

German Idealism: Chronology {from Sebastian Gardner, with modifications)

1747

- Birth of Goethe.

1762

- Birth of Fichte.

1770

- Birth of Hegel in Stuttgart, into a Lutheran middle-class family.

1775

- Birth of Schelling.

1778

- Death of Rousseau.

1780

- Fichte enters Jena theological seminary.

1781

- Kant publishes Critique of Pure Reason (second edition, 1788).

1786

- Jacobi publishes Letters on Spinoza to Herrn Moses Mendelssohn, triggering a heated public debate over the relation of philosophy and religion with reference to Spinozism.
- K. L. Reinhold publishes (1786-87) 'Letters' on Kantian philosophy, advertising its value to a non-specialist audience.

1787

- Jacobi publishes David Hume on Faith or Realism and Idealism, to which is appended a short essay, 'On transcendental idealism', in which Jacobi argues that Kant's transcendental idealism is incoherent.

1788

- Kant publishes Critique of Practical Reason.
- Fichte accepts position as private tutor to a family in Zurich.
- Hegel enters theological seminary in Tübingen; reads Rousseau, Lessing and Kant, but is drawn above all to the ancient Greeks. Close friendship with the poet Hölderlin, whose Hellenism Hegel shares.

1789

- K. L. Reinhold publishes Essay Towards a New Theory of the Human Faculty of Representation, where he attempts to reconstruct and modify Kant's system.

Storming of the Bastille (July).

1790

- Kant publishes Critique of Judgement.
- Reinhold publishes Letters on Kantian Philosophy, vol. 1, and Contributions to the Rectification of Misconceptions Hitherto Held by Philosophers, vol. 1.
- Solomon Maimon publishes Essay in Transcendental Philosophy.
- Fichte leaves Zurich for Leipzig, where begins study of Kant.
- Schelling, aged 15, joins Hegel and Hölderlin at the Tübinger Stift; studies theology and attends lectures in addition on philosophy, history, and physics. Ferment caused by French Revolution of 1789, Hegel an enthusiastic supporter.

1791

- Fichte travels to Warsaw to seek employment, then to Königsberg to ask Kant for financial support, then to Gdansk where he works again as a private tutor.
- Reinhold publishes The Foundation of Philosophical Knowledge.

1792

- Fichte's first, Kantian publication, Attempt at a Critique of all Revelation, published with Kant's help.
- Schelling completes his Magisterdissertation.
- Formation in the Tübinger seminary of a political club, with Schelling, Hölderlin and Hegel as members.
- Reinhold publishes Letters on Kantian Philosophy, vol. 2.
- Gottlob Ernst Schulze's (anonymously published) attack on critical philosophy (Kant and Reinhold), in the form of a dialogue between Hermas (a recent convert to Kant/Reinhold) and Aenesidemus (a skeptic), Aenesidemus.

1793

- Kant publishes Religion Within the Bounds of Mere Reason, and essay on theory and practice.
- Schiller writes Letters on Aesthetic Education (published 1795), and publishes On Grace and Dignity.
- Fichte begins work on his philosophical system. Publishes two popular political writings: A Discourse on the Reclamation of the Freedom of Thought from the Princes of Europe, Who Have Hitherto Suppressed It and Contribution towards Correcting the Public's Judgement of the French Revolution, and a second edition of Attempt at a Critique of all Revelation. Fichte offered Jena professorship, to replace Reinhold.
- In May the Archduke visits the Tübinger Stift; revolutionary tendencies are investigated.
- In June Fichte lectures at Tübingen.
- Hegel's so-called 'Tübinger Fragments'. In the autumn Hegel leaves seminary and begins a series of posts as house-tutor. Over the next few years Hegel writes essays (not published) on theology, critical of institutional Christianity, and a fragment on 'Love'.

- Hölderlin leaves the Stift in the autumn and takes up position as private tutor.
- Reinhold publishes reply to Schulze, 'Ueber den philosophischen Skepticismus'.

Execution of Louis XVI (21 January). Terror begins (5 September). Execution of Girondins (31 October).

1794

- Solomon Maimon publishes *Essay Towards a New Logic or Theory of Thought, Together with Letters of Philaletes to Aenesidemus*, his second major book (pursuing his criticism of Kant and responding to Reinhold).
- Fichte publishes a review of *Aenesidemus*, replying to Schulze's criticisms of Kant/Reinhold, and hinting at a new philosophical method. Gives a course of private lectures on Critical philosophy.
- Fichte takes up prestigious Jena professorship, replacing Reinhold. Fichte publishes the first version of his *Wissenschaftslehre: Concerning the Concept of the Wissenschaftslehre or of So-Called Philosophy*, a prospectus or short programmatic statement to attract students at Jena to his lectures, and then the first installment, Parts I and II, of his *Foundations of the Entire Wissenschaftslehre*.
- Fichte lectures at Tübingen.
- Fichte gives a public lecture series 'Morality for Scholars' during his first semester at Jena, five of which are published as *Some Lectures Concerning the Scholar's Vocation*.
- Hölderlin writes *Fragment von Hyperion*.
- Schelling publishes *On the Possibility of a Form of All Philosophy*.

