

FREEDOM AND PERFECTION

Leibniz, this study argues, is the genuine initiator of German Idealism. His analysis of freedom as spontaneity and the relations he establishes among freedom, justice, and progress underlie Kant's ideas of rightful interaction and his critiques of Enlightened absolutism. *Freedom and Perfection* offers a historical examination of perfectionism, its political implications and transformations in German thought between 1650 and 1850. Douglas Moggach demonstrates how Kant's followers elaborated a new ethical-political approach, 'post-Kantian perfectionism', which, in the context of the French Revolution, promoted the conditions for free activity rather than state-directed happiness. Hegel, the Hegelian School, and Marx developed this approach further with reference to the historical process as the history of freedom. Highlighting the decisive importance of Leibniz for subsequent theorists of the state, society, and economy, *Freedom and Perfection* offers a new interpretation of important schools of modern thought and a vantage point for contemporary political debates.

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FREEDOM AND PERFECTION

German Political Thought from Leibniz to Marx

DOUGLAS MOGGACH

University of Ottawa/University of Sydney



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Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	<i>page</i> vi
1 Thinking Freedom	i
2 Leibniz: Spontaneity, Justice, and Perfection	29
3 Receptions of Leibniz: Wolff and Herder	58
4 The Kantian Revolution	83
5 Foundational Arguments: Humboldt and Dalberg on the Scope and Ends of the State	126
6 Friedrich Schiller: Perfection, Freedom, and Beauty	152
7 Fichte: The Labour of Spontaneity	180
8 Hegel as Post-Kantian Perfectionist	214
9 Hegelian Perfectionism before 1848	246
10 Karl Marx: Historical Perfectionism	284
Conclusion	319
<i>Select Bibliography</i>	324
<i>Index</i>	335

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vii

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