

# Friedrich Daniel Ernst Schleiermacher

## TIMELINE



# INTRODUCTION

Schleiermacher was a true polymath. This timeline outlines the scope of his interests and areas of competency. From hermeneutics to politics, philosophy to ecclesiology, art history to preaching, and of course in theology, he consumed and integrated vast amounts of experiential and formal learning. To all of his work he brought a prodigious intellect and innovative thinking. He poured out the results of his efforts in the pulpit of Trinity Church Berlin, his written works, his course lectures, and his relationships with kings and friends alike.

It is clear from his biographers and his writings that personal relationships were the foundation of Schleiermacher's life. He loved women, to the point of scandal in his early years when he gave his heart to a married woman. Moreover he depended on his wife and cherished women friends as intellectual and social companions throughout his life. The grounding of his being in relationships began in his time among the Moravians and guided his work all his life. Colleagues in the academic world, friends in the Berlin Salons, a large and extended family, parishioners, and students nurtured his heart and enabled his intellect.

Schleiermacher was born into a world of dramatic change. Enlightenment was yielding to Romanticism, the American and French Revolutions challenged monolithic, entrenched political systems, and the Industrial Revolution was in full swing. The events of his age were monumentally transformative. This timeline plucks out some of these,

hopefully representative of the culture-shaking events that influenced Schleiermacher and his audience. All this invites in-depth exploration of themes such as:

- the relationship between the Reformed and Lutheran churches at that time, including the movement to reform the Protestant liturgy and to reconceive the role of the sovereign in that endeavor;
- the history of Prussia as part of the German Empire, but by no means synonymous with it, including Prussian militarism and Schleiermacher's identity as a son of Prussia;
- the salon culture in Berlin in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries;
- the influence of pietism, mysticism, and romanticism on Schleiermacher;
- liberal influences that challenged the oligarchies dominating the European order at the turn of the nineteenth century;
- the role of women in that era; and
- the role of, and attitudes toward, Jews in academic, political, and social circles.

Several prominent biographical works concerning Schleiermacher are cited throughout with reference to the author's last name and a page number. Full references to those works are supplied at the end of this timeline.

- Jennifer A. Coleman  
Boston University, 2012

# Friedrich Daniel Ernst Schleiermacher Time Line: 1768 – Sep 1785

**Nov 21 1768: Born  
Breslau, Prussia**  
(Today, Wroclaw Poland)

**Baptized:** Nov 27 1768  
Reformed Church, Breslau.

**1778: Father moves family into Moravian  
Community at Niesky (Upper Lusatia).**

Community on Herrnut estate donated by  
Nicholas von Zinzendorf (1700 – 1760).

**Jun 14 1783 – Sep 17 1785: Moravian  
Pædagogium at Niesky.**

College for future  
members of Moravian Brethren. Due to large  
number of English students, FDS learns English.  
Ages 14-16 y.o.

**1769: Family Moves to  
Pless, Upper Silesia.**

Father's service area for  
Royal Prussian Army.

**1780-81/82: Boarding School,  
Pless.** Splits time b/w school and  
home. Ages 12-14 yo.

1768 1769 1770 1771 1772 1773 1774 1775 1776 1777 1778 1779 1780 1781 1782 1783 1784 1785

**Father: Gottlieb**  
Reformed Minister and  
Chaplain in Royal Prussian  
Army. (1727 – 1794).

**Mother: Katharina-Maria  
Stubenrauch**  
Daughter of Court Chaplains at  
Reformed cathedral in Berlin.  
(1736 – 1783).

**Charlotte** (1765 – 1831)

**Friedrich** (1768 - 1834)

**Carl**

**Mother dies: Nov 17 1783.**

"His life at Niesky... involved three underlying motifs  
important for his later development: the intense, almost  
enraptured, sharing in the devotion to Jesus..., the happy  
experience of sharing in common studies with youthful  
comrades, and the current humanistic education which  
made the pietistic educational efforts at Niesky superior to  
those of Halle pietism." (Redeker, 9)



## Friedrich Daniel Ernst Schleiermacher Time Line: Sep 1785 – Early 1790

**Sep 17 1785 – Sep 22 1785:** Five-day walking tour with several other students from Niesky to Barby.

**1785-87: Moravian Seminary at Barby.** FDS befriends Von Albertini. Forms a circle of friends who resist strict controls at Barby and smuggle in Goethe, Höltz, and other German poetry.

