There can be little doubt that without Spinoza, German Idealism would have been just as impossible as it would have been without Kant. Yet the precise nature of Spinoza’s influence on the German Idealists has hardly been studied in detail. This volume of essays by leading scholars sheds light on how the appropriation of Spinoza by Fichte, Schelling, and Hegel grew out of the reception of his philosophy by, among others, Lessing, Mendelssohn, Jacobi, Herder, Goethe, Schleiermacher, Maimon, and, of course, Kant. The volume thus not only illuminates the history of Spinoza’s thought, but also initiates a genuine philosophical dialogue between the ideas of Spinoza and those of the German Idealists. The issues at stake – the value of humanity; the possibility and importance of self-negation; the nature and value of reason and imagination; human freedom; teleology; intuitive knowledge; the nature of God – remain of the highest philosophical importance today.

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SPINOZA AND GERMAN IDEALISM

EDITED BY

ECKART FÖRSTER

AND

YITZHAK Y. MELAMED
To our children,
Kira Förster, and Yonathan-Moshe, Alma-Eva, and
Daniel-Jacob Melamed
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Abbreviations

(for complete references see the bibliography)

AA Kant, Gesammelte Schriften (Akademie Ausgabe)
A/B Kant, Critik der reinen Vernunft, 1st edn. (A); and 2nd edn. (B), respectively
AT Descartes, Œuvres de Descartes (ed. Adam and Tannery)
C The Collected Works of Spinoza (ed. and trans. Curley)
CM Spinoza, Metaphysical Thoughts (in C)
CSM The Philosophical Writings of Descartes (trans. Cottingham, Stoothoff, and Murdoch)
DPP Spinoza, Descartes’ Principles of Philosophy (in C)
E Spinoza, Ethics: a(-xion), app(-endix), c(-orollary), d(-efinition), dem(-onstration), expl(-anation), lem(-ma), p(-roposition), pref(-ace), s(-cholium).
[Thus, e.g., E1d3 is the third definition of Part 1 and E1p16dem is the demonstration of proposition 16 of Part 1]
EL Hegel, The Encyclopaedia Logic
Ep. Spinoza, The Letters
FW Fichte, Werke, ed. I. H. Fichte
G Spinoza, Opera (ed. C. Gebhardt). [E.g., G iv/25/12 is a reference to Vol. iv of Gebhardt’s critical edition, p. 25, line 12]
GA Fichte, Gesamtausgabe der Bayrischen Akademie der Wissenschaften
GW Hegel, Gesammelte Werke
### List of abbreviations

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<th>Abbreviation</th>
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<td>HA</td>
<td>Goethe, <em>Werke</em> (Hamburger Ausgabe)</td>
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<td>HKA</td>
<td>Schelling, <em>Werke</em> (Historisch-kritische Ausgabe)</td>
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<td>HS</td>
<td>Herder, <em>Sämtliche Werke</em> (ed. Suphan et al.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>IW</td>
<td>Fichte, <em>Introductory to the Wissenschaftslehre and Other Writings</em> (1787–1800)</td>
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<td>KGA</td>
<td>Schleiermacher, <em>Kritische Gesamtausgabe</em></td>
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<td>KpV</td>
<td>Kant, <em>Critique of Practical Reason</em></td>
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<td>KrV</td>
<td>Kant, <em>Critique of Pure Reason</em></td>
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<td>Spinoza, <em>Short Treatise on God, Man, and his Well-Being</em> (in C)</td>
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<td>LHP</td>
<td>Hegel, <em>Lectures on the History of Philosophy</em></td>
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<td>NR</td>
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