## German classical philosophy

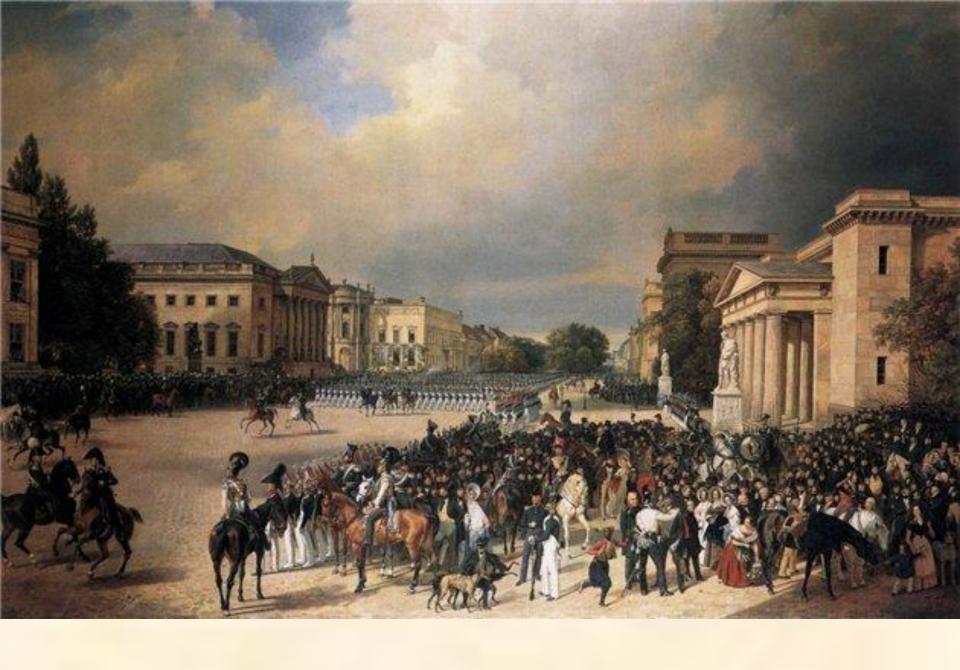


# German classical philosophy can be considered one of the peaks of world philosophy.













It reflected the peculiarities and contradictions of Germany as the pretty backward (отсталый) country in socio-economic sense, divided into more than 300 small principalities (княжества), as well into the Catholic and Protestant churches







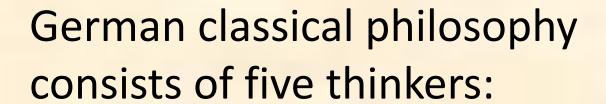
Nevertheless, in Germany dialectic (had almost been forgotten since the ancient Greeks) began to be developed. This point in the German philosophy was a reflection of a compromise of German society with growth of spirituality.





It was related to the Enlightenment and the French revolution. German idealists believed that nothing exists without the mind.

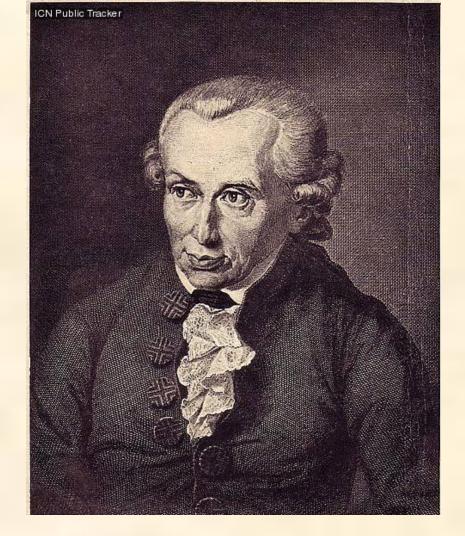






- •Immanuel Kant
- Johann Fichte
- Friedrich Schelling
- George Hegel
- Ludwig Feuerbach

Ancestor of German classical philosophy was Immanuel Kant



(1724-1804)

In his entire life Kant never travelled more than seventy miles from the city of



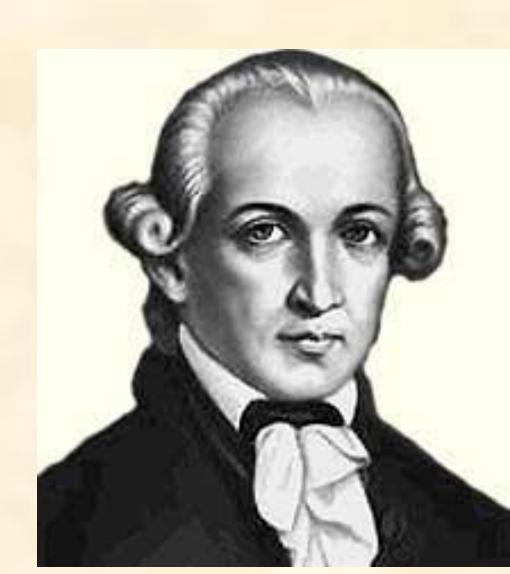
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Kant created a new perspective in philosophy that had widespread influences on philosophy continuing till 21st century.