**1789: Drossen.** Uncle accepts a pastorate at Drossen and FDS moves there w/ him. Continues studies independently (Kant, Plato, Aristotle, English & French).

**Sep 1787: Halle.** Studies Greek classics and Kant (*Critique of Pure Reason* pub. 1781). Influence of Semler and Christian Wolff still evident at Halle. Lives with Prof. Ernst Stubenrauch, maternal uncle, during this period.

“The winter of 1789/90 in Drossen was by far the lowest point in Schleiermacher’s personal history. He was filled with skepticism and resignation. In addition the state of his health was poor” (Redeker, 9). “Subsequent events showed that one of the main reasons for this trough in his thoughts and spirits was simply lack of congenial company.” (Clements, 18)

September, 1785

1786

1787

1788

1789

Early, 1790

**1786.** FDS’s father remarries and begins large 2<sup>nd</sup> family.

**Jan 21 1787: FDS writes anguished letter to his Father.**

Admits anguish and doubts w/ theology and teaching at Barby. Is in crisis of faith. Asks to go to Halle, i.e. asks for money. LS, Vol. I, 46-49.

About his time among the Moravians, FDS writes: “Here it is that for the first time I awoke to the consciousness of the relations of man to a higher world. ... Here it was that that mystic tendency developed itself, which has been of so much importance to me, and has supported and carried me through all the storms of scepticism. ... [A]fter all I have passed through, I have become a Herrnhuter [i.e. pietist] again, only of a higher order.” (Gerrish, 26-27) <http://www.moravianchurcharchives.org/thismonth/09%20feb%20schleiermacher.pdf>

**Feb 6 1787: Response.** Father rejects FDS: “[W]ith heartrending grief I discard thee!” Yet he agrees to provide FDS with financial support for 1½ years at Halle. LS Vol. I, 50-53.

## Friedrich Daniel Ernst Schleiermacher Time Line: Late 1790 – 1796

**Oct 1790: Schlobitten, East Prussia.** Tutor for 3 years in household of Count Wilhelm Dohna, to the Count's younger sons.

**Mar 31 1794: Berlin.** FDS completes second theological examination before Directorate of the Reformed Church.

"Here was a warm, pious, refined and intellectually lively domestic circle in which Schleiermacher began to flourish again both personally and intellectually."  
(Clements, 18)

**1794: Berlin.** Works briefly in Friedrich Gedicke's pedagogical seminar.

**Late 1790: Rift w/ Father Heals.** Uncle's interventions and FDS taking his first Theological Exams, restores relationship b/w father and son.

**Sep 1794: Landsberg on the Warthe.** FDS ordained as Asst. Pastor ("Adjunct") to his Uncle's Brother-in-law, at a reformed pastorate.

Late 1790

1791

1792

1793

1794

1795

1796

**1791: Met Kant.** At Königsberg. LS, Vol. I, 119.

**Father Dies Sep 2 1794**

**Sep 1790: Berlin.** FDS (21 yo) travels to Berlin; passes first theological examination before Directorate of the Reformed Church.

**1791 – 1793: Preaching & Writing.** FDS begins to preach (*New Year's sermon of 1792*) and to send his sermons to his father and uncle. Begins writing what would become *Soliloquies* and essays (*On the Freedom of Man*).

**1795 – 1796: Landsberg.** Begins translating sermons of Hugo Blair (1717-1800, Scottish) and Joseph Fawcett (1758-1804, English). FDS studies Spinoza, Fichte, and Kant.

