



The Genesis of Heidegger's Being and Time

By Theodore Kisiel

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This book, ten years in the making, is the first factual and conceptual history of Martin Heidegger's *Being and Time* (1927), a key twentieth-century text whose background until now has been conspicuously absent. Through painstaking investigation of European archives and private correspondence, Theodore Kisiel provides an unbroken account of the philosopher's early development and progress toward his masterwork.

Beginning with Heidegger's 1915 dissertation, Kisiel explores the philosopher's religious conversion during the bleak war years, the hermeneutic breakthrough in the war-emergency semester of 1919, the evolution of attitudes toward his phenomenological mentor, Edmund Husserl, and the shifting orientations of the three drafts of *Being and Time*. Discussing Heidegger's little-known reading of Aristotle, as well as his last-minute turn to Kant and to existentialist terminology, Kisiel offers a wealth of narrative detail and documentary evidence that will be an invaluable factual resource for years to come.

A major event for philosophers and Heidegger specialists, the publication of Kisiel's book allows us to jettison the stale view of *Being and Time* as a great book "frozen in time" and instead to appreciate the erratic starts, finite high points, and tentative conclusions of what remains a challenging philosophical "path."

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Martin Heidegger's *Being and Time* holds unchallenged rank as the most influential work of 20-century Continental philosophy. But its complexities baffle many readers. Kisiel (philosophy, Northern Illinois Univ.) argues that the key to understanding *Being and Time* lies in a detailed account of the book's origins. Accordingly, he analyzes Heidegger's dissertation, university classes, and preliminary drafts of *Being and Time*. Heidegger continually struggled with the project of his teacher Husserl to make philosophy a strict science. In these efforts, he made detailed studies of the New Testament and Aristotle. Under the influence of Kant, he claimed in *Being and Time* to establish philosophy as a strict science, a view he soon abandoned. Kisiel's work will prove indispensable to scholars and students of Heidegger. Recommended for academic libraries.

- *David Gordon, Bowling Green State Univ., Ohio*

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Review

"[Kisiel] surveys the conceptual laboratory in which Heidegger in those years mixed his 'blasting powder.' The English reader can thus for the first time get acquainted in depth with the philosophical 'inside story.' The German reader is likewise indebted to Kisiel for many a surprise. . . . An impressive and important book."--Dieter Thoma, "Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

From the Inside Flap

"A magisterial accomplishment that will be the standard in this field for years to come."—John D. Caputo, Villanova University

"Outstanding, entirely original, absolutely groundbreaking. . . . It is quite simply the best account to date—and the best we can expect for decades in the future—of the philosophical development of Heidegger's early thought."—Thomas Sheehan, Loyola University

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