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FICHTE

Each volume of this series of companions to major philosophers contains specially commissioned essays by an international team of scholars, together with a substantial bibliography, and will serve as a reference work for students and non-specialists. One aim of the series is to dispel the intimidation such readers often feel when faced with the work of a difficult and challenging thinker.

Johann Gottlieb Fichte (1762–1814) was the founding figure of the philosophical movement known as German idealism, a branch of thought which grew out of Kant's critical philosophy. Fichte's work formed the crucial link between eighteenth-century Enlightenment thought and philosophical, as well as literary, Romanticism. Some of his ideas also foreshadow later nineteenth- and twentieth-century developments in philosophy and in political thought, including existentialism, nationalism and socialism. This volume offers essays on all the major aspects of Fichte's philosophy, ranging from the successive versions of his foundational philosophical science or *Wissenschaftslehre*, through his ethical and political thought, to his philosophies of history and religion. All the main stages of Fichte's philosophical career and development are charted, and his ideas are placed in their historical and intellectual context.

New readers will find this the most convenient and accessible guide to Fichte currently available. Advanced students and specialists will find a conspectus of recent developments in the interpretation of Fichte.

DAVID JAMES is Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of Warwick. His previous publications include *Fichte's Republic: Idealism, History and Nationalism* (Cambridge 2015), *Rousseau and German Idealism: Freedom, Dependence and Necessity* (Cambridge 2013) and *Fichte's Social and Political Philosophy: Property and Virtue* (Cambridge 2011).

GÜNTER ZÖLLER is Professor of Philosophy at Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich and is the author of numerous works on Fichte, including *Fichte's Transcendental Philosophy* (Cambridge 1998), *Fichte lesen* (2013) and *Res Publica: Plato's Republic in Classical German Philosophy* (2015). He is also the co-editor and co-translator of *Fichte: The System of Ethics* (Cambridge 2005).

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HANSJÜRGEN VERWEYEN is Professor Emeritus of Fundamental Theology at the University of Freiburg. He is the author of *Recht und Sittlichkeit in J. G. Fichtes Gesellschaftslehre* (1975), *Gottes letztes Wort: Grundriß der Fundamentaltheologie* (1991, 3rd edn 2000), *Philosophie und Theologie: Vom Mythos zum Logos zum Mythos* (2005), and *Mensch sein neu buchstabieren: Vom Nutzen der philosophischen und historischen Kritik für den Glauben* (2016). He has undertaken German editions of Fichte's *The System of Ethics* (1995), *Attempt at a Critique of All Revelation* (1998), *The Vocation of Man* (2000) and *Instructions for a Blessed Life* (2001).

ALLEN WOOD is Ruth Norman Halls Professor at Indiana University and Ward W. and Priscilla B. Woods Professor emeritus at Stanford University. He is author of numerous articles and author or editor of over twenty books, including *Karl Marx* (1981, 2nd edn 2004), *Hegel's Ethical Thought* (1990), *Kant's Ethical Thought* (1999) and *The Free Development of Each: Studies on Freedom, Right, and Ethics in Classical German Philosophy* (2014). His most recent book is *Fichte's Ethical Thought* (2016).

GÜNTER ZÖLLER is Professor of Philosophy at Ludwig Maximilian University Munich. A former member of the Fichte Commission of the Bavarian Academy of Sciences and a main editor of the critical edition of Fichte's Complete Works, his publications on Fichte

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ABBREVIATIONS

Writings of Fichte

ACR	*Attempt at a Critique of All Revelation*, ed. Allen Wood, trans. Garrett Green (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010).
AD	*J. G. Fichte and the Atheism Dispute (1798–1800)*, ed. Yolanda Estes and Curtis Bowman (Farnham: Ashgate, 2010).
AGN	*Addresses to the German Nation*, trans. Gregory Moore (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008).
CCS	*The Closed Commercial State*, trans. Anthony Curtis Adler (Albany, NY: SUNY Press, 2012).
CPA	*The Characteristics of the Present Age*, in *The Popular Works of Johann Gottlieb Fichte*, trans. William Smith, vol. 2 (Bristol: Thoemmes Press, 1999).
CR	'J. G. Fichte: Review of Leonhard Creuzer, *Skeptical Reflections on the Freedom of the Will* (1793)', trans. Daniel Breazeale, *The Philosophical Forum* 32(4) (2001).
EPW	*Fichte: Early Philosophical Writings*, ed. and trans. Daniel Breazeale (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1988).
FG	*J. G. Fichte im Gespräch. Berichte der Zeitgenossen*, ed. Erich Fuchs, Reinhard Lauth and Walter Schieche, 7 vols. (Stuttgart-Bad Cannstatt: Frommann-Holzboog, 1978–2012). Cited by volume and page number.
FNR	*Foundations of Natural Right*, ed. Frederick Neuhouser, trans. Michael Baur (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000).

