Concept Mapping

Fleet Library @ RISD

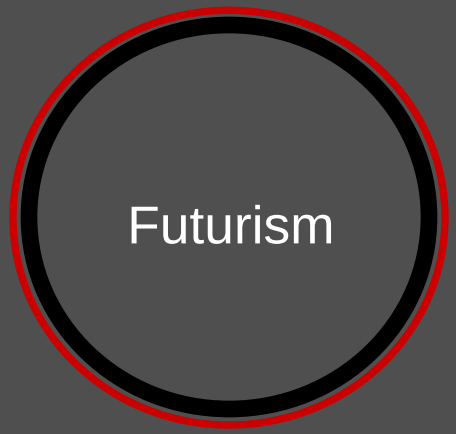
What is concept mapping?

- a visual tool for generating and organizing ideas
- a nonlinear approach to note-taking
- a way to investigate and record aspects of a multi-faceted topic
- a method which triggers quick word associations

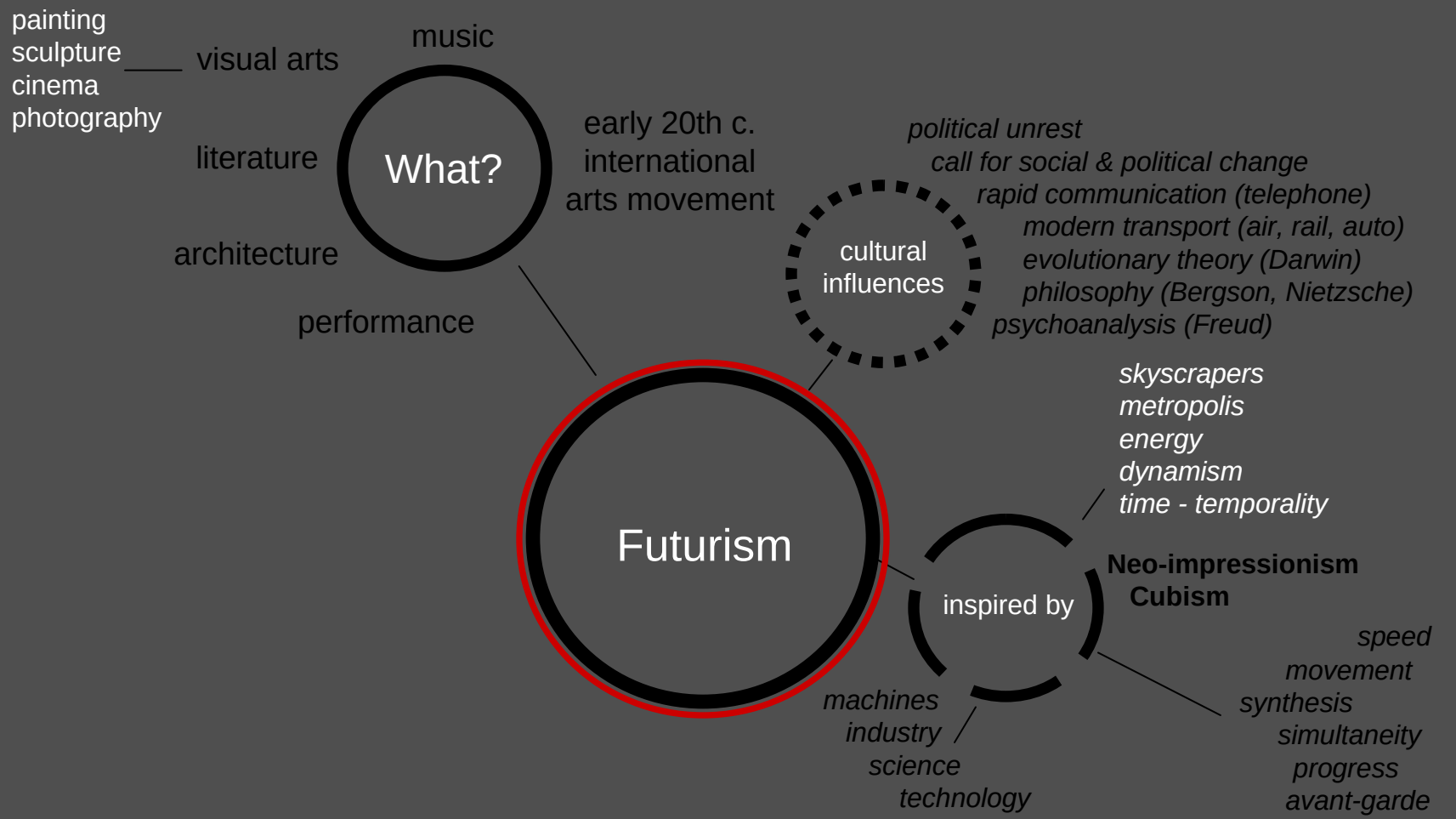
Why use concept mapping?

