The remarkable lectures that Hegel gave in Berlin in the 1820s generated an exciting and stimulating intellectual atmosphere that lasted for decades. From the 1830s, many students flocked to Berlin to study with people who had studied with Hegel, and both his original students, such as Feuerbach and Bauer, and later arrivals including Kierkegaard, Engels, Bakunin and Marx, evolved into leading nineteenth-century thinkers. Jon Stewart’s panoramic study of Hegel’s deep influence upon the nineteenth century in turn reveals what that century contributed to the wider history of philosophy. It shows how Hegel’s notions of “alienation” and “recognition” became the central motifs for the era’s thinking; how these concepts spilled over into other fields – like religion, politics, literature, and drama; and how they created a cultural phenomenon so rich and pervasive that it can truly be called “Hegel’s century.” This book is required reading for historians of ideas as well as of philosophy.

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HEGEL’S CENTURY

Alienation and Recognition in a Time of Revolution

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For Katalin
CONTENTS

Acknowledgments  page ix
Preface  xi

Introduction   1

PART I  The Beginning
1  Hegel’s Account of Alienation in The Phenomenology of Spirit   17
2  Hegel’s Account of Christianity and Its Origins in the Lectures on the Philosophy of Religion and Lectures on the Philosophy of History   39

PART II  The First Generation
3  Heine, Alienation, and Political Revolution   67
4  Feuerbach’s Doctrine of the Humanity of the Divine in The Essence of Christianity   89
5  Bruno Bauer’s Criticism of Christianity   118

PART III  The Second Generation
6  Marx’s View of Religious and Political Liberation   143
7  Kierkegaard’s Analysis of the Forms of Despair and Alienation   179
8  Dostoevsky’s Criticism of Modern Rationalism and Materialism   205
9  Bakunin’s Theory of Anarchy   229
10  Engels’ Criticism of Feuerbach and Classical German Philosophy   258
CONTENTS

11 Hegel’s Long Shadow in the History of Nineteenth-Century Philosophy 282

Bibliography 302
Index of Names 331
Subject Index 335
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PREFACE

The target audience of this work is advanced students and general readers. The hope is that it can be used as a kind of a companion or textbook in classes on philosophy or the history of ideas. Each chapter begins with a brief account of the life and work of the figure in question. The analyses are focused on close readings of central texts from these figures. In keeping with the goal of readability and accessibility for nonspecialists, I have, in the footnotes, provided references to both the original texts and easily accessible English translations and editions. While I have generally used the most recent editions and translations of the relevant works in line with modern scholarship, in some cases I have made use of earlier editions (and the corresponding earlier translations based on them) since these were the editions that the authors under examination were working with. In the same spirit, I have generally avoided quoting in foreign languages and have attempted to clarify the technical terms as they arise.

Given the nature of the work as a general overview, I have refrained from entering into arguments and debates with other scholars and their interpretations. The use of secondary literature has been generally limited to simple recommendations for further reading on the specific topics treated. I have tried instead to present a readable and informative account of what I take to be the key thinkers and issues, all the while following the thread of the topics outlined in the Introduction.