# Friedrich Daniel Ernst Schleiermacher Time Line: Late 1796 – 1801

**Mid-1796: Landsberg.** Senior Minister, to whom FDS is adjunct, dies. FDS is out of a job.

**Spring 1799: *On Religion – Speeches to the Cultured Among its Despisers.*** 1<sup>st</sup> edition published anonymously in 1799. Rev. eds. 1806, 1821, 1831.

**Sep 1796 – 1801: Berlin.** FDS appointed as Reformed Minister to Charité Hospital, close to Berlin's urban center.

"With this move to Berlin his youth and time as a student ended. He was not quite twenty-eight years old when he delivered his inaugural sermon on September 18, 1796." (Clements, 24)

**1800: *Soliloquies.*** Published anonymously. 2nd ed. 1810.

"Germany at the turn of the century was a paradox to the world. It was breathtaking in its cultural advance – and in its political backwardness. A people who could produce a Lessing, a Kant, a Goethe, a Schiller, and a Beethoven still could not produce a constitution ... resembling a form of representative government. It was still a conglomerate of separate principalities, many of them tiny city-states and princedoms." (Clements, 27)

1796

1797

1798

1799

1800

1801

**1796: Marcus & Henriette Herz.** "Henriette Herz' house had become one of the centers for contemporary Berlin society." She was FDS' lifelong friend and correspondent. (Redeker, 28-29)

**1797: Friedrich Schlegel.** Schlegel was a leading figure in the Romantic movement. "A mutually enthusiastic friendship immediately sprang up between the two." (Sykes, 8) They shared an apartment for a few months and began translating Plato together.

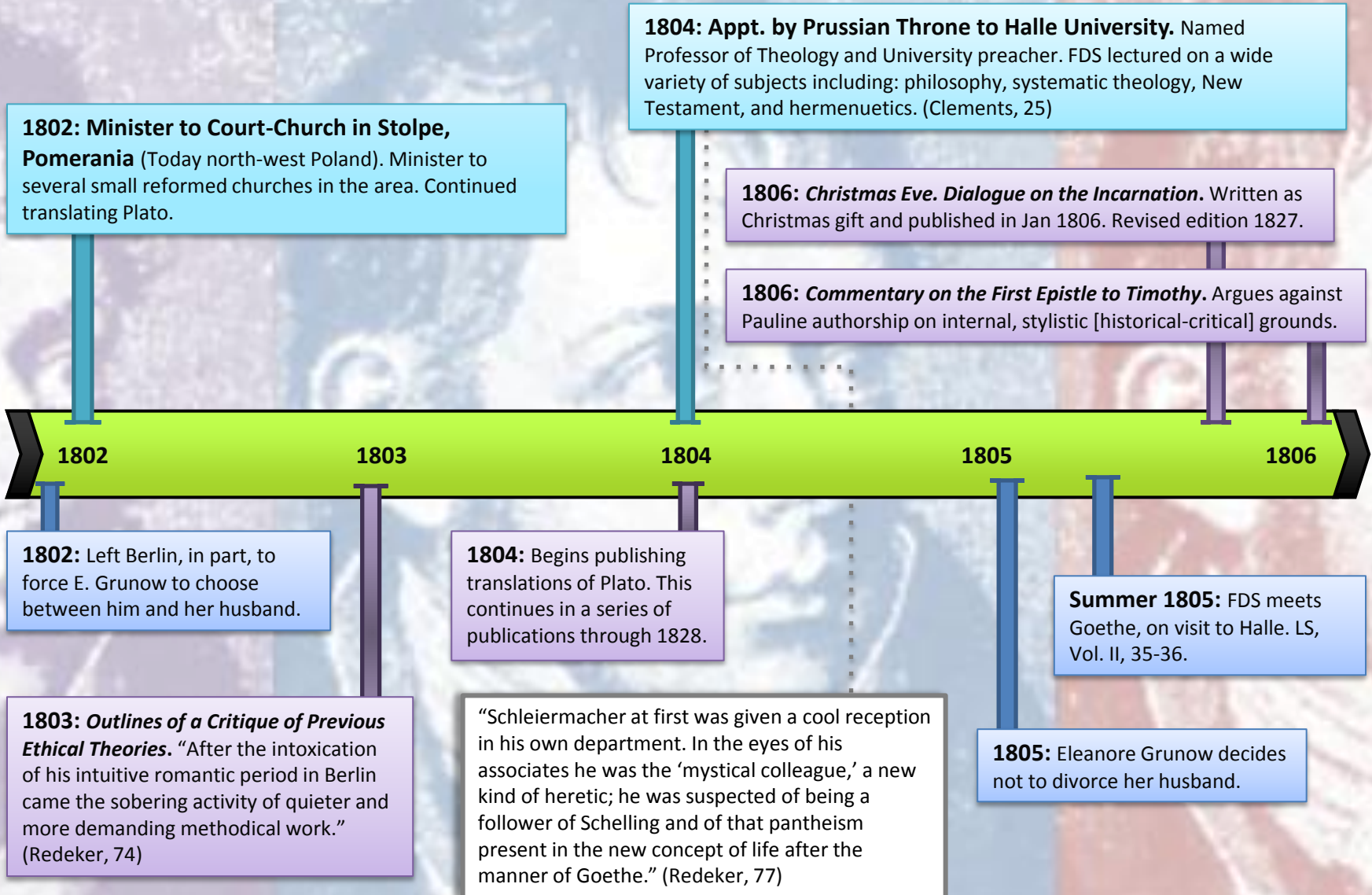
**1800: Eleonore Grunow.** FDS fell in love with EG, who was in a childless and supposedly loveless marriage to a Berlin minister. "The attachment was mutual – virtually a secret betrothal." LS Vol I, 142-44. (Clements, 21)