- to aid thinking at the beginning of the research process
- to create a visual overview of a topic
- to develop questions on a topic
- to reveal patterns, themes, and associations between ideas
- to generate the search terms needed to do research

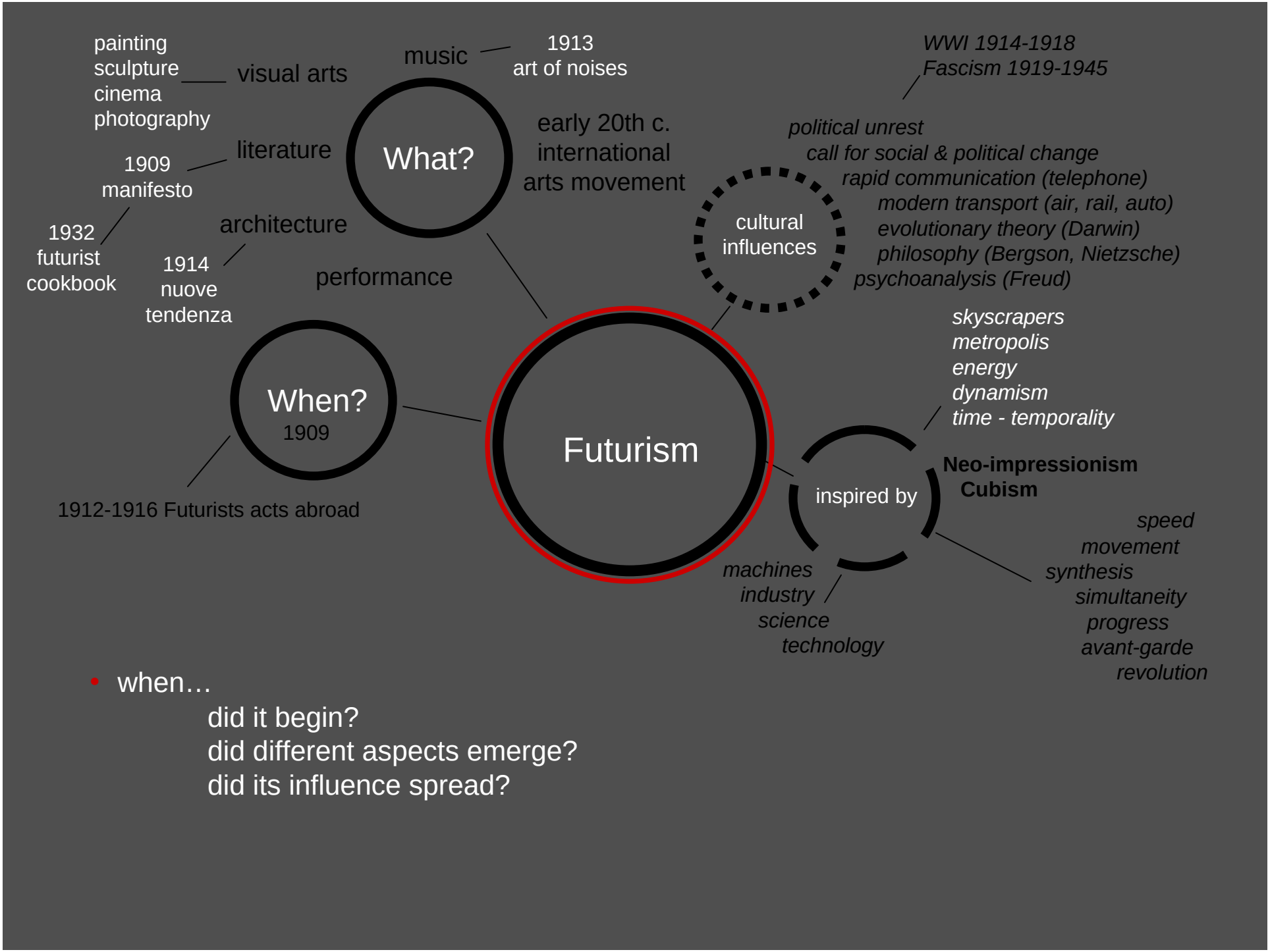
- begin with a large sheet of paper and some colored markers