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FTP	*Foundations of Transcendental Philosophy (Wissenschaftslehre) nova methodo (1796/99)*, trans. and ed. Daniel Breazeale (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1992).
GA	*J. G. Fichte: Gesamtausgabe der Bayerischen Akademie der Wissenschaften*, ed. Reinhard Lauth, Hans Jacob and Hans Gliwitzky (Stuttgart-Bad Cannstatt: Frommann-Holzboog, 1962–2012). Cited by part, volume and page number.
IWL	*Introductions to the Wissenschaftslehre and Other Writings (1797–1800)*, trans. and ed. Daniel Breazeale (Indianapolis, IN: Hackett, 1994).
SE	*The System of Ethics*, trans. Daniel Breazeale and Günter Zöller (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005).
SK	*The Science of Knowledge*, trans. Peter Heath and John Lachs (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1983).
SW	*Sämmtliche Werke,* ed. I. H. Fichte (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 1965). Cited by volume and page number.
VM_1	*The Vocation of Man*, in *The Popular Works of Johann Gottlieb Fichte*, trans. William Smith, vol. 1 (Bristol: Thoemmes Press, 1999).
VM_2	*The Vocation of Man*, trans. Peter Preuss (Indianapolis, IN: Hackett, 1987).

Writings of Kant

AA	*Kant's gesammelte Schriften,* ed. Königliche Preußische (later Deutsche) Akademie der Wissenschaften (Berlin: Reimer/de Gruyter, 1900–). Cited by volume and page number.
CJ	*Critique of the Power of Judgment*, ed. Paul Guyer, trans. Paul Guyer and Eric Matthews (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000).
CPR	*Critique of Pure Reason*, ed. Paul Guyer and Allen W. Wood (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998).
CPrR	*Critique of Practical Reason*, in *Practical Philosophy*, ed. and trans. Mary J. Gregor (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996).

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IUH	'Idea for a Universal History with a Cosmopolitan Purpose', in *Kant's Political Writings*, 2nd edn, ed. H. S. Reiss, trans. H. B. Nisbet (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991).
MM	*The Metaphysics of Morals*, in *Practical Philosophy*, trans. and ed. Mary J. Gregor (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996).
P	*Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics*, trans. Gary Hatfield (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997).
R	*Religion within the Boundaries of Mere Reason*, ed. Allen W. Wood and George di Giovanni (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998).
TP	*Theoretical Philosophy 1755–1770*, ed. David Walford and Ralf Meerbote (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992).

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1762	Born 19 May in Rammenau, in the Upper Lusatia area of Saxony, the first of eight (surviving) children of the ribbon weaver Christian Fichte and his wife, Johanna Maria Dorothea
1774–80	Attends Princely Secondary School at Pforta, near Naumburg (*Schulpforta*)
1780–84	Studies at the universities of Jena, Leipzig and Wittenberg, no degree taken
1785–93	Private tutor in households in Saxony, Zurich and Eastern Prussia
1790	August/September: reads Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason, Critique of Practical Reason* and *Critique of the Power of Judgment*
1791	Visits Kant in Königsberg
1792	*Attempt at a Critique of All Revelation* (in part anonymously published)
1793	June: returns to Zurich; October: marries Johanne Rahn of Zurich
1793–94	*Contribution to the Rectification of the Public's Judgement of the French Revolution* (published anonymously)
1794	February: *Zurich Lectures on the Concept of the Wissenschaftslehre*. As of May: Professor at the University of Jena; *Concerning the Concept of the Wissenschaftslehre*; *Foundation of the Entire Wissenschaftslehre* (Parts One and Two); *Some Lectures Concerning the Vocation of the Scholar*

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Frontmatter
More Information

1795	*Foundation of the Entire Wissenschaftslehre* (Part Three)
1796	*Foundation of Natural Right* (Part One)
1796–99	Three yearly lecture courses on the *New Presentation of the Wissenschaftslehre* (*Wissenschaftslehre nova methodo*)
1797	*Foundation of Natural Right* (Part Two)
1797–98	*New Presentation of the Wissenschaftslehre* (fragmentary)
1798	*The System of Ethics*
1798	November: beginning of the atheism dispute
1799	April: loses his professorship
1800	July: moves to Berlin; *The Vocation of Man*; *The Closed Commercial State*
1804–5	Five consecutive lecture courses on the *Wissenschaftslehre*
1805	May to September: Professor in Erlangen
1806	*The Characteristics of the Present Age*; *The Way towards the Blessed Life*; *On the Essence of the Scholar*
1807	October: flees with the Prussian court to Königsberg; travels on to Copenhagen; returns to Berlin; *Wissenschaftslehre Königsberg*
1807	December to March 1808: *Addresses to the German Nation*
1809	As of December: Professor at the University of Berlin
1810–14	Five yearly lecture courses on the *Wissenschaftslehre*
1810	August: elected Dean of the Philosophical Faculty (re-elected June 1811); *The Wissenschaftslehre in Its General Outline*
1811	August: first elected Rector of the University of Berlin (resigns April 1812); *Five Lectures on the Vocation of the Scholar*
1812	*Doctrine of Right*; *Doctrine of Ethics*
1813	*The Doctrine of the State* (published 1820)
1813–14	Three-part philosophical diary (*Diarium I*, *II* and *III*)
1814	Dies on 29 January in Berlin

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