Fall of Robespierre (28-29 July).

1795

- Schiller publishes *Letters on Aesthetic Education and Naive and Sentimental Poetry*.
- Fichte publishes *Outline of the Distinctive Character of the Wissenschaftslehre with respect to the Theoretical Faculty*; and the second installment, Part III and Preface, of the (now complete) *Foundations of the Entire Wissenschaftslehre*.
- Fichte has literary quarrel with Schiller, over the latter's refusal to publish in his new journal, *Die Horen*, the first three of Fichte's 'A series of letters concerning the spirit and the letter within philosophy', on art and the aesthetic drive.
- Schelling publishes *Of the I as the Principle of Philosophy, or On the Unconditional in Human Knowledge, and Philosophical Letters on Dogmatism and Criticism*. Niethammer invites Schelling to cooperate on the *Philosophisches Journal*, but Schelling declines, instead going to Hamburg and becoming house tutor.
- Fichte lectures in Jena: heard by Hölderlin, Schelling, Hegel, Novalis, and Schlegel.
- J. S. Beck publishes critical review of Fichte's *On the Concept of the Wissenschaftslehre and Foundations*.
- Hölderlin writes '*Judgement and Being*' (1794/95), and studies in Jena, where he hears Fichte. At the end of December, becomes house tutor in Frankfurt.

1796

- Schiller publishes *On Naive and Sentimental Poetry*.
- Fichte publishes a review of Kant's *Perpetual Peace* (January 1796), 'A comparison between Prof. Schmid's system and the WL' (Spring 1796), and *Foundations of Natural Right, Part I* (March 1796). Birth of Fichte's only child, I. H. Fichte, who later edited his father's works. Fichte becomes co-editor of Niethammer's *Philosophisches Journal*.
- Fichte gives in the winter of 1796/97 a course of lectures, 'Foundations of Transcendental Philosophy (*Wissenschaftslehre*) nova methodo', an attempt to correct misunderstandings of his philosophy (lectures repeated in the winter semesters of 1797/98 and 1798/99).
- Schelling publishes *Essays in Explanation of the Idealism of the Doctrine of Science* (1796-97) and *New Deduction of Natural Right*.
- Fragment (authorship uncertain: Hölderlin? Schelling?), *The Oldest System Programme in German Idealism*.

1797

- Kant publishes *Metaphysics of Morals*.
- Fichte publishes 'Annals of philosophical tone', *Foundations of Natural Right, Part II*, and *An Attempt at a New Presentation of the Wissenschaftslehre* in installments, between February 1797 and March 1798.
- Schelling publishes 'Treatise Explicatory of the Idealism in the Wissenschaftslehre' and *Ideas for a Philosophy of Nature*.
- Schelling meets Fichte, Novalis, A. W. Schlegel. Schiller and Niethammer organise his appointment at Jena.
- Hegel writes *Morality, Love, Religion* (1797/98).
- Reinhold writes letter to Fichte, 14 February, informing of his conversion to the *Wissenschaftslehre*, and publicly declares his allegiance to Fichte in the Preface to the new edition of his Prize Essay 'Progress in metaphysics'.
- Hölderlin begins to write *Hyperion*, and *Empedokles* fragments.

1798

- Kant publishes *The Conflict of the Faculties and Anthropology in a Practical Regard*.
- Fichte publishes *System of Ethical Theory According to the Principles of the Wissenschaftslehre*.
- Fichte publishes 'On the foundation of our belief in a divine government of the universe' in *Philosophisches Journal*, a response to an article by Forberg published in the same edition ('Development of the concept of religion'). Their articles elicited a tract charging Fichte and Forberg with atheism, resulting in a declaration from the administrative council in Dresden in November 1798 that both essays were atheistic and the confiscation of all copies of the *Journal*.
- Schelling publishes *Of the Worldsoul, a Hypothesis of Higher Physics*.
- Schelling travels to Jena and meets Goethe. On the strength of Goethe's recommendation Schelling obtains a professorship at Jena. Schelling meets F., A W, and Caroline Schlegel in Dresden. In Jena, he has contact with Fichte, Schiller and Goethe.
- Hegel publishes essays on political topics.

- A fuller public statement by Reinhold of his conversion to Fichte, in a long review of Fichte's writings.
- Publication of the German romantic journal *Athenäum*, which runs until 1800, edited by F. Schlegel.

Accession of Friedrich Wilhelm III as King of Prussia.

1799

- Atheism controversy: Fichte publishes an Appeal to the Public concerning the Charge of Making Atheistic Assertions, and Juridical Defence of the Editor of the Philosophical Journal against the Charge of Atheism. Jacobi publishes a polemical 'Open letter to Fichte', sent to Fichte in the spring of 1799 and later published in expanded form in September 1799. Fichte loses his position at Jena.
- Kant publishes 'Open letter on Fichte's Wissenschaftslehre', repudiating Fichte.
- Schelling publishes *First Plan of a System of the Philosophy of Nature, and Introduction to the Sketch of a System of Naturphilosophie or on the Concept of Speculative Physics*.
- Hegel publishes *The Spirit of Christianity and its Fate*.
- Hölderlin publishes *Hyperion*, vol. 2.