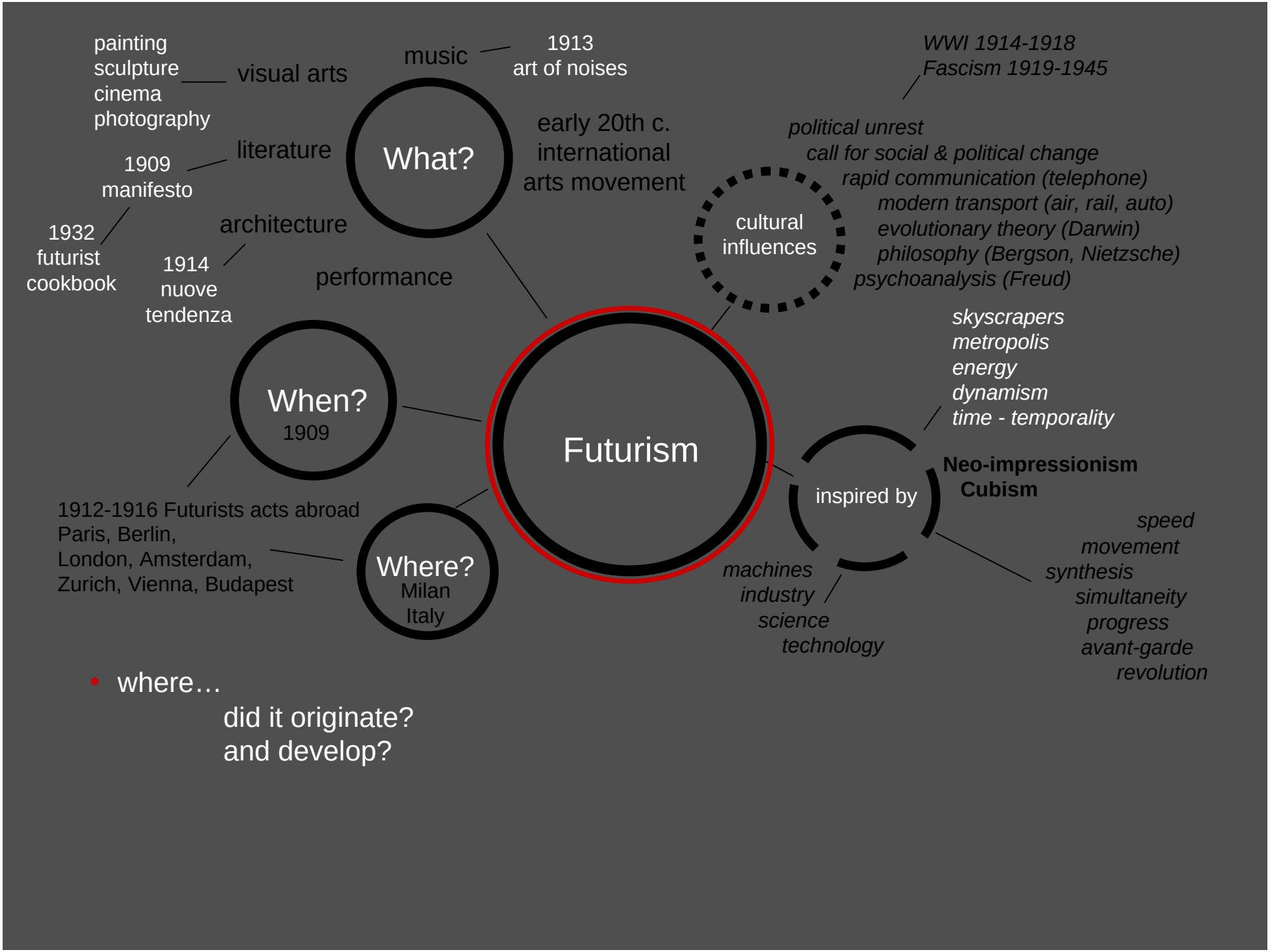
- write your topic in the middle of the page



