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0521805902 - Friedrich Schleiermacher: Between Enlightenment and Romanticism

Richard Crouter

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FRIEDRICH SCHLEIERMACHER:  
BETWEEN ENLIGHTENMENT  
AND ROMANTICISM

Friedrich Schleiermacher's groundbreaking work in theology and philosophy was forged in the cultural ferment of Berlin at the convergence of the Enlightenment and Romanticism. The three sections of this book include illuminating sketches of Schleiermacher's relationship to his contemporaries (Mendelssohn, Hegel, and Kierkegaard), his work as a public theologian (dialog on Jewish emancipation, founding the University of Berlin), as well as the formation and impact of his two most famous books, *On Religion: Speeches to its Cultured Despisers* and *The Christian Faith*. Richard Crouter examines Schleiermacher's stance regarding the status of doctrine, church, and political authority, and the place of theology among the academic disciplines. Dedicated to the Protestant Church in the line of Calvin, Schleiermacher was equally a man of the university who brought the highest standards of rationality, linguistic sensitivity, and a sense of history to bear upon religion.

RICHARD CROUTER is Emeritus Professor of Religious Studies, Carleton College, Minnesota. He is best known for his work on Friedrich Schleiermacher, especially the highly acclaimed *Schleiermacher: On Religion: Speeches to its Cultured Despisers* (1996).

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While working on the present book I have incurred numerous debts to other Schleiermacher scholars and specialists in his theological and cultural milieu. In recent years, the Schleiermacher essays by B. A. Gerrish in *The Old Protestantism and the New: Essays on the Reformation Heritage* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1982) and *Continuing the Reformation: Essays on Modern Religious Thought* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1993) have set the standard for English-language Schleiermacher interpretation. Gerrish's delightful portrait, *A Prince of the Church: Schleiermacher and the Beginnings of Modern Theology* (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1984) situates Schleiermacher theologically but does not address the cultural sources of the theologian's productivity. In fact, English-language historical studies of Schleiermacher in the full round are few and far between. In Germany Schleiermacher's name resonates with his illustrious contemporaries, Novalis, Goethe, Hegel, Fichte, Friedrich and A. W. Schlegel, Hölderlin, and Schelling. He also deserves to be in such company in the English-speaking world.

Although I once harbored the ambition to do a full-scale biography of Schleiermacher, I have been more drawn to the task of relating specific aspects of his legacy directly to their cultural and lived situation. Happily, the Schleiermacher biography of the late Leipzig scholar Kurt Nowak, *Schleiermacher: Leben, Werk und Wirkung* (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck and Ruprecht, 2001), is now available. For German readers Nowak's work supplants Martin Redeker, *Schleiermacher: Life and Thought* (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1973).

It is my hope that these essays will complement the work of others who have been my mentors and colleagues along the way. Foremost among these is my late teacher, Wilhelm Pauck, whose critical acumen in the craft of interpreting the past remains unsurpassed. I owe more debts to the work of B. A. Gerrish (University of Chicago, now Richmond, Virginia),

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“Rhetoric and Substance in Schleiermacher’s Revision of *The Christian Faith* (1821–1822),” *Journal of Religion* 60/3 (July 1980): 285–306, reprinted, by permission, copyright 1980 by the University of Chicago. All rights reserved.

