sam Harris, Bret Harte, Stephen Hawking, Friedrich Hayek, Jennifer Michael Hecht, Hugh Hefner, Martin Heidegger, Heinrich Heine, Robert Heinlein, Joseph Heller, Hermann

von Helmholtz, Claude-Adrien Helvétius, Ernest Hemingway, Katherine Hepburn, Edward Herbert of Chisbury, Sir Edmund Hillary, David Hilbert, Maurice Hilleman, Christopher Hitchens,\* Thomas Hobbes, Eric Hoffer, Douglas Hofstadter, Baron Paul-Henry d'Holbach, James Haynes Holmes, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., Gerald Holton, Jacob Holyoake, Sidney Hook, Julia Ward Howe, William Dean Howells, Fred Hoyle, Victor Hugo, David Hume, Aldous Huxley, Sir Julian Huxley, Thomas H. Huxley (44)

**I-J** Henrik Ibsen, Robert Green Ingersoll, John Irving, Molly Ivins, Susan Jacoby, William James, Robert Jastrow, Thomas Jefferson, Donald Johanson, Angelina Jolie, Janis Joplin, James Joyce (12)

**K** Franz Kafka, Frida Kahlo, Stuart Kauffman, Nikos Kazantzakis, Diane Keaton, John Keats, Gene Kelly, Jerome Kern, Bob Kerry, Jack Kevorkian, Larry King, Alfred Kinsey, Kevin Kline, Charles Knowlton, Arthur Koestler, Lawrence Krauss, Stanley Kubrick, Paul Kurtz, Ray Kurzweil, Tony Kushner (21)

**L** Joseph Louis Lagrange, Corliss Lamont, Pierre Laplace, Charles Laughton, Hugh Laurie, D.H. Lawrence, Richard Leakey, Norman Lear, Gypsy Rose Lee, Ursula LeGuin, Tom Lehrer, Vladimir Lenin, John Lennon, Doris Lessing, Sinclair Lewis, Walter Lippmann, Elizabeth Loftus, John Loftus, Jack London, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Hendrik Willem Van Loon, H.P. Lovecraft, James Lovelock, James Russell Lowell (24)

**M** Joseph McCabe, James Madison, René Magritte, Bill Maher, Gustav Mahler, Bernard Malamud, Bronislaw Malinowski, John Malkovich, Barry Manilow, Horace Mann, Thomas Mann, Herbert Marcuse, Lynn Margulis, Christopher Marlowe, John Marshall, Harriet Martineau, Karl Marx, Abraham Maslow, Edgar Lee Masters, Somerset Maugham, Joseph Martin McCabe, Vashti McCollum, Ian McEwan, Colin McGinn,\* Sir Ian McKellen, Butterfly McQueen, Herman Melville, HL Mencken, George Meredith, Jean Meslier, Julien la Mettrie, Albert Abraham Michelson, James A. Michener, James Mill, John Stuart Mill, Arthur Miller,\* Jonathan Miller, Robert Millikan, Marvin Minsky, Ludwig von Mises, Francois Mitterrand, Jaques Monod, GE Moore, Julianne Moore, William Morris, John Mortimer, Desmond Morris, Samuel Morse, Edvard Munch, Gilbert Murray, Elon Musk, Gunnar Myrdal, PZ Myers (53)

**N** Vladimir Nabokov, Thomas Nagal, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Michael Newdow, Paul Newman, John von Neumann, Mike Nichols, Jack Nicholson, Friedrich Nietzsche, Florence Nightingale, David Niven, Bill Nye (12)

**O-Q** Joyce Carol Oates, Madalyn Murray O'Hair, Keith Olbermann, Eugene O'Neil, Michel Onfray, J. Robert Oppenheimer, George Orwell, Robert Owen, Bob Packwood, Elaine Pagels, Camille Paglia, Thomas Paine, Linus Pauling, Ivan Pavlov, Guy Pearce, Pelagius, Sean Penn, Penn & Teller, Pablo Picasso, Steven Pinker, Brad Pitt, William Pitt, Sylvia Plath, Edgar Allan Poe, Sidney Poiter, Sir Karl Popper, Natalie Portman, Beatrix Potter, Richard Price, Robert M. Price, Joseph Priestley, Sergei Prokofiev, Marcel Proust, Alexander Pushkin, WV Quine (34)