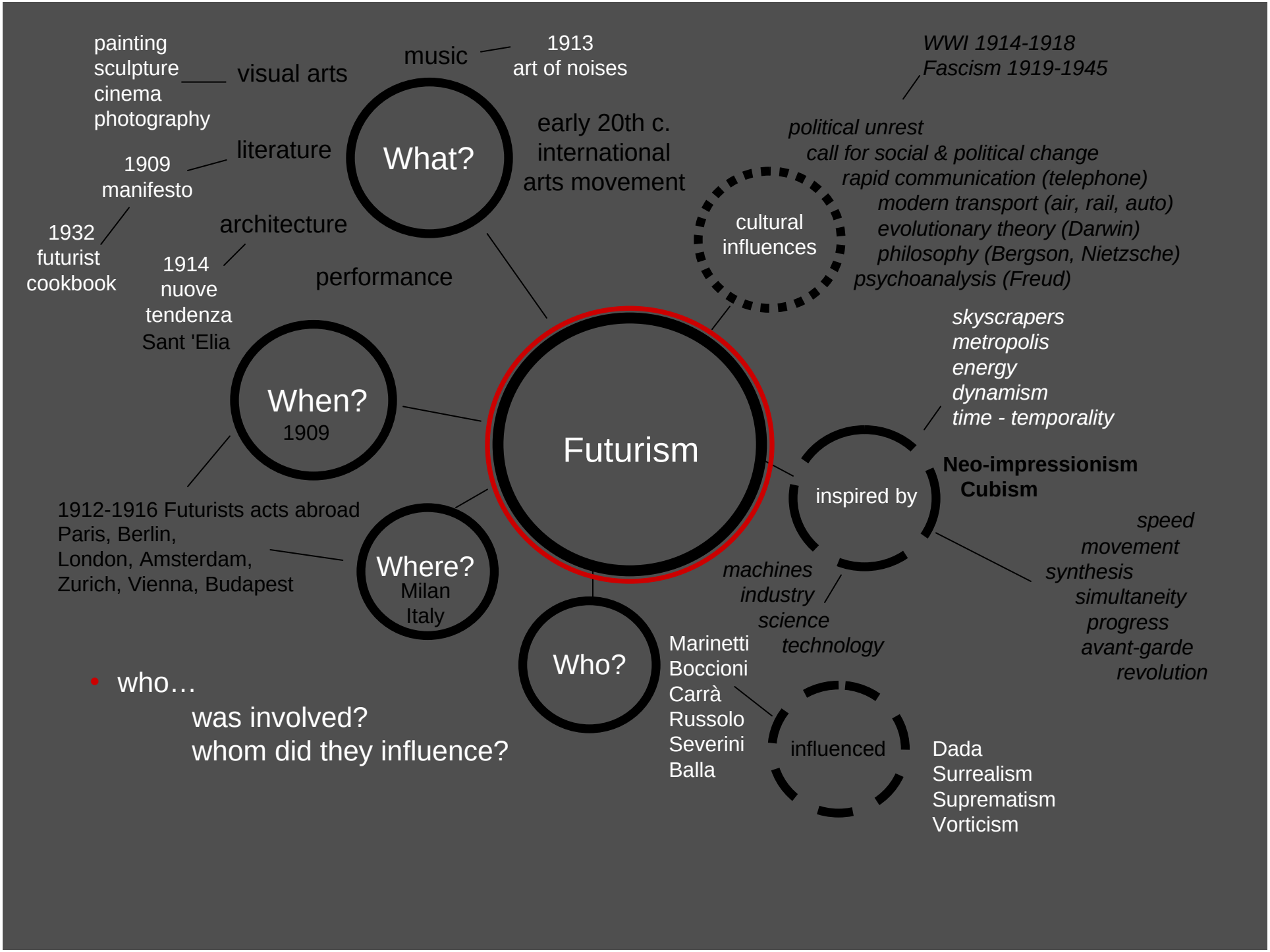
- write down everything that comes to mind when you ask the question… what…
  - defined the era?
  - was the cultural context in which Futurism occurred?
  - sources of inspiration did Futurism draw upon?
  - words or phrases describe Futurism?

