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978-0-521-87117-4 - Friedrich Nietzsche: A Philosophical Biography

Julian Young

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FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE

A Philosophical Biography

In this beautifully written account, Julian Young provides the most comprehensive biography available today of the life and philosophy of the nineteenth-century German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche. Young deals with the many puzzles created by the conjunction of Nietzsche's personal history and his work: why the son of a Lutheran pastor developed into the self-styled "Antichrist"; why this archetypical Prussian came to loathe Bismarck's Prussia; and why this enemy of feminism preferred the company of feminist women. Setting Nietzsche's thought in the context of his times – the rise of Prussian militarism, anti-Semitism, Darwinian science, the "Youth" and emancipationist movements, as well as the "death of God" – Young emphasizes the decisive influence of Plato and of Richard Wagner on Nietzsche's attempt to reform Western culture. He also describes the devastating effect on Nietzsche's personality of his unhappy love for Lou Salomé and attempts to understand why, at the age of forty-four, he went mad.

This book includes a selection of more than thirty photographs of Nietzsche, his friends, and his work sites. Seventeen of the philosopher's musical compositions, which are key to a deeper understanding of his intellectual project, are available online.

Educated at Cambridge University and the University of Pittsburgh, Julian Young is Kenan Professor of Humanities at Wake Forest University, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Auckland, and Honorary Research Professor at the University of Tasmania. A scholar of nineteenth- and twentieth-century German philosophy, he is the author of nine books, most recently *Nietzsche's Philosophy of Religion*, and has been invited to speak at universities and conferences throughout the world.

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Note

Chapters and sections with headings in italics discuss Nietzsche's works. The remainder discuss his life. There are thus three ways of reading this book. One can read about Nietzsche's life, about his works, or, best of all, about both his life and his works.

Seventeen of Nietzsche's musical compositions, together with a commentary, are available on the book's Web site, <http://www.cambridge.org/9780521871174>.

FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE

A
Philosophical
Biography



JULIAN YOUNG



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List of Abbreviations

WORKS BY NIETZSCHE

The works Nietzsche himself published are cited using the following abbreviations: Roman numerals refer to major parts of the works, Arabic numerals refer to sections, not pages. References to KGW and KSA cite a volume number followed by the notebook number and, in brackets, the note number (e.g., KSA 13 14 [204]). References to KGB cite a volume number followed by a letter number (e.g., KGB II.3 393). The translations of KGB, KGW, and KSA are entirely my own. I have sometimes modified the translations of Nietzsche's published works that I cite.

- A *The Antichrist* in *The Anti-Christ, Ecce Homo, Twilight of the Idols and Other Writings* ed. A. Ridley, trans. J. Norman (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005). Hereafter 'Ridley and Norman'.
- AOM *Assorted Opinions and Maxims* in *Human, All-Too-Human* ed. E. Heller, trans. R. Hollingdale (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1986). Hereafter 'Heller and Hollingdale'.
- BGE *Beyond Good and Evil* ed. R.-P. Horstmann and J. Norman, trans. J. Norman (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002).
- BT *The Birth of Tragedy* in *The Birth of Tragedy and Other Writings* ed. R. Geuss and R. Speirs, trans. R. Spears (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999).
- D *Daybreak* ed. M. Clark and B. Leiter, trans. R. Hollingdale (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997). Referred to by me as *Dawn*.
- EH *Ecce Homo* in Ridley and Norman.
- EI *On the Future of Our Educational Institutions* trans. M. W. Grenke (South Bend, IN: St. Augustine's Press, 2004).
- GM *On the Genealogy of Morals* ed. K. Ansell-Pearson, trans. C. Diethe (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994).
- GS *The Gay Science* ed. B. Williams, trans. J. Naukhoff (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001).
- HH *Human, All-Too-Human* in Heller and Hollingdale.
- HKG *Friedrich Nietzsche: Werke und Briefe: Historisch-kritische Gesamtausgabe*, Vol. II ed. Hans Joachim Mette (Munich: Beck, 1933).
- KGB *Nietzsche Briefwechsel: Kritische Gesamtausgabe* (25 vols.) ed. G. Colli and M. Montinari (Berlin: de Gruyter, 1975–2004).
- KGW *Nietzsche Werke: Kritische Gesamtausgabe* (24 vols + 4 CDs) eds. G. Colli and M. Montinari (Berlin: de Gruyter, 1967–2006).
- KSA *Kritische Studienausgabe* (15 vols.) eds. G. Colli and M. Montinari (Berlin: de Gruyter, 1999).

