

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-87463-2 - Kant's Idea for a Universal History with a Cosmopolitan Aim: A Critical Guide

Edited by Amelie Oksenberg Rorty and James Schmidt

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

## KANT'S *IDEA FOR A UNIVERSAL HISTORY WITH A COSMOPOLITAN AIM*

Lively current debates about narratives of historical progress, the conditions for international justice, and the implications of globalization have prompted a renewed interest in Kant's *Idea for a Universal History with a Cosmopolitan Aim*. The essays in this volume, written by distinguished contributors, discuss the questions that are at the core of Kant's investigations. Does the study of history convey any philosophical insight? Can it provide political guidance? How are we to understand the destructive and bloody upheavals that constitute so much of human experience? What connections, if any, can be traced between politics, economics, and morality? What is the relation between the rule of law in the nation state and the advancement of a cosmopolitan political order? These questions and others are examined and discussed in a book that will be of interest to philosophers, social and political theorists, and intellectual and cultural historians.

AMÉLIE OKSENBERG RORTY is Lecturer in Social Medicine, Harvard University and Visiting Professor in Philosophy, Boston University.

JAMES SCHMIDT is Professor of History and Political Science at Boston University.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-87463-2 - Kant's Idea for a Universal History with a Cosmopolitan Aim: A Critical Guide  
Edited by Amelie Oksenberg Rorty and James Schmidt

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

CAMBRIDGE CRITICAL GUIDES

Volumes published in the series thus far:

Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit*

EDITED BY DEAN MOYAR AND MICHAEL QUANTE

Mill's *On Liberty: A Critical Guide*

EDITED BY C. L. TEN

Kant's *Idea for a Universal History with a Cosmopolitan Aim*

EDITED BY AMÉLIE OKSENBERG RORTY AND JAMES SCHMIDT

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-87463-2 - Kant's Idea for a Universal History with a Cosmopolitan Aim: A Critical Guide  
Edited by Amelie Oksenberg Rorty and James Schmidt

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

KANT'S  
*Idea for a Universal History  
with a Cosmopolitan Aim*  
A Critical Guide

EDITED BY  
AMÉLIE OKSENBERG RORTY  
AND  
JAMES SCHMIDT



CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-87463-2 - Kant's Idea for a Universal History with a Cosmopolitan Aim: A Critical Guide  
Edited by Amélie Oksenberg Rorty and James Schmidt

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi

Cambridge University Press  
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9780521874632](http://www.cambridge.org/9780521874632)

© Cambridge University Press 2009

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception  
and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements,  
no reproduction of any part may take place without  
the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2009

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library**Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data*

Essays on Kant's "Idea for a universal history with a cosmopolitan aim" / edited by

Amélie Rorty and James Schmidt.

p. cm. – (Cambridge critical guides.)

Includes bibliographical references.

ISBN 978-0-521-87463-2

- I. History – Philosophy.
2. Kant, Immanuel, 1724–1804.
- I. Rorty, Amélie
- II. Schmidt, James.
- III. Title.
- IV. Series.

D16.7.E77 2009

901–dc22

2009004912

ISBN 978-0-521-87463-2 hardback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for  
the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or  
third-party internet websites referred to in this book,  
and does not guarantee that any content on such  
websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-87463-2 - Kant's Idea for a Universal History with a Cosmopolitan Aim: A Critical Guide  
Edited by Amelie Oxsenberg Rorty and James Schmidt

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Contents*

<i>List of contributors</i>	<i>page</i> vii
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	x
Introduction: history as philosophy AMÉLIE OKSENBERG RORTY AND JAMES SCHMIDT	I
Idea for a Universal History with a Cosmopolitan Aim IMMANUEL KANT (TRANSLATED BY ALLEN WOOD)	9
1 Teleology and history in Kant: the critical foundations of Kant's philosophy of history HENRY E. ALLISON	24
2 The purposive development of human capacities KARL AMERIKS	46
3 Reason as a species characteristic MANFRED KUEHN	68
4 Good out of evil: Kant and the idea of unsocial sociability J. B. SCHNEEWIND	94
5 Kant's Fourth Proposition: the unsociable sociability of human nature ALLEN WOOD	112
6 The crooked timber of mankind PAUL GUYER	129
7 A habitat for humanity BARBARA HERMAN	150
8 Kant's changing cosmopolitanism PAULINE KLEINGELD	171