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- “Schleiermacher and the Theology of Bourgeois Society: A Critique of the Critics,” *Journal of Religion* 66/3 (July 1986): 302–23, reprinted, by permission, copyright 1986 by the University of Chicago. All rights reserved.
- “The Reden and Schleiermacher’s Theory of Language: The Ubiquity of a Romantic Text,” in *Schleiermacher und die Wissenschaftliche Kultur des Christentums*, ed. Günter Meckenstock with Joachim Ringleben (Berlin: de Gruyter, 1991), 335–47, reprinted, by permission, from Walter de Gruyter and Co.
- “Kierkegaard’s not so Hidden Debt to Schleiermacher,” *Zeitschrift für Neuere Theologiegeschichte/Journal for the History of Modern Theology* 1/2 (1994): 205–25, reprinted, by permission, from Walter de Gruyter and Co.
- “Schleiermacher’s *On Religion*: Hermeneutical Musings After Two Hundred Years,” *Zeitschrift für Neuere Theologiegeschichte/Journal for the History of Modern Theology* 6/1 (1999): 1–22, reprinted, by permission, from Walter de Gruyter and Co.
- “Schleiermacher’s *Letters on the Occasion* and the Crisis of Berlin Jewry,” in *Ethical Monotheism: Past and Present*, ed. Theodore M. Vial and Mark Hadley (Atlanta: Brown Judaic Studies [Society for Biblical Literature], 2001), 74–91, reprinted, by permission, from Brown Judaic Studies.
- “Schleiermacher, Mendelssohn, and the Enlightenment: Comparing *On Religion* (1799) with *Jerusalem* (1783),” *Zeitschrift für Neuere Theologiegeschichte/Journal for the History of Modern Theology* 10/2 (2003): 165–95, reprinted, by permission, from Walter de Gruyter and Co.

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## SCHLEIERMACHER TEXTS

- BO* *Brief Outline on the Study of Theology*. Tr. Terrence N. Tice. Richmond: John Knox Press, 1966.
- CF* *The Christian Faith*. Tr. H. R. Mackintosh and J. S. Stewart. Edinburgh: T. and T. Clark, 1928.
- Friedländer et al. David Friedländer, Friedrich Schleiermacher, and Wilhelm Abraham Teller. *A Debate on Jewish Emancipation and Christian Theology in Old Berlin*. Ed. and tr. Richard Crouter and Julie Klassen. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, 2004.
- HC* *Hermeneutics and Criticism and Other Writings*. Ed. Andrew Bowie. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998.
- KGA* *Friedrich Daniel Ernst Schleiermacher Kritischer Gesamtausgabe*. Ed. Hermann Fischer (general editor), Ulrich Barth, Konrad Cramer, Günter Meckenstock, and Kurt-Victor Selge. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 1980–.
- LL* *On the Glaubenslehre: Two Letters to Dr. Lücke*. Tr. James Duke and Francis Fiorenza. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1981.
- LS* *The Life of Schleiermacher as unfolded in his Autobiography and Letters, I–II*. Ed. and tr. Frederica Rowan. London: Smith, Elder and Co., 1860.
- OR* (Crouter) *On Religion: Speeches to its Cultured Despisers*. Ed. and tr. Richard Crouter. First edition, 1799. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996.

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- OR* (Oman) *On Religion: Speeches to its Cultured Despisers*. Tr. John Oman. Forward Jack Forstman. Fourth edition, 1831. Louisville: Westminster Press/John Knox Press, 1994.
- OT* *Occasional Thoughts on Universities in the German Sense with an Appendix Regarding a University soon to be Established*. Tr. Terrence N. Tice and Edwina Lawler. Lewiston: Edwin Mellen Press, 1991.
- Schl Briefe* *Aus Schleiermachers Leben. In Briefen*, 1–IV. Ed. Ludwig Jonas and Wilhelm Dilthey. Berlin: Watter de Gruyter, 1974.
- ThEnz* *Friedrich Schleiermacher Theologische Enzyklopaedie (1831–32): Nachschrift David Friedrich Strauß*. Ed. Walter Sachs. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 1987.

## OTHER WORKS

- JP* *Søren Kierkegaard's Journals and Papers*, 1–VII. Ed. and tr. Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1975.
- Jerusalem* Moses Mendelssohn, *Jerusalem, or, On Religious Power and Judaism*. Tr. Allan Arkush. Introduction and commentary Alexander Altmann. Hanover: University Press of New England, 1983.
- Hoffmeister J. Hoffmeister, ed. *Briefe von und an Hegel*, 1–IV. Hamburg: Meiner, 1952–60.
- Nicolin G. Nicolin, ed. *Hegel in Berichten seiner Zeitgenossen*. Hamburg: Meiner, 1970.