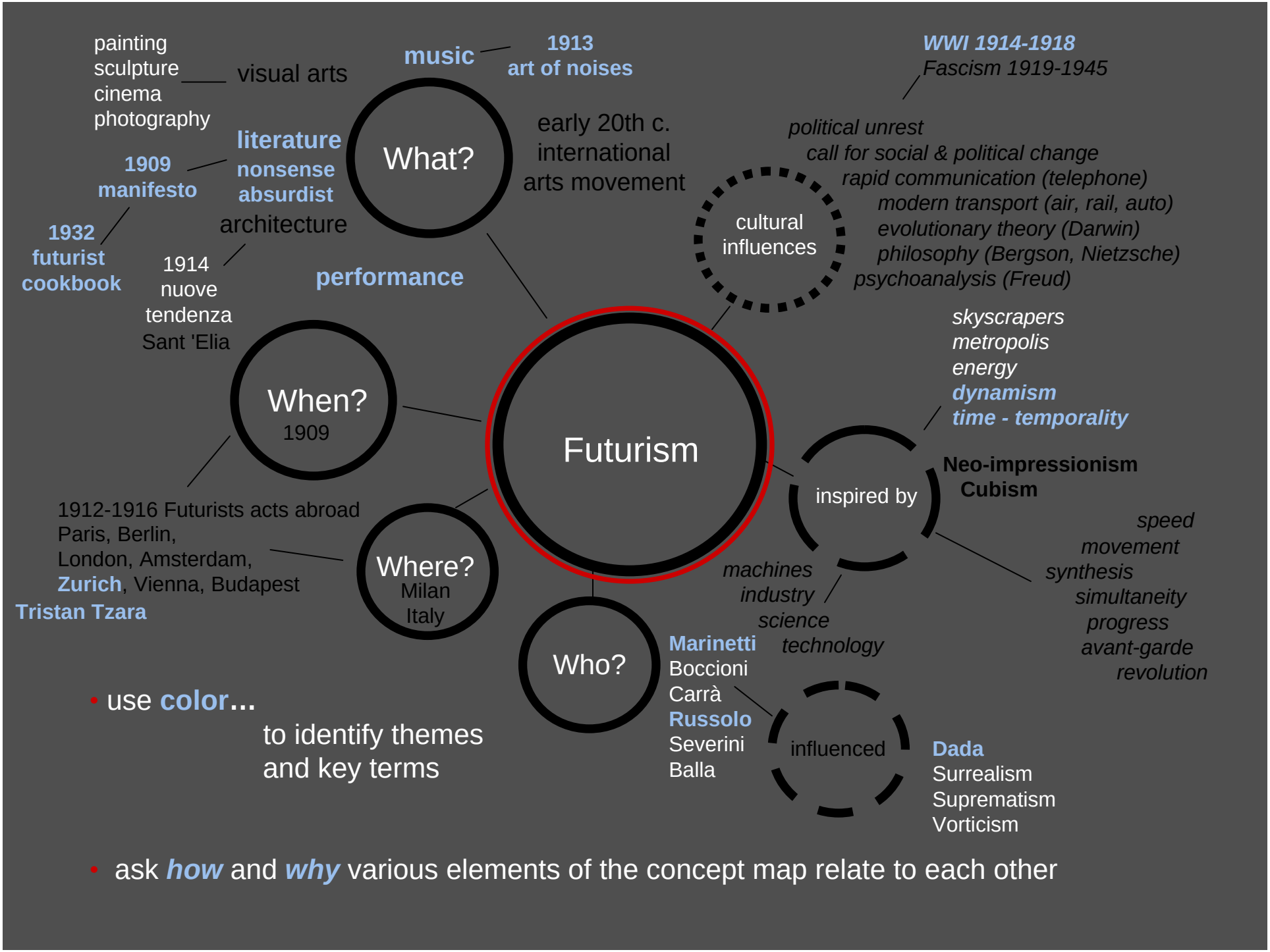


- when…
  - did it begin?
  - did different aspects emerge?