xvi  *List of Abbreviations*

- NCW *Nietzsche Contra Wagner* in *The Portable Nietzsche* ed. W. Kaufmann (New York: Penguin, 1982).
- PTA *The Complete Works of Friedrich Nietzsche*, Vol. 2, *Early Greek Philosophy* ed. O. Levy, trans. M. A. Mügge (New York: Gordon Press).
- S *Nietzsche: Werke in Drei Bänden* (3 vols.) ed. K. Schlechta (Munich: Hanser, 1965).
- TI *Twilight of the Idols* in Ridley and Norman.
- UM *Untimely Meditations* ed. D. Breazeale, trans. R. Hollingdale (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997). Hereafter 'Breazeale and Hollingdale'.
- WB *Wagner in Bayreuth* in Breazeale and Hollingdale.
- WC *The Case of Wagner: A Musician's Problem* in Ridley and Norman.
- WP *The Will to Power* ed. W. Kaufmann, trans. W. Kaufmann and R. Hollingdale (New York: Vintage 1968).
- WS *The Wanderer and His Shadow* in Heller and Hollingdale.
- Z *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* trans. and ed. G. Parkes (New York: Oxford University Press 2005).

OTHER WORKS

- BM *On the Basis of Morality*, Arthur Schopenhauer, trans. E. F. J. Payne (New York: Bobbs-Merill, 1965).
- C *Friedrich Nietzsche: Chronik in Bildern und Texten*, eds. R. Benders and S. Oettermann for the Stiftung Weimarer Klassik (Munich–Vienna: Hanser, 2000).
- J *Friedrich Nietzsche: Biographie* (3 vols.), C. P. Janz (Munich–Vienna: Hanser, 1978).
- FR *The Fourfold Root of the Principle of Sufficient Reason*, Arthur Schopenhauer, trans. E. F. J. Payne (La Salle: Open Court, 1974).
- LN *The Lonely Nietzsche*, Elizabeth Förster-Nietzsche, trans. P. Cohn (London: Heinemann, 1915).
- PP *Parerga and Paralipomena* (2 vols.), Arthur Schopenhauer, trans. E. Payne (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1974).
- WMD *Wagner on Music and Drama*, Richard Wagner, eds. A. Goldman and E. Sprinchorn, trans. W. Aston Ellis (London: Gollancz, 1964).
- WN *On the Will in Nature*, Arthur Schopenhauer, trans. E. Payne (New York: Berg, 1992).
- WPW *Richard Wagner's Prose Works*, Vol. 5, Richard Wagner, trans. W. Ashton Ellis (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner and Co., 1896).
- WR *The World as Will and Representation* (2 vols.), Arthur Schopenhauer, trans. E. Payne (New York: Dover, 1969).
- YN *The Young Nietzsche*, Elizabeth Förster-Nietzsche, trans. A. Ludovici (London: Heinemann, 1912).

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1. Karl Ludwig Nietzsche (Nietzsche's father).



2. Franziska Nietzsche (Nietzsche's mother) aged about 25.



3. The vicarage in Röcken, where Nietzsche was born, with his father's church behind.

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4. 18 Weingarten, Franziska Nietzsche's house in Naumburg.



5. Nietzsche, aged 17.



6. Friedrich Ritschl, Nietzsche's beloved professor in Leipzig.



7. Paul Deussen, aged about 19.



8. Nietzsche, aged 24, at the time of his military service.

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9. Arthur Schopenhauer, the 'heavenly picture of our master' by Jules Luntenschütz.



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11. The Wagner's house at Tribschen, Lucerne.



12. Richard and Cosima Wagner in May 1872, the time of their transfer to Bayreuth.

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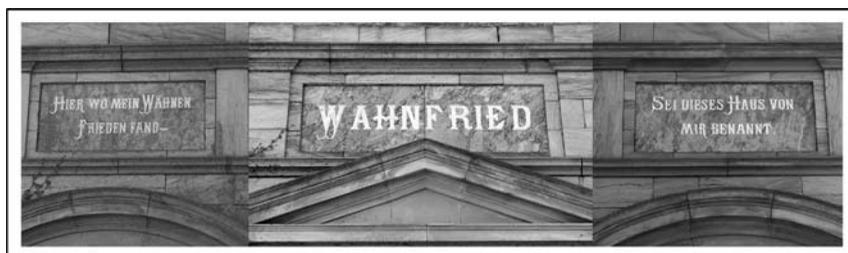


13. Nietzsche with his friends Erwin Rohde (on left) and Carl von Gersdorff, October 1871.

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14. Wahnfried, the Wagners' house in Bayreuth.



Here where my
delusions found
peace

WAHNFRIED

Name this
house.

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15. The Festival Theatre in Bayreuth.



16. Malwida von Meysenbug.



17. Elizabeth Förster-Nietzsche (Nietzsche's sister), aged about 30.



18. Paul Rée.



19. Heinrich Köselitz ('Peter Gast').

20. Mathilde Trampedach.



21. The Durisch house in Sils Maria. Nietzsche's room top right, at the back.



22. Nietzsche's room in the Durisch house.



23. The 'mighty pyramidal block of stone' by Lake Silverplana where the thought of 'eternal return' first came to Nietzsche.