1800

- Fichte moves to Berlin. Fichte publishes 'From a private letter' and *The Vocation of Man*, both intended to supply a direct response to the charge of atheism and to Jacobi. Fichte also publishes 'A series of letters concerning the spirit and the letter within philosophy', on art and the aesthetic drive.
- Fichte gives public announcement of a new presentation of the *Wissenschaftslehre*. Though Fichte later lectures on the *Wissenschaftslehre*, at Berlin, Erlangen and Königsberg, no published restatement of his science of knowledge ever appears.
- Hegel writes a long essay outlining a system of philosophy; two pages of the manuscript survive, showing traces of Hegel's later philosophy in nascent form.
- Schelling publishes *System of Transcendental Idealism*.

Bonaparte overthrows Directory.

1801

- Fichte publishes 'A crystal-clear report to the general public concerning the actual essence of the newest philosophy: an attempt to force the reader to understand', in which he speaks of Schelling as his 'spiritual colleague'. Nevertheless, beginning of difficulties between Schelling and Fichte.
- Schelling publishes *Presentation of My Own System of Philosophy*, stating his 'identity philosophy' and showing his differences from Fichte.
- Schelling, well established in Jena, arranges for Hegel to join him. Hegel's 'Jena period', which includes the *Phenomenology of Spirit*, begins. Hegel's first publication, *On the Difference Between Fichte's and Schelling's System of Philosophy* ('Difference essay'), argues the superiority of Schelling's philosophy to Fichte's. Hegel is regarded as Schelling's disciple. Hegel becomes co-editor with Schelling of the latter's *Critical Journal of Philosophy*. The journal is short-lived and Hegel writes most of it.
- Schelling's lectures on philosophy of art (1800-01, 1802-3, 1804-5).

1802

- Schelling publishes *Bruno and Further Presentation of my System of Philosophy*, further statements of his 'identity philosophy'.
- Hegel writes *Faith and Knowledge*, in which he examines critically conceptions of religious belief in Kant, Fichte and Jacobi.

1803

- Schelling leaves Jena, disenchanted, and goes to Bavaria (with later professorships at Würzburg, Erlangen, Munich). Hegel begins to free himself of Schelling's influence.

1805

- Hegel gains associate professorship at Jena. Starts writing *Phenomenology of Spirit*.

1806

- Hegel completes *Phenomenology of Spirit*, as Napoleon achieves victory over Prussia at Jena.

1807

- Fichte appointed Professor in Königsberg but leaves (for Copenhagen) when French troops threaten to occupy East Prussia. Returns to Berlin after Peace of Tilsit. Delivers lectures 1807-8 that become *Addresses to the German Nation*, a highly influential nationalist tract.
- *Phenomenology of Spirit* published. Hegel forced by circumstance to leave Jena. Edits newspaper in Bavaria.

1808

- Hegel takes up position as headmaster at a Gymnasium in Nuremberg. Works on *Science of Logic*, the next part of the system which began with the *Phenomenology*.

1809

- Schelling publishes *Of the Nature of Human Freedom*.

1810

- Fichte appointed Professor and Dean of the Philosophical Faculty at new Humboldt University in Berlin.

1811

- Fichte named Rector of Humboldt University in Berlin.

1812

- First part of Hegel's *Science of Logic (Doctrine of Being)* published. Second part (*Doctrine of Essence*) follows in 1813, final part (*Doctrine of the Concept*) in 1816.

1814

- Death of Fichte from fever.

1815

- Schelling publishes *Ages of the World*.

1816

- Hegel appointed to University of Heidelberg on the strength of his *Science of Logic*.

1817

- First edition of Hegel's *Encyclopaedia of the Philosophical Sciences in Outline*, in 3 volumes. Originally intended to accompany Hegel's lectures, and composed of numbered paragraphs with 'Zusätze' (additional remarks). Organised in three parts: (1) *Logic* (a briefer version of the earlier *Science of Logic*), (2) *Philosophy of Nature*, (3) *Philosophy of Spirit*. Second, expanded edition in 1827, third and final edition in 1830.

1818

- Hegel's appointment at University of Berlin. Hegel's Berlin period marked by fame and extensive lecturing. Reactionary political climate.

- Schopenhauer publishes *The World as Will and Representation* (second edition, 1844).

1821

- Hegel's last published book, *The Philosophy of Right*. A variety of essays appear in *Yearbooks for Scientific Criticism*, founded by Hegel.

1827

- Schelling publishes *On the History of Modern Philosophy*, containing criticism of Hegel.

1830

- Third and final edition of Hegel's *Encyclopaedia of the Philosophical Sciences in Outline*, in 3 volumes.

1831

- Hegel dies in cholera epidemic, having just begun to revise the *Phenomenology* for republication. Friends and relatives prepare Hegel's papers and lecture materials for publication.

1832

- A complete edition of Hegel's works appears in 21 volumes between 1832 and 1845.
- Schools of Hegelianism ('Left' and 'Right' Hegelians) form on explicitly political bases.