  - did its influence spread?



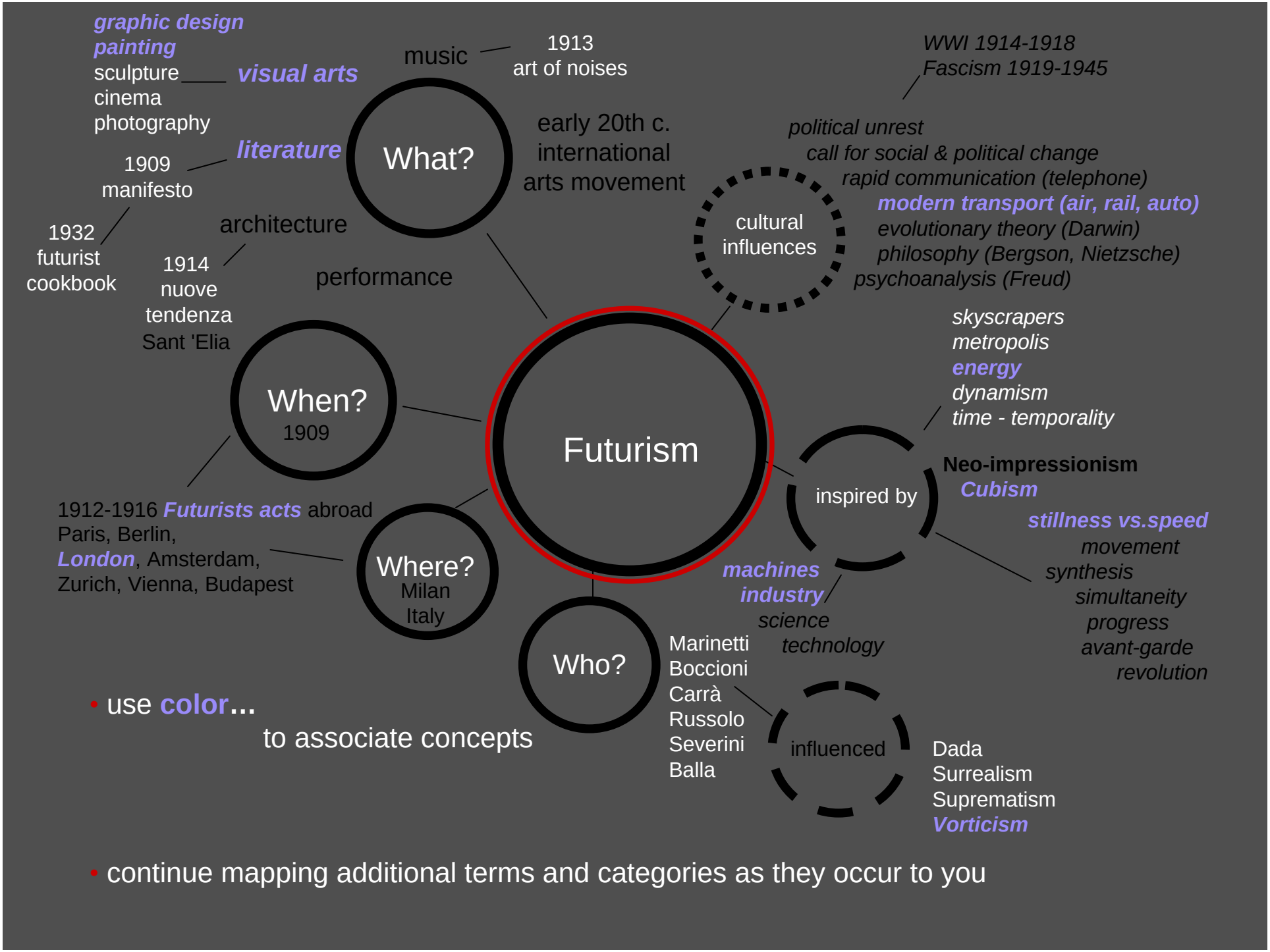
- where…
  did it originate?
  and develop?