### In Kant's philosophy there are two periods:

- 1)Pre-critical
- 2)Critical.



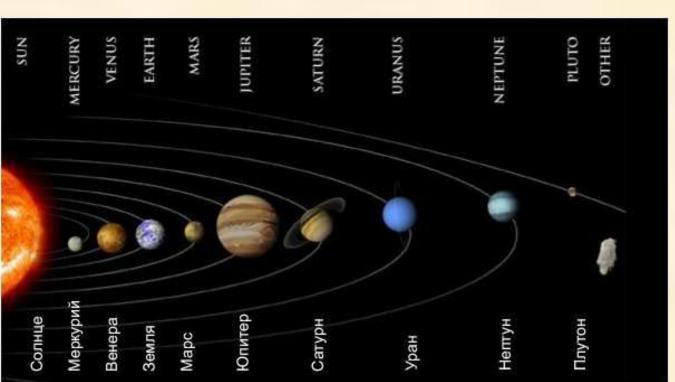


Gastgeber Kant (am Tisch 2. v. l.), Tischgesellschaft (Gemälde von 1892): Wer allein isst, verliert die Munterkeit

During pre-critical period Kant stayed on position of materialism and cosmologism. This was a combination of natural-scientific materialism with the Leibniz's philosophy. As one of results of this position was that in 1755 Kant wrote his work "General Natural History and Theory of the Celestial Bodies"



Along with *Pierre-Simon de Laplace,* Kant proposed a theory of the Solar system appearance from gas-dust cloud around the Sun.





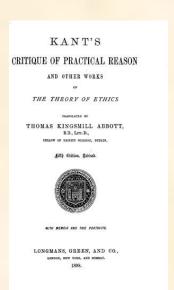
In the second period Kant moves to the position of theoretical agnosticism, and in many respects, idealism.

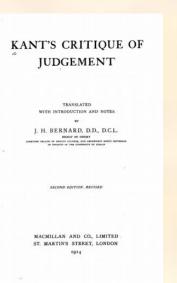


# Critical period of Kant's philosophy is marked by publication of three **Critiques**...

- Critique of Pure Reason" (1781)
- Critique of Practical Reason" (1788)
- /"Critique of [Ability of] Judgment" (1790)







Critical period of Kant's philosophy begins in 1770. The most known work of Kant is the book *Critique of Pure Reason* (*Kritik der reinen Vernunft*) that Kant published in 1781. In it which Kant explored possibilities of human mind in cognition.

## Critit

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## reinen Vernunft

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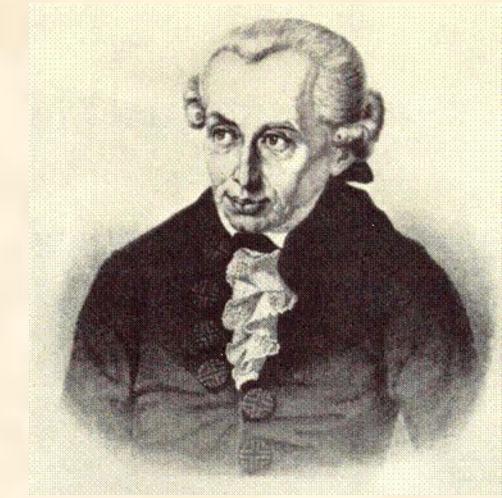
Immanuel Rant

Profeffor in Ronigeberg.



Riga, rerlegts Johann Friedrich Hartknoch 1781. Kant called his way of thought "critique", not philosophy. Kant said that critique was a preparation for establishment of real

philosophy.



According to Kant, people should know what human reason can do and which limits it has. In the *Critique of Pure Reason* Kant wrote several limits of human reason, to both feeling and thinking something.

In one of his friends (K.Schteudlin), Kant declared main aim of his scientific plan, that is to answer the questions:

- /What can I know? (metaphysics)
- /What must I do? (ethics)
- /What can I trust in? (religion)

For sensation, there are two limits inside of human perception: space and time. We can doubt in existence of physical objects, but there are the limitations of our mind that work whenever we feel something through our senses.

For thinking, he said there are four fields of pure rational concepts: quantity, quality, relation and modality. Kant thought human reason applied those ideas to everything.

Kant put the questions on certain knowledge which has necessary and universal essence.

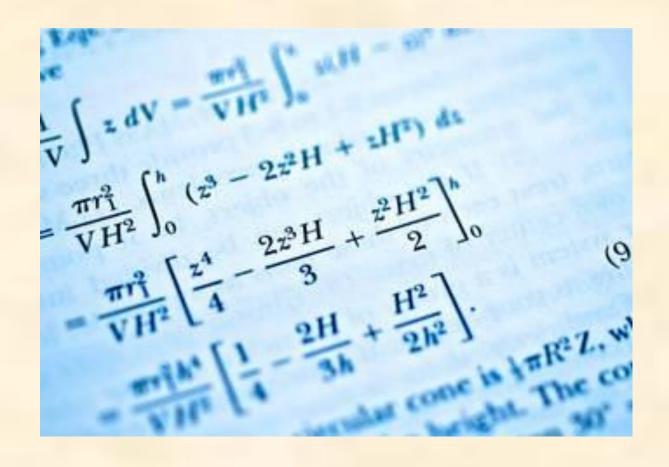
There are:

How can pure mathematics be?

