Nietzsche controversially valorizes struggle and war as necessary ingredients of human flourishing. In this book, James S. Pearson reconstructs Nietzsche’s rationale for placing such high value on relations of conflict. In doing so, Pearson reveals how Nietzsche’s celebration of social discord is interwoven with his understanding of nature as universal struggle. This study thus draws together Nietzsche’s writings on politics, culture, metaphysics, biology and human psychology. It also overcomes an entrenched dispute in the critical literature. In the past, commentators have tended to interpret Nietzsche either as an advocate of radical aristocratic violence or, by contrast, a defender of moderate democratic contest. This book navigates a path between these two opposed readings and shows how Nietzsche is able to endorse both violent strife and restrained competition without contradicting himself.

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NIETZSCHE ON CONFLICT, STRUGGLE AND WAR

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Nietzsche’s Writings

Cited numbers principally refer to section numbers. Thus, GS 21 = GS, Section 21. Where the sections of text are too long for the section number to be sufficiently informative, I provide a reference to the relevant volume and page in the KSA. Thus, GM I 13, KSA 5.279 = GM, Essay 1, Section 13 (KSA, Volume 5, page 279). Likewise, when citing Nietzsche’s unpublished notebooks (his Nachlaß), I provide the KSA reference, giving the volume, notebook, fragment and page number. Thus, KSA 10:15[36], 488 = KSA, Volume 10, Notebook 15, Fragment 36, page 488. For texts that are not contained in the KSA (e.g., Nietzsche’s lecture notes), I cite the KGW, giving the volume, part and page number. Thus, KGW II/5, 519 = KGW, Volume 2, Part 5, page 519. When citing Nietzsche’s letters, I refer to the KGB, giving the volume, part and page number. Thus, KGB III/1, 182–183 = KGB, Volume 3, Part 1, pages 182–183.


Nietzsche’s Published Works

AOM Vermischte Meinungen und Sprüche (in Menschliches Allzumenschliches II) (Assorted Opinions and Maxims)

BGE Jenseits von Gut und Böse (Beyond Good and Evil)

BT Die Geburt der Tragödie (The Birth of Tragedy)

CW Der Fall Wagner (The Case of Wagner)
List of Abbreviations

D Morgenröthe (Daybreak or Dawn)
DS David Strauss der Bekenner und der Schriftsteller (Unzeitgemäße Betrachtungen I) (David Strauss the Confessor and the Writer)
GM Zur Genealogie der Moral (On the Genealogy of Morals)
GS Die fröhliche Wissenschaft (The Gay Science)
HH Menschliches, Allzumenschliches (Human, All Too Human)
HL Vom Nutzen und Nachteil der Historie für das Leben (Unzeitgemäße Betrachtungen II) (On the Uses and Disadvantages of History for Life)
SE Schopenhauer als Erzieher (Unzeitgemäße Betrachtungen III) (Schopenhauer as Educator)
TI Götzen-Dämmerung (Twilight of the Idols; references to this work include an abbreviated section title)
UM Unzeitgemäße Betrachtungen (Untimely Meditations)
WB Richard Wagner in Bayreuth (Unzeitgemäße Betrachtungen IV)
WS Der Wanderer und sein Schatten (in Menschliches, Allzumenschliches II) (The Wanderer and His Shadow)
Z Also sprach Zarathustra (Thus Spoke Zarathustra; references to this work include an abbreviated section title)

Nietzsche’s Unpublished Writings

A Der Antichrist (The Antichrist)
DW “Die dionysische Weltanschauung” (“The Dionysian Worldview”)
EH Ecce Homo (references to this work include an abbreviated section title)
FEI “Über die Zukunft unserer Bildungsanstalten” (“On the Future of our Educational Institutions”)
GSt “Der griechische Staat” (“The Greek State”)
HC “Homer’s Wettkampf” (“Homer’s Contest”)
HGL “Geschichte der griechischen Literatur” (“[The] History of Greek Literature”)
PPP “Die vorplatonischen Philosophen” (“The Pre-Platonic Philosophers”)
PTAG Die Philosophie im tragischen Zeitalter der Griechen (Philosophy in the Tragic Age of the Greeks)
RSG “Der Gottesdienst der Griechen” (“The Religious Worship of the Greeks”)

List of Abbreviations

SGT “Sokrates und die griechische Tragödie” (“Socrates and Greek Tragedy”)


Burckhardt’s Writings

All references to Burckhardt’s writings give the GW volume and page number.

GK Griechische Kulturgeschichte. Vierte Band
KRI Die Kultur der Renaissance in Italien
WBe Weltgeschichtliche Betrachtungen

Kant’s Writings

All references to Kant’s writings give the AA volume and page number.

CJ Kritik der Urteilskraft (Critique of Judgment)
CPR Kritik der reinen Vernunft (Critique of Pure Reason)
IUH “Idee zu einer allgemeinen Geschichte in weltbürgerlicher Absicht” (“Idea for a Universal History with a Cosmopolitan Purpose”)
PP “Zum ewigen Frieden. Ein philosophischer Entwurf” (“Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch”)

Schopenhauer’s Writings

All references to Schopenhauer’s works give the SW volume and page number.

WWR 1 Die Welt als Wille und Vorstellung, Band 1 (The World as Will and Representation, Volume 1)
WWR 2 Die Welt als Wille und Vorstellung, Band 2 (The World as Will and Representation, Volume 2)
List of Abbreviations

Works by Other Authors

BP

DWB

EAG

KJV

KTO

NPB

NWB

OED
Translations

Most of the translations from German contained in this book are my own; however, I have drawn on various existing translations, which are listed below.

Nietzsche’s Writings


The Birth of Tragedy, translated by Ronald Speirs. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999


Thus Spoke Zarathustra, translated by Adrian Del Caro. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006


List of Translations

Schopenhauer’s Writings

*The World as Will and Representation, Volume 1*, translated by Judith Norman, Alistair Welchman, Christopher Janaway. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010

Kant’s Writings

*Kant: Political Writings*, translated by H. B. Nisbet. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003
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