

Heidegger, Morality and Politics

Heidegger has often been seen as having no moral philosophy, and a political philosophy that can only support fascism. Sonia Sikka's book challenges this view, arguing instead that Heidegger should be considered a qualified moral realist, and that his insights on cultural identity and cross-cultural interaction are not invalidated by his support for Nazism. Sikka explores the ramifications of Heidegger's moral and political thought for topics including free will and responsibility, the status of humanity within the design of nature, the relationship between the individual and culture, the rights of peoples to political self-determination, the idea of race and the problem of racism, historical relativism, the subjectivity of values, and the nature of justice. Her discussion highlights aspects of Heidegger's thought that are still relevant for modern debates, while also addressing its limitations as reflected in his political affiliations and sympathies.

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Heidegger, Morality and Politics

Questioning the Shepherd of Being

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Portions of the book also incorporate material from the following articles:

“The Philosophical Bases of Heidegger’s Politics,” *Journal of the British Society for Phenomenology*, 25 (1994), 241–62.

“Heidegger’s Concept of *Volk*,” *Philosophical Forum*, 26 (1994), 101–26.

“Heidegger’s Appropriation of Schelling,” *Southern Journal of Philosophy*, 32 (1994), 421–48.

“Kantian Ethics in *Being and Time*,” with response by Tom Rockmore, and reply by author. *Journal of Philosophical Research*, 31 (2006), 309–34.

Note on Citations

For Heidegger's works, references are generally given to both the original German texts and English translations. I have quoted from the indicated English translations, making minor changes occasionally. When no English translation is cited, the translation is my own. Page references for *Being and Time* are to the German edition, which is cross-referenced with the Macquarrie and Robinson translation. In the case of primary texts by other authors, references are usually to English translations alone where these exist, with the exception of Kant's works, cited extensively in Chapter 2, for which both German and English page references are given.

Abbreviations

Works by Heidegger

BPP	<i>Basic Problems of Phenomenology</i> (Heidegger 1982)
BT	<i>Being and Time</i> (Heidegger 1962c)
BTr	<i>Being and Truth</i> (Heidegger 2010)
BW	<i>Basic Writings</i> (Heidegger 1993)
CP	<i>Contributions to Philosophy</i> (Heidegger 1989)
DT	<i>Discourse on Thinking</i> (Heidegger 1966)
EB	<i>Existence and Being</i> (Heidegger 1968a)
EGT	<i>Early Greek Thinking</i> (1984b)
EHF	<i>The Essence of Human Freedom</i> (Heidegger 2002a)
EP	<i>The End of Philosophy</i> (Heidegger 1973)
ET	<i>The Essence of Truth</i> (Heidegger 2002b)
FCM	<i>Fundamental Concepts of Metaphysics</i> (Heidegger 1995)
G	<i>Gelassenheit</i> (Heidegger 1959)
GA	<i>Gesamtausgabe</i> (Heidegger 1975–)
H	<i>Hölderlin's Hymnen 'Germanian' und 'Der Rhein'</i> (GA39)
H:J	<i>Martin Heidegger/Karl Jaspers: Briefwechsel, 1920–1963</i> (Heidegger 1990)
IM	<i>Introduction to Metaphysics</i> (Heidegger 1987)
L	<i>Logik: Als die Frage nach dem Wesen der Sprache</i> (GA 38)
MFL	<i>Metaphysical Foundations of Logic</i> (1984a)
NH	<i>Nachlese zu Heidegger</i> (Heidegger 1962b)
NHS	<i>Nature, History, State</i> (Heidegger 2013)
NI, NII	<i>Nietzsche: Volumes One and Two</i> (Heidegger 1996)
OWL	<i>On the Way to Language</i> (1971b)
P	<i>Pathmarks</i> (Heidegger 1998)
PLT	<i>Poetry, Language, Thought</i> (1971a)
QCT	<i>The Question Concerning Technology and Other Essays</i> (Heidegger 1977)
STF	<i>Schelling's Treatise on the Essence of Human Freedom</i> (Heidegger 1985)

xii	Abbreviations
SU	<i>Die Selbstbehauptung der Deutschen Universität</i> (Heidegger 1983b)
TK	<i>Die Technik und die Kehre</i> (Heidegger 1962a)
VA	<i>Vorträge und Aufsätze</i> (Heidegger 1954b)
WCT	<i>What is Called Thinking?</i> (Heidegger 1968)
WhD	<i>Was heißt Denken?</i> (Heidegger 1984)

Works by Other Authors

Karl Jaspers

FM	<i>The Future of Mankind</i> (Jaspers 1961)
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Immanuel Kant

AA	<i>Kants Werke</i> , Akademie Ausgabe (Kant 1902-)
CPrR	<i>Critique of Practical Reason</i> (Kant 1997)
GMM	<i>Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals</i> (Kant 1998)
MM	<i>Metaphysics of Morals</i> (Kant 1996)
MPV	<i>Metaphysical Principles of Virtue</i> (Kant 1983a)
PP	<i>Perpetual Peace and Other Essays</i> (1983b)

Emmanuel Levinas

TI	<i>Totality and Infinity</i> (Levinas 1969)
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Friedrich Nietzsche

GM	<i>The Genealogy of Morals</i> (Nietzsche 1989)
WP	<i>The Will to Power</i> (Nietzsche 1967)

F. W. J. Schelling

F	<i>Philosophische Untersuchungen über das Wesen der menschlichen Freiheit</i> (Schelling 1860)
SW	<i>Friedrich Wilhelm Joseph vom Schellings sämtliche Werke</i> (Schelling 1856–61)