



## Nietzsche on Tragedy

*By M. S. Silk, J. P. Stern*

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This is the first comprehensive study of Nietzsche's earliest (and extraordinary) book, *The Birth of Tragedy* (1872). When he wrote it, Nietzsche was a Greek scholar, a friend and champion of Wagner, and a philosopher in the making. His book has been very influential and widely read, but has always posed great difficulties for readers because of the particular way Nietzsche brings his ancient and modern interests together. The proper appreciation of such a work requires access to ideas that cross the boundaries of conventional specialisms. This is now provided by M. S. Silk and J. P. Stern in their joint study of Nietzsche's book. They examine in detail its content, style and form; its strange genesis and hybrid status; its biographical background and the controversy engendered by its publication; its value as an account of ancient Greek culture and as a theory of tragedy and music; its relation to other theories of tragedy; and its place in the history of German ideas and in Nietzsche's own philosophical career.

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### **Review**

'The appearance of the most detailed study of *The Birth of Tragedy* yet published, the joint work of the Germanist and authority on Nietzsche and a classical scholar known for his interest in literary theory, is a notable event in Nietzschean studies ... The authors are familiar with the very great quantity of literature, both primary and secondary, that is relevant, and their critical analysis throws light on almost every corner of the complicated subject.' Hugh Lloyd-Jones, *The Times Literary Supplement*

### **About the Author**

M. S. Silk is Professor of Classical and Comparative Literature at King's College London. His research interests include tragedy and comedy in theory and practice, Greek poetry and drama, and both ancient and modern literary theory.

J. P. Stern (1920-1991) was Professor of German at University College London from 1972 to 1986, and was a prolific scholar of nineteenth- and twentieth-century German literature.

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