This book is the first collection of essays on Schelling in English that systematically explores the historical development of his philosophy. It addresses all four periods of Schelling’s thought: his Transcendental Philosophy and Philosophy of Nature, his System of Identity [Identitätspolitik], his System of Freedom, and his Positive Philosophy. The essays examine the constellation of philosophical ideas that motivated the formation of Schelling’s thought, as well as those later ones for which his philosophy laid the foundation. They therefore relate Schelling’s philosophy to a broad range of systematic issues that are of importance to us today: metaphysics, epistemology, aesthetics, ethics, our modern conceptions of individual autonomy, philosophy of history, philosophy of religion, political philosophy, and theology. The result is a new interpretation of Schelling’s place in the history of German Idealism as an inventive and productive thinker.

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**Method of citation**

Where references are by author and year of publication, full reference information may be found in the Bibliography.

**Friedrich Wilhelm Joseph Schelling**

Citations to Schelling’s texts are generally given parenthetically, although additional references are sometimes included in the footnotes to the essays. The following abbreviations have been used in referring to standard editions of Schelling’s works:


- **SW** Friedrich Wilhelm Joseph Schellings sämmtliche Werke, ed. K.F.A. Schelling, I Abtheilung vols. 1–10, II Abtheilung vols. 1–4. Stuttgart: Cotta, 1856–61. (All references are first to the section number [in upper case roman numerals], followed by the relevant volume and page numbers.) This edition is more readily available as reprinted in Schellings Werke, ed. M. Schröter. Munich: Beck, 1927. The reprinted edition sets the SW pagination in the margins to the text, with the exception of the Philosophie der Offenbarung, “Einleitung,” which is contained in its Ergänzungsband 6, page-identical with SW 11.3.

- **AS** Ausgewählte Schriften, ed. Manfred Frank, 6 vols. Frankfurt a. M.: Suhrkamp Verlag, 1985. (All references are first to the relevant volume, followed by page numbers.)
The following abbreviations have been used in referring to Schelling’s writings:

AAE  Anhang zu dem Aufsatz des Herrn Eschenmayer betreffend den wahren Begriff der Naturphilosophie und die richtige Art ihre Probleme aufzulösen (1801), pub. in SW 1.4 as Über den wahren Begriff der Naturphilosophie und die richtige Art ihre Probleme aufzulösen [On the True Concept of the Philosophy of Nature and the Correct Way to Solve Its Problems]

CP   Über die Construction in der Philosophie (1802) [On Construction in Philosophy]

DSP  Darstellung meines Systems der Philosophie (1801) [Presentation of My System of Philosophy]

EE   Erster Entwurf eines Systems der Naturphilosophie (1st edn., 1799) [First Outline of a System of the Philosophy of Nature]

FD   Fernere Darstellungen aus dem System der Philosophie (1802) [Further Presentations from the System of Philosophy]

GPP  Grundlegung der positiven Philosophie: Münchner Vorlesung WS 1832/33 und SS 1833 [Foundations of the Positive Philosophy]

PK   Philosophie der Kunst (1802–3) [The Philosophy of Art]

StI  System des transzendentalen Idealismus (1800) [System of Transcendental Idealism]

VM   Vorlesungen über die Methode des akademischen Studiums (delivered 1802, pub. 1805) [On University Studies]

VNP  Über das Verhältniß der Naturphilosophie zur Philosophie überhaupt (1802) [On the Relationship of the Philosophy of Nature to Philosophy in General]

Method of citation

Citations from the Critique of Pure Reason are located by reference to the pagination of Kant’s first (A) and/or second (B) editions. All other passages from Kant’s works are cited by the volume and page number in the standard Akademie edition of Kant’s works. These references are preceded by an abbreviation or a short title for the work cited, except where the context makes that obvious. Since standard translations of the Critique of Pure Reason provide the “A” and “B” page numbers and modern editions of Kant’s other works always give the Akademie edition pagination, page numbers for translations have been omitted. Unless otherwise indicated in the individual essays, all translations are from The Cambridge Edition of the Works of Immanuel Kant (1992–).
The following abbreviations/short titles have been used in referring to Kant’s writings:

Kant AA  
*Kants gesammelte Schriften*, ed. the Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften (formerly the Königlich Preussische and later Deutsche Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Berlin), 29 vols. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter (formerly Georg Reimer), 1900–

KrV  
*Kritik der reinen Vernunft* (1st edn. 1781, 2nd edn. 1787)  
*[Critique of Pure Reason]*

KpV  
*Kritik der praktischen Vernunft* (1788)  
*[Critique of Practical Reason]*

KU  
*Kritik der Urteilskraft* (1st edn. 1790, 2nd edn. 1793, 3rd edn. 1799)  
*[Critique of the Power of Judgment]*

MM  
*Die Metaphysik der Sitten* (1797)  
*[The Metaphysics of Morals]*

Groundwork  
*Grundlegung zur Metaphysik der Sitten* (1785)  
*[Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals]*

Prolegomena  
*Prolegomena zu einer jeden künftigen Metaphysik, die als Wissenschaft wird auftreten können* (1783)  
*[Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics that Will be Able to Come Forward as Science]*

Religion  
*Die Religion innerhalb der Grenzen der bloßen Vernunft* (1st edn. 1793, 2nd edn. 1794)  
*[Religion within the Boundaries of Mere Reason]*

**Johann Gottlieb Fichte**

Fichte AA  
(Cited first according to the series in roman numerals followed by volume and page numbers.)

Fichte SW  

Fichte SW1  

**Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel**

HW  