

Michael Forster, *Herder: Philosophical Writings* (2002)

Michael Forster's translation of *Herder: Philosophical Writings* is a distinguished presentation of the work of Johann Gottfried Herder. Herder is an prolific scholar whose work influenced a wide spectrum of disciplines ranging from philosophy, linguistics, psychology, history, and politics. Forster astutely gives a wide berth to each of these areas of Herder's work. This volume presents a comprehensive selection of his writings in a new translation, with an introduction that sets them in their philosophical and historical context. Its opening section is marked notably with the inclusion of Herder's "How Philosophy Can Become More Universal and Useful for the Benefit of the People", which sets the stage both for Herder's personal political program as well as the nature of his future influence. Key among his ideas in this essay is that the "defensive wars over Metaphysics" leads to a concomitant metamorphosis of people and their judgements.

The inheritances of Herder's work encompasses the philosophical (Hegel, Schleiermacher, Nietzsche), literary (Goethe and Schiller), and linguistic worlds (von Humboldt). This survey contains essays that have not previously been translated, positioning it to be of use to both the layman and advanced scholar of the Enlightenment.