

which, largely under the sanction of Rousseau's theories, were perpetrated by his followers during the succeeding phases of the French Revolution. He himself published nearly all his political writings at a time when Germany was threatened by the Napoleonic invasion, and when little opportunity was given to carry out in practice any of the theoretical schemes which he or others might be constructing. There is, however, one direction in which Fichte's activity found an outlet and through which he left a mark upon his generation and nation.

Discouraged by the restrictions which the French rule imposed upon every political activity, especially in Prussia, where he had found a new sphere of action after he had been expelled from Jena, he still saw one direction in which free development was permitted and possible. This was the great work of national education: its importance forms likewise the final conclusion at which he arrived in his systematic political writings. He had there stated that the new and better order of society which he had in view must be based upon a moral uplifting and intellectual enlightenment of the age; you must first create good men before you can create good citizens or a good order of society. He laid great stress not so much upon separate states and the principle of nationality, which has since played such a great part in the politics of Germany and of some other European countries, as upon that of the People; meaning by this term that aggregate of human beings which is held together by a common language. A People has, he says, an individual mind in so far as it has an individual language. Applied to the age