How can pure science be?

How can metaphysics be as a science?

And he answers: reliable (достоверное) knowledge is possible in mathematics and natural sciences.



According to Kant, scientific knowledge is based on two sources:

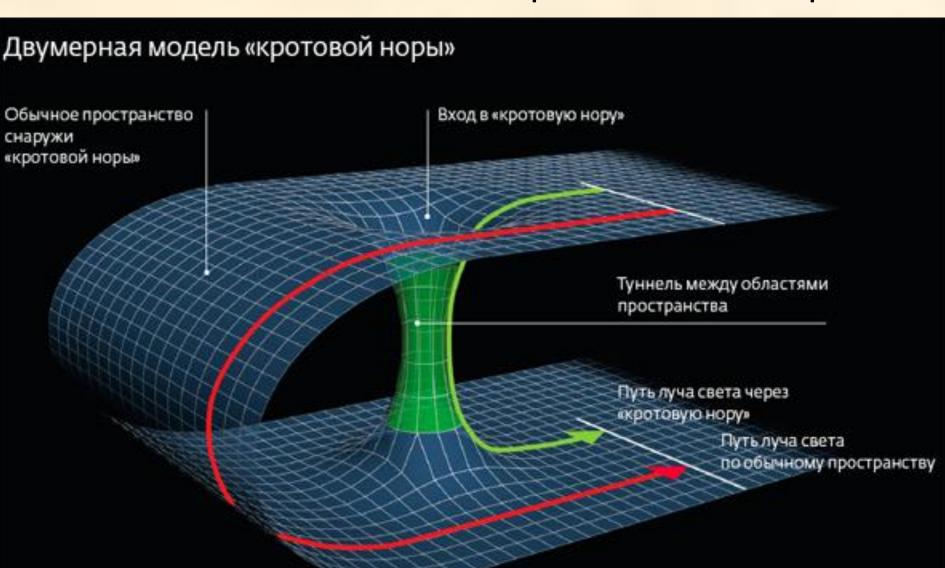
- a posteriori, that is, empirical data
- **a priori** forms of sensibility and reason.

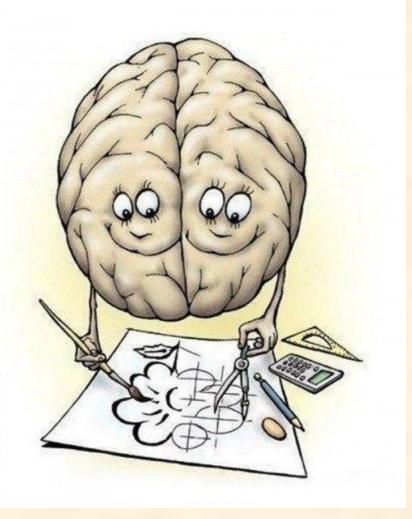


A posteriori forms come to human mind due to the ability to feel the outside reality. It is result of outer surrounding.

A priori forms of sensibility are <u>space</u> and <u>time</u>. Both they exist within us as conditions of experience before any kind of experience. Relationships among things, causality (причинность) and regularity (закономерность) as qualities are understood beyond feelings.

#### One of the versions of how space and time operate

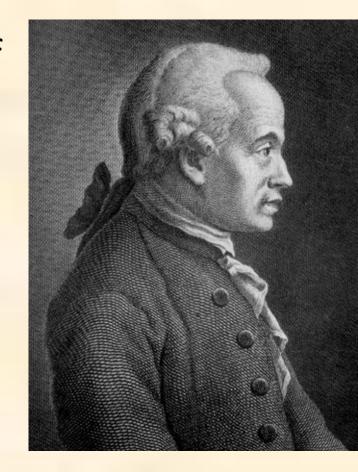




Kant divided cognitive activity on senses (чувства), intellect and reason. Intellect is an ability to construct logic conclusions.

Considering the world as a set of causes and consequences, Kant reveals (обнаруживает) four contradictions, which he calls the *antinomies*.

Due to the fact that these antinomies can be proved by logical means, Kant shows that human mind has come into conflict with itself. Here, there are limits of human reason to cognize the ideas.



### They are:

1. The world is limited in space and time.

The world is infinite in space and time.

2) The world consists of simple particles of matter.