Futurism
What?
painting
sculpture
cinema
photography
visual arts
literature
1909
manifesto
1932
futurist
cookbook
architecture
1914
nuove
tendenza
Sant 'Elia
performance
music
1913
art of noises
early 20th c.
international
arts movement
When?
1909
1912-1916 Futurists acts abroad
Paris, Berlin,
London, Amsterdam,
Zurich, Vienna, Budapest
Where?
Milan
Italy
Who?
Marinetti
Boccioni
Carrà
Russolo
Severini
Balla
cultural
influences
WWI 1914-1918
Fascism 1919-1945
political unrest
call for social & political change
rapid communication (telephone)
modern transport (air, rail, auto)
evolutionary theory (Darwin)
philosophy (Bergson, Nietzsche)
psychoanalysis (Freud)
inspired by
skyscrapers
metropolis
energy
dynamism
time - temporality
Neo-impressionism
Cubism
speed
movement
synthesis
simultaneity
progress
avant-garde
revolution
machines
industry
science
technology
influenced
Dada
Surrealism
Suprematism
Vorticism
who…
was involved?
whom did they influence?



- use **color...**
  to identify themes
  and key terms

- ask ***how*** and ***why*** various elements of the concept map relate to each other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Dada
Surrealism
Suprematism
Vorticism
• use color...
to associate concepts
• continue mapping additional terms and categories as they occur to you

making use of a concept map for research

- use a concept map to formulate questions and identify themes
- use color, images or lines to relate ideas to each other
- use the terms gathered as a basis to search the catalog & databases
- use as a visual component of a project or research proposal

further reading on concept mapping

Michalko, Michael. Thinkertoys: a Handbook of Creative-Thinking Techniques. 2nd ed. Berkeley: Ten Speed Press, 2006.

Sullivan, Graeme. Art Practice as Research: Inquiry in the Visual Arts. Thousand Oaks: Sage, 2005.

Wycoff, Joyce. Mindmapping: Your Personal Guide to Exploring Creativity and Problem-Solving. New York: Berkley, 1991.

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