**R** Daniel Radcliffe, Ayn Rand, James Randi, Salman Rashdie, Maurice Ravel, Robert Redford, Christopher Reeve, Keanu Reeves, Hermann Samuel Reimarus, Ernest Renan, Paul Revere, David Ricardo, Eliot Richardson, George Ripley, Diego Rivera, Gene Roddenberry, Richard Rodgers, Carl Rogers, Andy Rooney, Jean Rostand, Jean Jaques Rousseau, Arthur Rubinstein, Benjamin Rush, Bertrand Russell, Salman Rushdie\* (25)

**S** Oliver Sacks, Carl Sagan, Andrei Sakharov, Jonas Salk, George Sand, Carl Sandberg, Larry Sanger, Margaret Sanger, George Santayana, John Turner Sargent, John Paul Sartre, Friedrich Schiller, Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., Arthur Schopenhauer, Erwin Schrödinger, Patricia Schroeder, Franz Schubert, Charles Schultz, Robert Schumann, Albert Schweitzer, Eugenie Scott, George C. Scott, Ridley Scott, John Searle, Rod Serling, Claude Shannon, Omar Sharif, William Shatner, George Bernard Shaw, Percy Bysshe Shelley, Michael Shermer, Dimitir Shostakovich, Robert Silverberg, Sarah Silverman, Herbert Simon, Neil Simon, Peter Singer, BF Skinner, Lee Smolin, Edward Snowden, Stephen Soderbergh, Stephen Sondheim, Ted Sorenson, George Soros, Roy Speckhardt, Herbert Spencer, Baruch Spinoza, Benjamin Spock, John Shelby Spong, Joseph Stalin, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Pete Stark, Lincoln Steffens, Rod Steiger, Gertrude Stein, John Steinbeck, Gloria Steinem, Charles Steinmetz, Stendhal, Victor Stenger, Leslie Stephen, Adlai Stevenson, Robert Louis Stevenson, Todd Stiefel, David Friedrich Strauss, Meryl Streep, Donald Sutherland, Julia Sweeney, Leo Szilárd (69)

**T** Edward Tabash, William Howard Taft, Jill Tarter, Edward Teller, Alfred Lord Tennyson, Studs Terkel, Nickola Tesla, Emma Thompson, Henry David Thoreau, Uma Thurman, Matthew Tindal, John Toland, Leo Tolstoy, Leon Trotsky, Ivan Turgenev, Alan Turing, Ted Turner, Mark Twain, E.B. Tylor, Neil deGrasse Tyson (20)

**U-V** Adam Bruno Ulam, Sir Peter Ustinov, J. Craig Venter, Jesse Ventura, Giuseppe Verdi, Gore Vidal, Voltaire, Kurt Vonnegut Jr. (8)

**W** Alice Walker, Alfred Russell Wallace, George Washington, James D. Watson, Max Weber, Daniel Webster, Josiah Wedgwood, Steven Weinberg,\* Harvey Weinstein, HG Wells, Joss Whedon, Alfred North Whitehead, Walt Whitman, Norbert Wiener, Elie Wiesel, Eugene Wigner, Oscar Wilde, Ted Williams, Tennessee Williams, David Sloane Wilson, Edmund Wilson, Edward O. Wilson, Edwin H. Wilson, Simon Winchester, Sherwin Wine, Ludwig Wittgenstein, Virginia Wolfe, Mary Wollstonecraft, Barbara Wootton, William Wordsworth, Steve Wozniak, Frances Wright, Frank Lloyd Wright, Richard Wright, Robert Wright, NC Wyeth (36)

**X–Z** Howard Zinn, Émile Zola, Mark Zuckerberg (3)

\*These individuals can be seen and heard in conversations with Bill Moyers or Jonathan Miller in Bill Moyers' video series, *Faith & Reason*, *The Atheism Tapes (with Jonathan Miller)*. Four have a round table discussion in *Discussions with Richard Dawkins: Episode 1: The Four Horsemen*. The lecture and question and answer session of five from the AAI 2007 Convention is available on DVD.