The human mind/brain is in many ways programmed by evolution for the basics of survival and transmitting our genes to the next generation. We have learned to read the genetic code and are beginning to understand the mechanisms of gene expression. Now, the brain and its genetics underpinnings have not change much at all during the 50 years between 1870 and 1920. However, the “content” of our mind/brain has been exploded in a dizzying rate during this brief eye blink of human history. Many of these threads of explosive change travelled through a region of Europe that is half the size of Indiana and is just about as large as the greater Shanghai region in China. This area is Switzerland.

So here are the actors that appeared on this small but accommodating stage, in order of their appearance:

- Richard Wagner 1849-1858
- Friedrich Nietzsche 1881-1888
- Albert Einstein 1901-1911
- James Joyce 1904-1941 (with some interruptions)
- Vladimir Lenin 1916-1917

What was the play?

Each man changed his field and our world forever.

**Wagner** revolutionized the harmonic scope of music to such a degree of chromatic possibility that the foundations of “Harmonie-Lehre” became exhausted and the only way forward seemed to be the radical expansions suggested by the Second Vienna School of Schonberg and his disciples. People fainted when they encountered the famous Tristan-Chord for the first time.

**Nietzsche** faced the consequences flowing from the rise of the natural sciences brought to life by Galileio, Newton and Darwin and not only discovered that “God was dead”, that “we had killed him.” What was to take
His place? The wanderer and hermit of Sils-Maria struggled with this question.

**Einstein**, during one year (the annus mirabilis) 1905 killed the notion of the either as a medium for propagating electromagnetic waves, created relativity, and took the idea of the quantum (invented by Max Plank and thought of as a temporary mathematical device only) to a logical physical conclusion, ushering in a revolution in physics. The physical and philosophical implications of this crucial step are still being sorted out to this day.

**James Joyce** wrote Ulysses from 1914-1921 and was able to publish the book in 1922. *At a trial in 1921 the magazine was declared obscene* and, as a result, *Ulysses* was effectively banned in the United States. Throughout the 1920s, the United States Post Office Department burned copies of the novel. *Edmund Wilson noted that Ulysses attempts to render “as precisely and as directly as it is possible in words to do, what our participation in life is like—or rather, what it seems to us like as from moment to moment we live.”* This is the famous “interior monologue” appearing in literature.

**Lenin** was a key player in the Russian October Revolution of 1917. He personifies the idea of a Marxist Utopia which was to be achieved by any means necessary and made a path for the totalitarian system implemented by Stalin. The tragedy of 20th century totalitarian regimes from October 2017 in Russia, Nazism in Germany (1939-1945) through Mao’s cultural revolution (1966-1976) were grandiose misguided experiments resulting many millions of deaths and untold human suffering.

These figures passing through Switzerland highlight the creative and/or destructive power of human ideas.

Behavioral Health 2000 will travel to Switzerland to trace these historical figures and attempt to shed some light on the nature of memes and their propagation and the long shadow that these ideas project onto our present thinking.

Look for our Documentary /Lecture in the fall of 2016 on “Revolutionary Minds.”