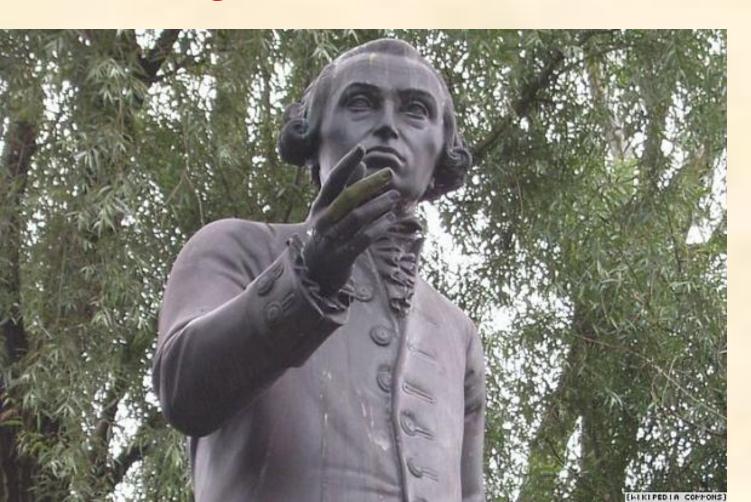
The world contains complex particles of matter.

### They are:

3) There is freedom in the world There is no freedom.

4) There is necessary essence of the world (God)
There is no original cause.

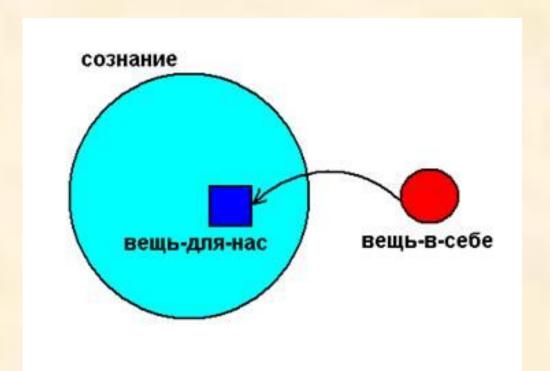
Something that goes beyond the limits of such knowledge, Kant calls *transcendental knowledge*.



Kant considered external world and its forms as divided into:

"thing in itself" (noumenon-essense)

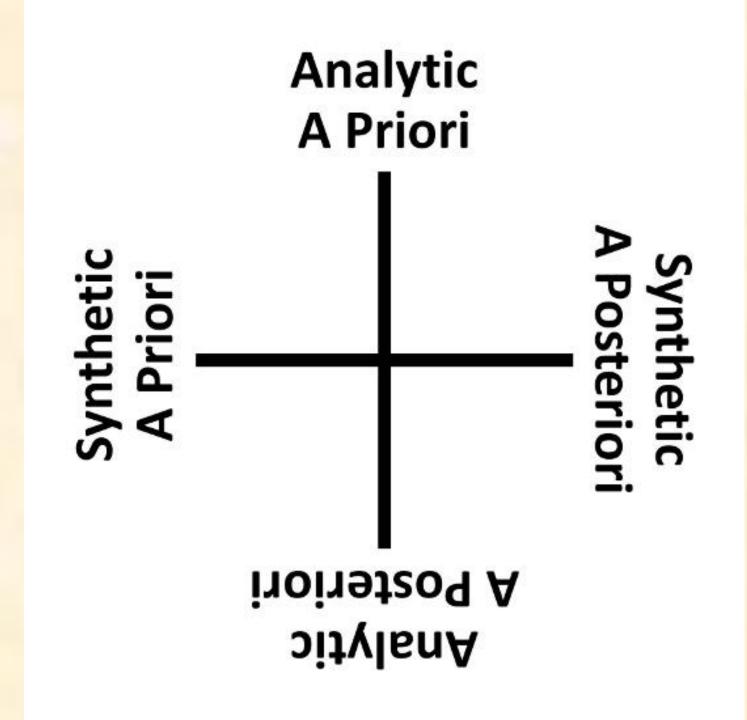
"I"thing for us" (phenomenon-accidence).

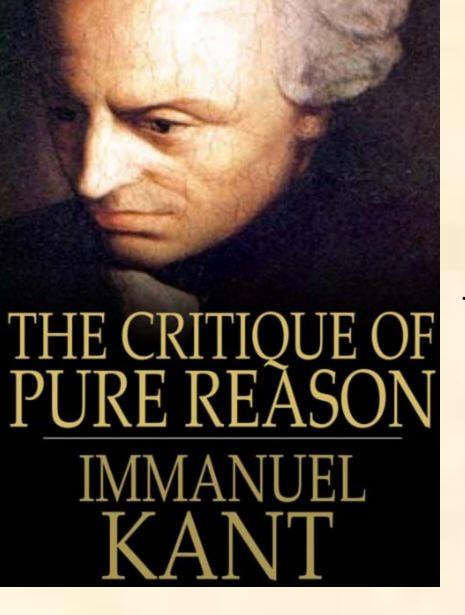


God, the eternity of soul, life after death, such things belong to "thing itself", so they were not right objects of philosophy according to Kant, although people had liked to discuss them from ancient times.

So, Kant wrote that he limited the sphere of reason, to make place for faith.

### **Agnosticism**





The basic idea of "Critique of Pure Reason" is to understand how to construct a priori synthetic judgments (how to combine space and time in human mind).