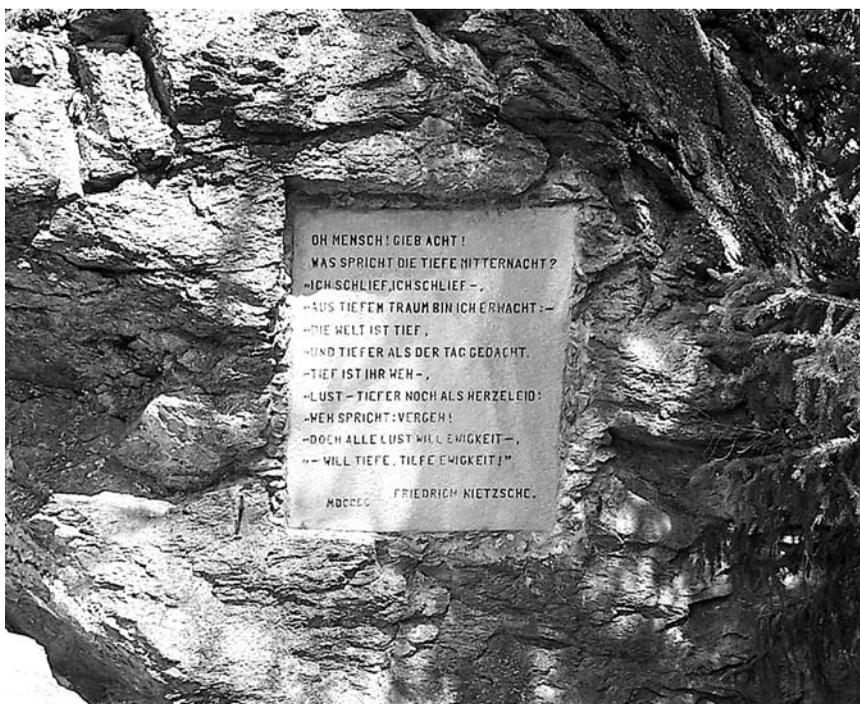


24. Lou Salomé in 1882, the year of the 'Salomé affair'.



25. 'You are going to women? Then don't forget the whip'.

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26. Memorial to Nietzsche on Chasté peninsula, with quotation from *Zarathustra's* 'Intoxicated Song'. Erected in 1900 by Carl Fuchs and Walther Lampe.



27. Resa von Schirnhofer.



28. Meta von Salis-Marschlins.

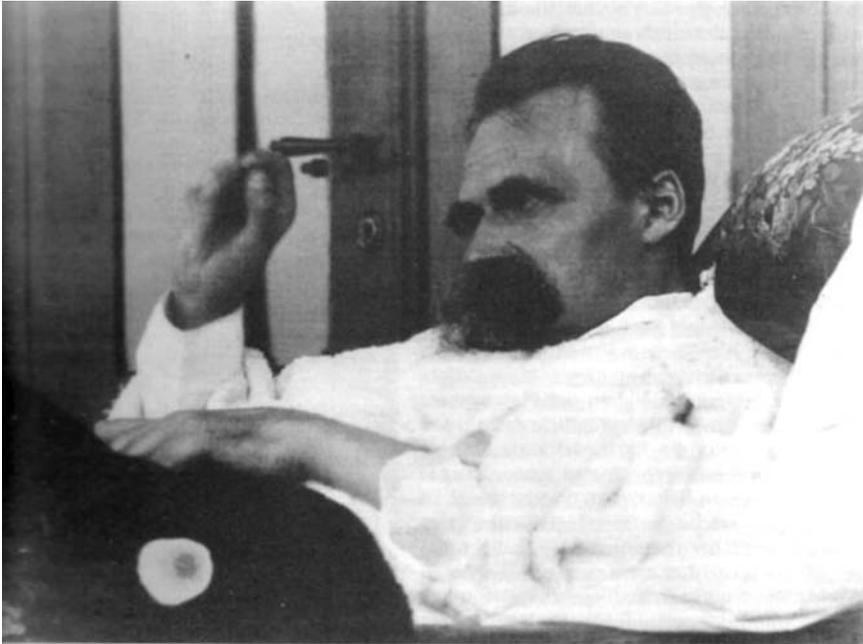
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29. Lake Silverplana, looking towards Sils Maria.



30. The Nietzsche Archive, formerly Villa Silberblick, Weimar.



31. Nietzsche in May 1899, shortly before his death.



32. Elizabeth Förster-Nietzsche and Chancellor Adolf Hitler.