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-87463-2 - Kant's Idea for a Universal History with a Cosmopolitan Aim: A Critical Guide  
Edited by Amelie Oksenberg Rorty and James Schmidt

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

vi	<i>Contents</i>	
9	The hidden plan of nature ECKART FÖRSTER	187
10	Providence as progress: Kant's variations on a tale of origins GENEVIEVE LLOYD	200
11	Norms, facts, and the philosophy of history TERRY PINKARD	216
12	Philosophy helps history RÜDIGER BITTNER	231
	<i>Bibliography</i>	250
	<i>Index of names and works</i>	256

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-87463-2 - Kant's Idea for a Universal History with a Cosmopolitan Aim: A Critical Guide  
Edited by Amelie Oxenbergr Rorty and James Schmidt

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## Contributors

HENRY ALLISON is Professor of Philosophy at the University of California, Davis. His books include *Kant's Transcendental Idealism: An Interpretation and Defense* (1983), *Kant's Theory of Freedom* (1990), *Idealism and Freedom: Essays in Kant's Theoretical and Practical Philosophy* (1996), and *Kant's Theory of Taste: A Reading of the Critique of Aesthetic Judgment* (2001).

KARL AMERIKS is the McMahon-Hank Professor of Philosophy at the University of Notre Dame. His publications include *Kant's Theory of Mind* (1982; 2nd edn., 2000), *Kant and the Fate of Autonomy* (2000), *Interpreting Kant's Critiques* (2003) and *Kant and the Historical Turn* (2006). He is co-editor of *The Modern Subject* (1995) and editor of *The Cambridge Companion to German Idealism* (2000).

RÜDIGER BITTNER is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Bielefeld. He is the author of *What Reason Demands* (1989) and *Doing Things for Reasons* (2001). He is the editor of Nietzsche's *Writings from the Late Notebooks* (2003).

ECKART FÖRSTER is Professor of Philosophy at Johns Hopkins University and Honorary Professor of Philosophy at the Humboldt University in Berlin. He is the author of *Kant's Transcendental Deductions: The Three 'Critiques' and the 'Opus Postumum'* (1989) and *Final Synthesis* (2000).

PAUL GUYER is Murray Professor in the Humanities at the University of Pennsylvania. He is the author of *Kant and the Claims of Taste* (1979), *Kant and the Claims of Knowledge* (1987), *Kant and the Experience of Freedom* (1993), *Kant on Freedom, Law, and Happiness* (2000), *Kant's System of Nature and Freedom* (2005), and *Values of Beauty: Historical Essays in Aesthetics* (2005). Along with Allen Wood, he serves as General Editor of the Cambridge Edition of the Works of Immanuel Kant.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-87463-2 - Kant's Idea for a Universal History with a Cosmopolitan Aim: A Critical Guide  
Edited by Amelie Oksenberg Rorty and James Schmidt

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

viii

*List of contributors*

BARBARA HERMAN is Professor of Philosophy at the University of California, Los Angeles. She is the author of *The Practice of Moral Judgment* (1993) and *Moral Literacy* (2007), and the editor of John Rawls, *Lectures on the History of Moral Philosophy* (2000).

PAULINE KLEINGELD is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Leiden. She is the author of *Fortschritt und Vernunft: Zur Geschichtsphilosophie Kants* (1995) and the editor of Immanuel Kant, *'Toward Perpetual Peace' and Other Writings on Politics, Peace, and History* (2006).

MANFRED KUEHN is Professor of Philosophy at Boston University and is the author of *Scottish Common Sense in Germany* (1988) and *Immanuel Kant: A Biography* (2001).

GENEVIEVE LLOYD is Professor Emerita of Philosophy at the University of New South Wales and is the author of *The Man of Reason* (1984), *Being in Time: Selves and Narrators* (1993), *Part of Nature: Self-Knowledge in Spinoza's Ethics* (1994), and *Spinoza and The Ethics* (1996), and the editor of *Feminism and the History of Philosophy* (2002).

TERRY PINKARD is Professor of Philosophy at Georgetown University. He is the author of *Hegel's Phenomenology: The Sociality of Reason* (1994), *Hegel: A Biography* (2000), and *German Philosophy 1760–1860: The Legacy of Idealism* (2002).