That is why Kant doesn't believe in power of logical thinking making "Copernican turn". It is when the nature should be corresponded to human cognition while before they proclaimed human perception had to be appropriated to the nature.

In his opinion, the world influences on human mind, as well as human comprehends the world.

Mind is a true source of morality. Morality is derived (выводится) from the concept of duty.

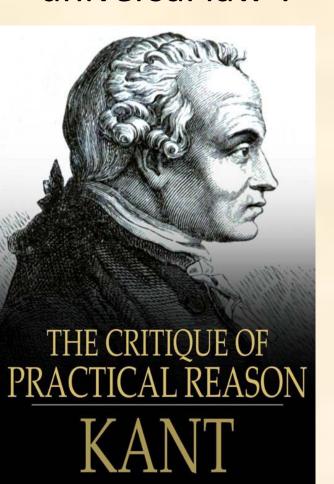
Book:

"Critique of Practical Reason"



#### **Categorical imperative:**

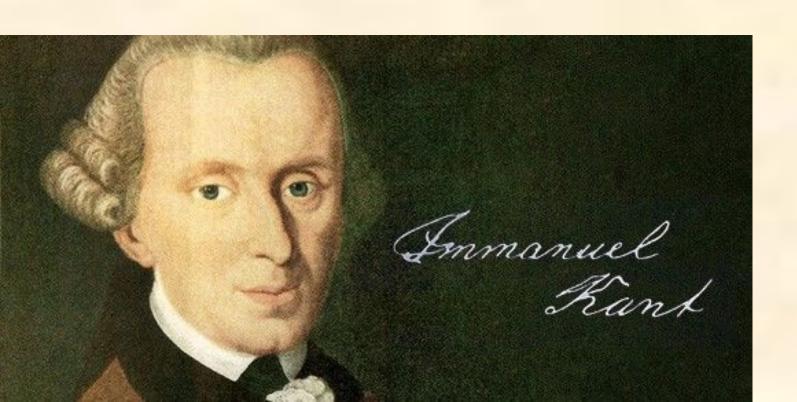
"Act only according to that maxim whereby you can, at the same time, will that it should become a universal law".



LIVE YOUR LIFE AS THOUGH YOUR EVERY ACT WERE TO BECOME A UNIVERSAL LAW.

- IMMANUEL KANT

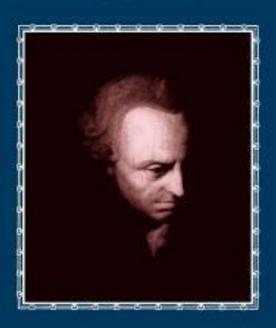
A categorical imperative is an unconditional obligation; that is, it has the force of an obligation regardless of our will or desires.



"Critique of the Power of Judgment" is the third work of Kant. It is a project of foundations for aesthetics as sensibility.

THE CAMBRIDGE EDITION OF THE WORKS OF IMMANUEL KANT

### Critique of the Power of Judgment



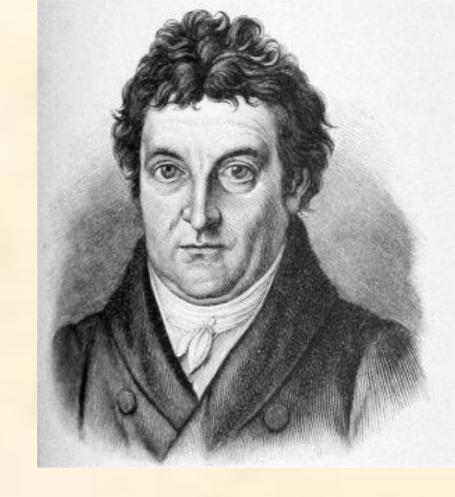
#### Immanuel Kant

#### Critique of Judgment

Translated by Werner S. Pluha

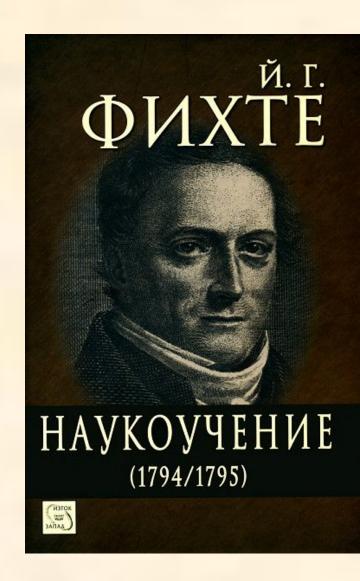
In this book, Kant states that beauty is not a property of an artwork or natural phenomenon, but is the "free play" of the imagination. Even though it appears that we are using reason to decide what is beautiful, the judgment of beauty is not a cognitive judgment.

## Johann Gottlieb Fichte



(1762-1814)

Inspired by his reading of Kant, Johann Fichte developed systematic version of transcendental idealism, which he called Wissenschaftslehre of "Doctrine of Scientific Knowledge."



Main source of human's existence is his fundamental freedom. Freedom is based on self-awareness.

Self-awareness is the awareness (осознание) that human exists as an individual being.



