

Sir Edward Burnett Tylor Encyclopedia Article

Sir Edward Burnett Tylor

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Sir Edward Burnett Tylor

1832-1917

English anthropologist who is considered the founder of cultural anthropology. Tylor was influenced by Charles Darwin's work and theorized that there is an evolutionary relationship between primitive and modern cultures. He saw a progressive development from a primitive to a civilized state. Tylor believed that culture should be studied at all stages of man's development. During the late nineteenth-century controversy over the races of mankind, Tylor argued for man's physical and mental unity.