AMÉLIE OKSENBERG RORTY is the author of *Mind in Action* (1991) and numerous essays on Aristotle, Descartes, Spinoza, and Hume. She has also edited *Essays on Aristotle's Ethics* (1980), *Essays on Descartes' Meditations* (1986), *Essays on Aristotle's Poetics* (1992), *Essays on Aristotle's Rhetoric* (1966), *Philosophers on Education: Historical Perspectives* (2000), and *The Many Faces of Philosophy* (2003).

J. B. SCHNEEWIND is Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at Johns Hopkins University. He is the author of *Sidgwick's Ethics and Victorian Moral Philosophy* (1977), *Moral Philosophy from Montaigne to Kant* (1990), and *The Invention of Autonomy* (1998).

JAMES SCHMIDT is Professor of History and Political Science at Boston University. He is the author of *Maurice Merleau-Ponty: Between Phenomenology and Structuralism* (1985), and the editor of *What is Enlightenment? Eighteenth-Century Answers and Twentieth-Century Questions* (1996) and *Theodor Adorno* (2007).



Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-87463-2 - Kant's Idea for a Universal History with a Cosmopolitan Aim: A Critical Guide  
Edited by Amelie Oksenberg Rorty and James Schmidt

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

*List of contributors*

ix

ALLEN WOOD is Professor of Philosophy at Stanford University. He is the author of *Hegel's Ethical Thought* (1990), *Kant's Ethical Thought* (1999), *Kant* (2004), and *Unsettling Obligations: Essays on Reason, Reality and the Ethics of Belief* (2002). Along with Paul Guyer, he serves as General Editor of the Cambridge University Press edition of the works of Immanuel Kant.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-87463-2 - Kant's Idea for a Universal History with a Cosmopolitan Aim: A Critical Guide  
Edited by Amelie Oxenbergr Rorty and James Schmidt

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## Abbreviations

Kant's works will be cited in the body of the text according to the volume and page number in *Immanuel Kants Schriften*, Ausgabe der königlich preussischen Akademie der Wissenschaften (Berlin: W. de Gruyter, 1902–), abbreviated in the list below as “Ak”.

The following abbreviations are used to refer to specific works by Kant.

EF	<i>Zum ewigen Frieden: Ein philosophischer Entwurf</i> (1795), Ak 8 <i>Toward Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Project</i>
G	<i>Grundlegung zur Metaphysik der Sitten</i> (1785), Ak 4 <i>Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals</i>
Idea	<i>Idee zu einer allgemeinen Geschichte in weltbürgerlicher Absicht</i> (1784), Ak 8 <i>Idea for a Universal History with a Cosmopolitan Aim</i>
KpV	<i>Kritik der praktischen Vernunft</i> (1788), Ak 5 <i>Critique of Practical Reason</i>
KrV	<i>Kritik der reinen Vernunft</i> (1781, 1787). <i>Critique of Pure Reason</i>
	References to this work follow the convention of citing the pages of the first (“A”) and second (“B”) editions.
KU	<i>Kritik der Urteilskraft</i> (1790), Ak 5 <i>Critique of the Power of Judgment</i>
Lec Eth	<i>Lectures on Ethics</i>
MA	<i>Mutmaßlicher Anfang der Menschengeschichte</i> (1786), Ak 8 <i>Conjectural Beginning of Human History</i>
MS	<i>Metaphysik der Sitten</i> (1797–8), Ak 6 <i>Metaphysics of Morals</i>
R	<i>Religion innerhalb der Grenzen der bloßen Vernunft</i> (1793–4), Ak 6 <i>Religion within the Boundaries of Mere Reason</i>

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-87463-2 - Kant's Idea for a Universal History with a Cosmopolitan Aim: A Critical Guide  
Edited by Amelie Oksenberg Rorty and James Schmidt

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*List of abbreviations*

xi

- Ref        *Reflexionen*, Ak 14–23. References here are to the number of the Reflection and then to the volume and page in the Akademie edition.
- RH        *Recensionen von J. G. Herders Ideen zur Philosophie der Geschichte der Menschheit*, Teil 1–2, Ak 8  
*Reviews of J. G. Herder's Ideas for the Philosophy of the History of Humanity*, Parts 1–2
- T&P       *Über den Gemeinspruch: Das mag in der Theorie richtig sein taugt aber nicht für die Praxis*, Ak 8  
*On the Common Saying: That May be True in Theory, But it is of No Use in Practice*
- VA        *Anthropologie in pragmatischer Hinsicht* (1798), Ak 7  
*Anthropology from a Pragmatic Standpoint*