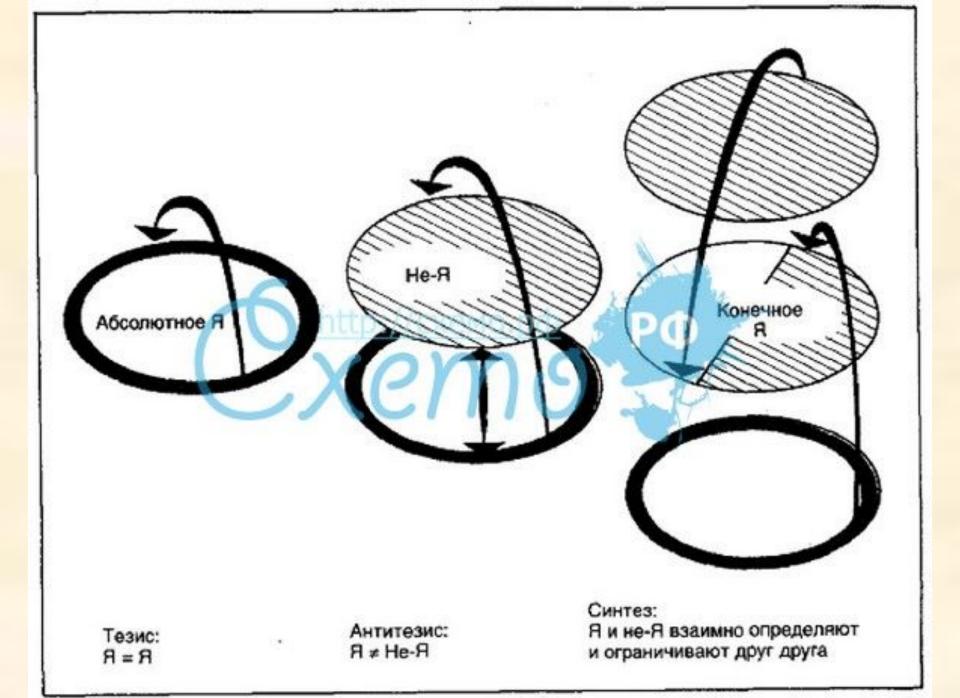
Subject (I, or Me) is the only one who is real and absolute. All other world including the nature world, is a product of activity of "Me"

Me = Me (Subjective world)

Me = not Me (Objective world)

Me = synthesis of Me and not Me =

(self-identity)



А. Основоположения наукоучения (1794)

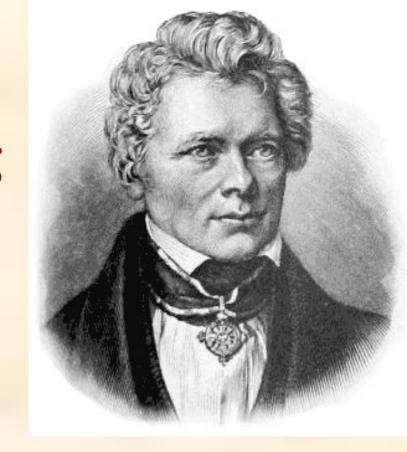
**Self-awareness** is the awareness (осознание) that human exists as an individual being.



Fichte stands on the position of **subjective idealism**. Fichte rejects "thing in itself", replacing it with "not-Me" (nature) that exists within "Me". Nature is a sensuous nature of man.



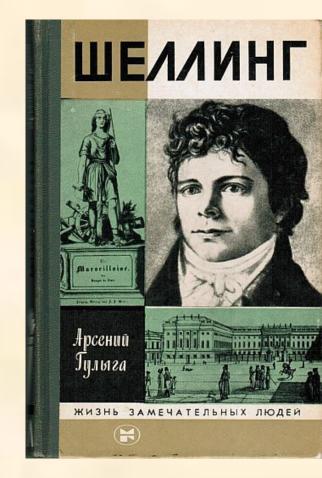
### Friedrich Wilhelm Joseph von Schelling



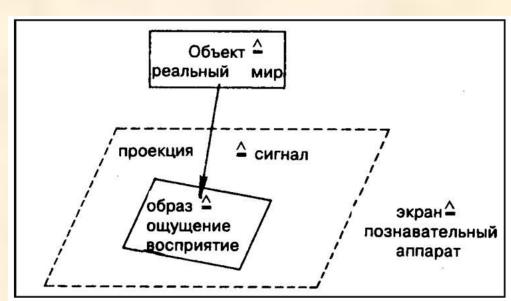
(1775-1854)

### There are four periods of his philosophy:

- . Gnoseological,
- 2. Naturphilosophical
  - 3. Transcendental,
  - 4. *Philosophy of revelation* (откровение).

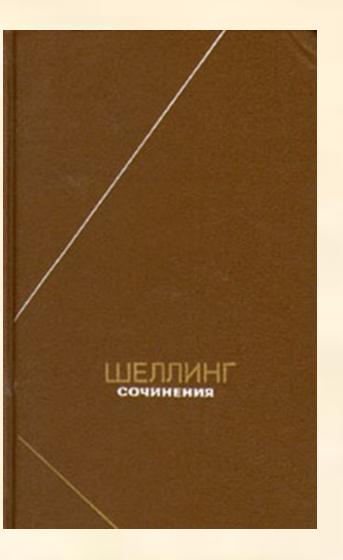


Gnoseological period is to understand the abilities of human cognition. An object is not main element in cognition, as well as a subject doesn't determine the cognition. The point is to combine both object and subject, where cognitive process depends on concrete situation and individual features of human.



Naturphilosophical period is consideration reality as separated self-advanced spiritual nature. In nature, there are many processes, which purely connected. Thus, man have to find general principle for structural organization of his knowledge about nature.

Main principle is *unity of nature*, which has many branches of its development.

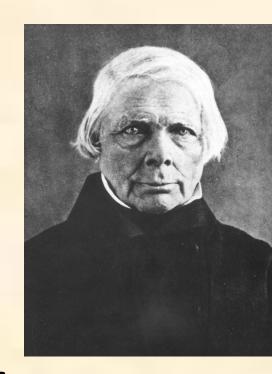


Transcendental period is to define identical parallels between man and nature in cognition. We can do this through intellectual intuition. It helps us to go up till free action of understanding of nature. Intellectual intuition become the object of scientific research.

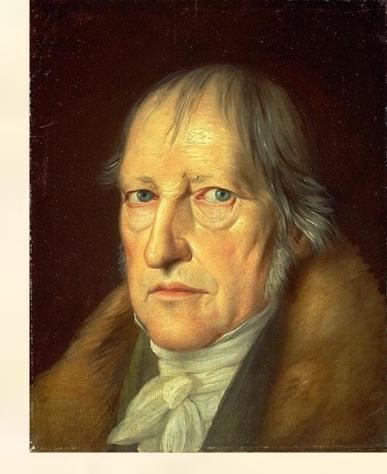
**Philosophy of revelation** is the period, when Schelling considered religion as the highest form of human attitude to nature. Religion appears because of depth of the essence of nature and limits of human cognition.



The essence of God is in his self-expression. Man must develop himself to discover and understand God's self-expression for the aim to get real freedom. That's why in the fourth period, Schelling moves to the position of Theosophy, combining philosophy, mythology and religion.



# Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel



(1770-1831)

Hegel compiled (обобщил) many rational ideas of classical German philosophy in the field of dialectics.

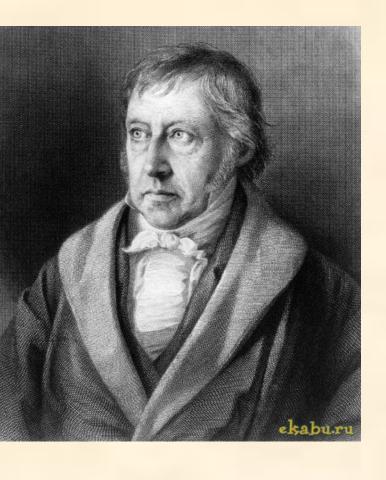


Hegel criticized the subjective idealism of Fichte and Kant's agnosticism, saying that the world is knowable and there is no unknowable "things in itself".





Hegel begins from intelligence (рассудок), which allows us to differ moments of world as fundamental motion, as well as the elements of nature.



Intelligence gives birth to thesis that has its antithesis. Both of them are unified in synthesis. This is a formulae of primary *dialectic*. We use it in frames of daily common sense.

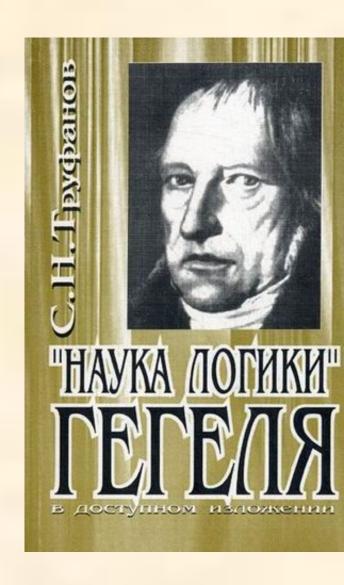


Hegel takes *Absolute Idea* as a dialectical beginning that goes through three stages:

- Logical idea (before the creation of nature);
- Nature;
- Spirit.

Introduction to Hegelian philosophical system is his "Phenomenology of spirit" (1807). Hegel seeks to overcome the opposition of man and nature. This opposition can be solved by the consideration of consciousness, in which individual consciousness comes the path that mankind has passed during its history. As a result, man is able to look at the world and himself as at the ending of the history of the world, in which there is an absolute identity of thinking and being.

Reaching the absolute identity, philosophy achieves its true state of pure thought, inside which, according to Hegel, all definitions of thinking find themselves from thinking as itself. This is the field of LOGIC (first step of Hegel's system), where understanding of nature is being realized in pure from.



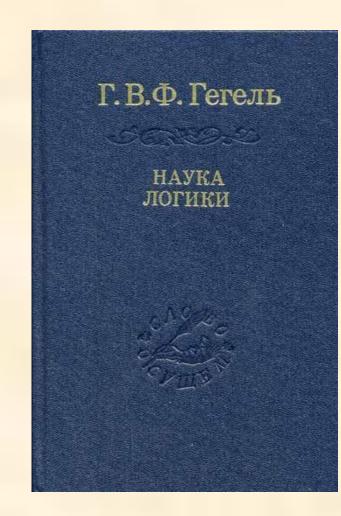
Hegel's "The Science of Logic" consists of :

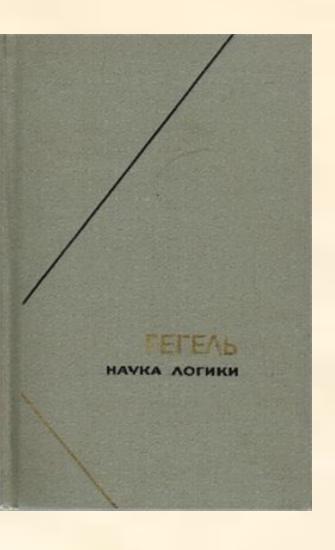
Volume One: The Objective Logic

- The Doctrine of Being
- The Doctrine of Essence

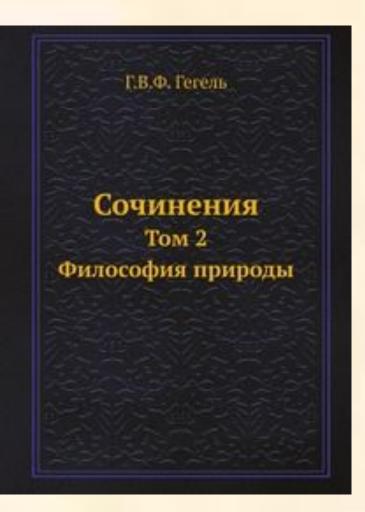
Volume Two: The Subjective Logic

- The Doctrine of the Notion



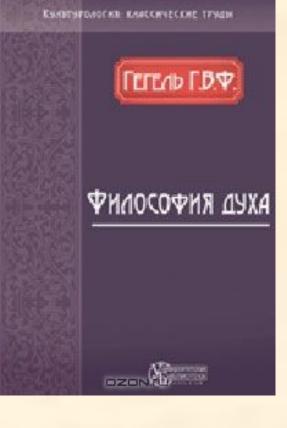


In this book Hegel begins from pure being, then moving to the essences of the things tried to define human notion about ready and understood nature. Finally, human understanding reaches a level of Absolute Idea.



After individual logic
Absolute Idea turns to
PHILOSOPHY OF NATURE
(second step of Hegel's
system), which contains:

- Mechanics
- Physics
- Organics



PHILOSOPHY OF SPIRIT (third step of Hegel's system) also passes through three stages:

1.Subjective spirit (anthropology);

2.Objective spirit (jurisprudence, morality, history)

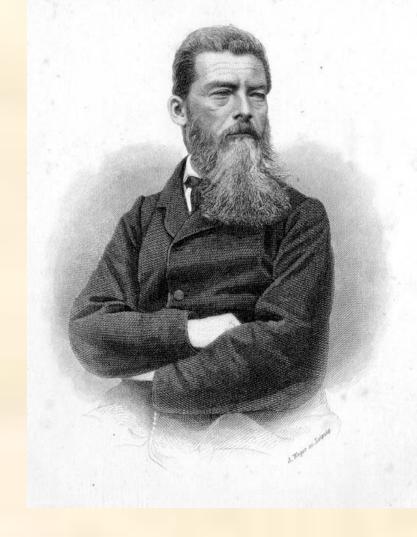
3. Absolute spirit

(art, religion, philosophy).

Thesis – antithesis – synthesis

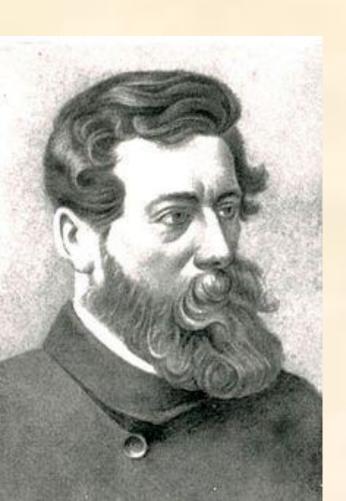
## Ludwig Andreas von Feuerbach

... is the only representative of materialism in German classical philosophy.



(1804-1872)

Feuerbach criticized idealism or religion, has developed a **materialistic** doctrine of the nature of knowledge and man.



Idealism is a rationalized religion. God is the alienated (отчужденный) essence of man. Philosophy should be transformed into doctrine of man, anthropology. Feuerbach regarded human as natural, physiological being, who is located out of history.

Anthropological materialism

But Feuerbach wanted to create a *religion of love*. Feuerbach called his philosophy as philosophy of future.