**1801: Ernst von Willich.** FDS meets and befriends Ernst and Henriette von Willich. He was deeply affected by their relationship and marriage. LS Vol. I, 144 *et. seq.*

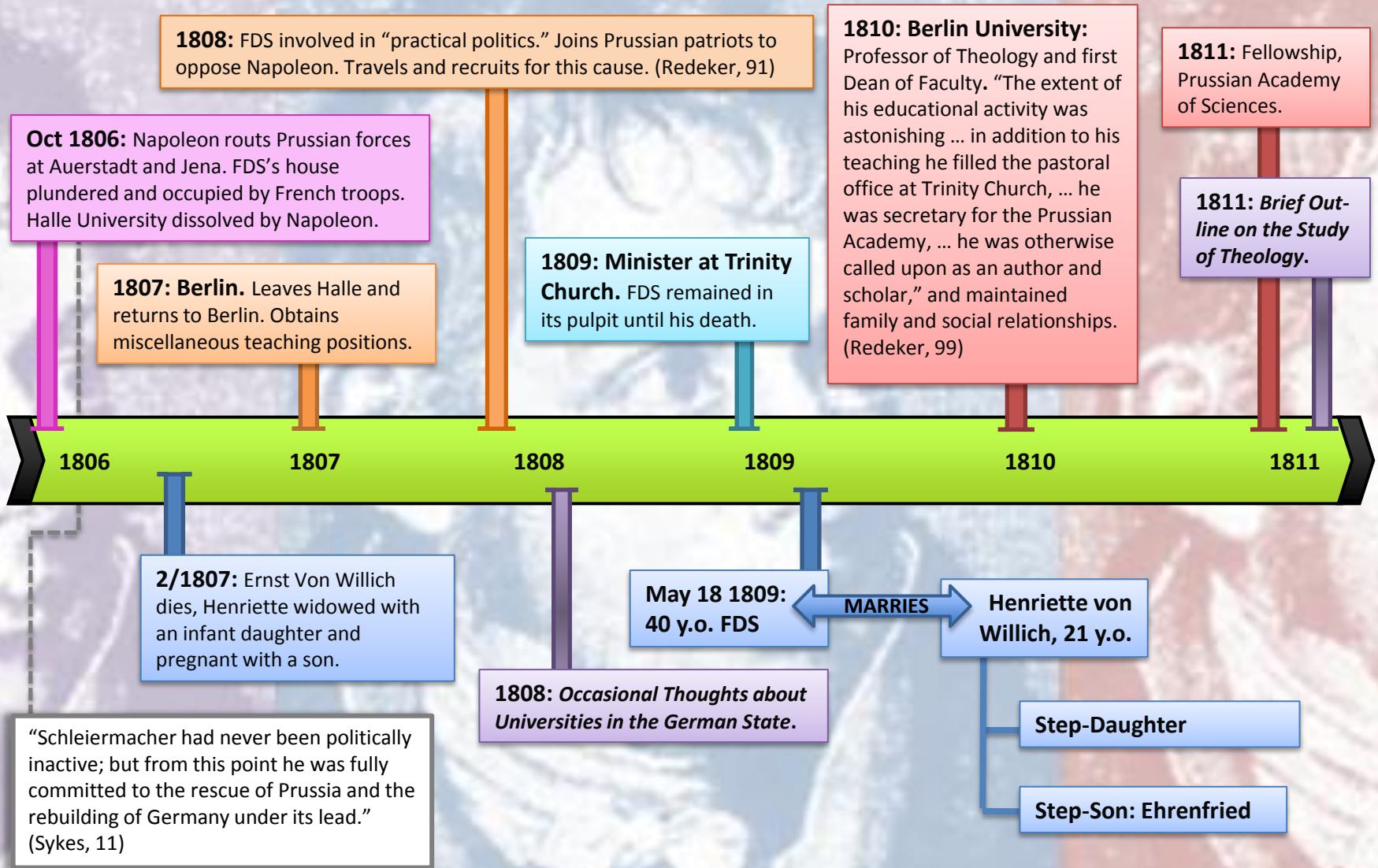
"The importance for Schleiermacher of this new flowering of social and intellectual contacts can scarcely be over-estimated." (Sykes, 8) FDS actively engaged in Berlin's Social and Romantic intellectual circles. "The deepest importance of the Berlin Romantic circles ... lay less in Romanticism as such, than in the personal friendships they opened to him. This side of ... [his] life is not incidental to his theology." (Clements, 19-20)



# Friedrich Daniel Ernst Schleiermacher Time Line: 1802 – Autumn 1806



# Friedrich Daniel Ernst Schleiermacher Time Line: Autumn 1806 – 1811





# Friedrich Daniel Ernst Schleiermacher Time Line: 1812 – 1818

**1813:** FDS served as a recruiter for voluntary army corps established by Frederick William III.

**1814: Berlin.** FDS removed from post at Ministry of Interior under suspicion for his political reform views.

**1814: Berlin University:** Permanent Secretary of Philosophic Division of Berlin Academy of Sciences.

**Oct 30 1817: 300<sup>th</sup> Anniv. of Reformation.** FDS participated in joint communion with 63 Berlin clergymen, many Lutherans and high state officials.

**1818: Hegel called to Berlin University.** FDS and Hegel were colleagues at the University of Berlin through 1831. FDS blocked Hegel's admission to the Berlin Academy of Sciences throughout. "It is painfully obvious that the interrelated lives of these two illustrious Berlin colleagues reveal some ordinary human reactions and sensibilities (as well as prejudices) on both sides of the relationship." (Crouter, 40)



1812

1813

1814

1815

1816

1817

1818

**1814:** Defeat and exile of Napoleon.

"[A] report of a particularly emotional occasion also conveys well the impact Schleiermacher made through his primary *ecclesiastical* activity, his preaching ministry at the Trinity Church week by week. In the pulpit, despite his slight, and slightly deformed, figure, he had a charismatic ability to sway a whole congregation through fervent delivery and profound wrestling with many of the most vital religious questions troubling people of the day." (Clements, 32)

FDS's family with Henriette

Daughter

Daughter

Son: Nathanael

Step-Daughter

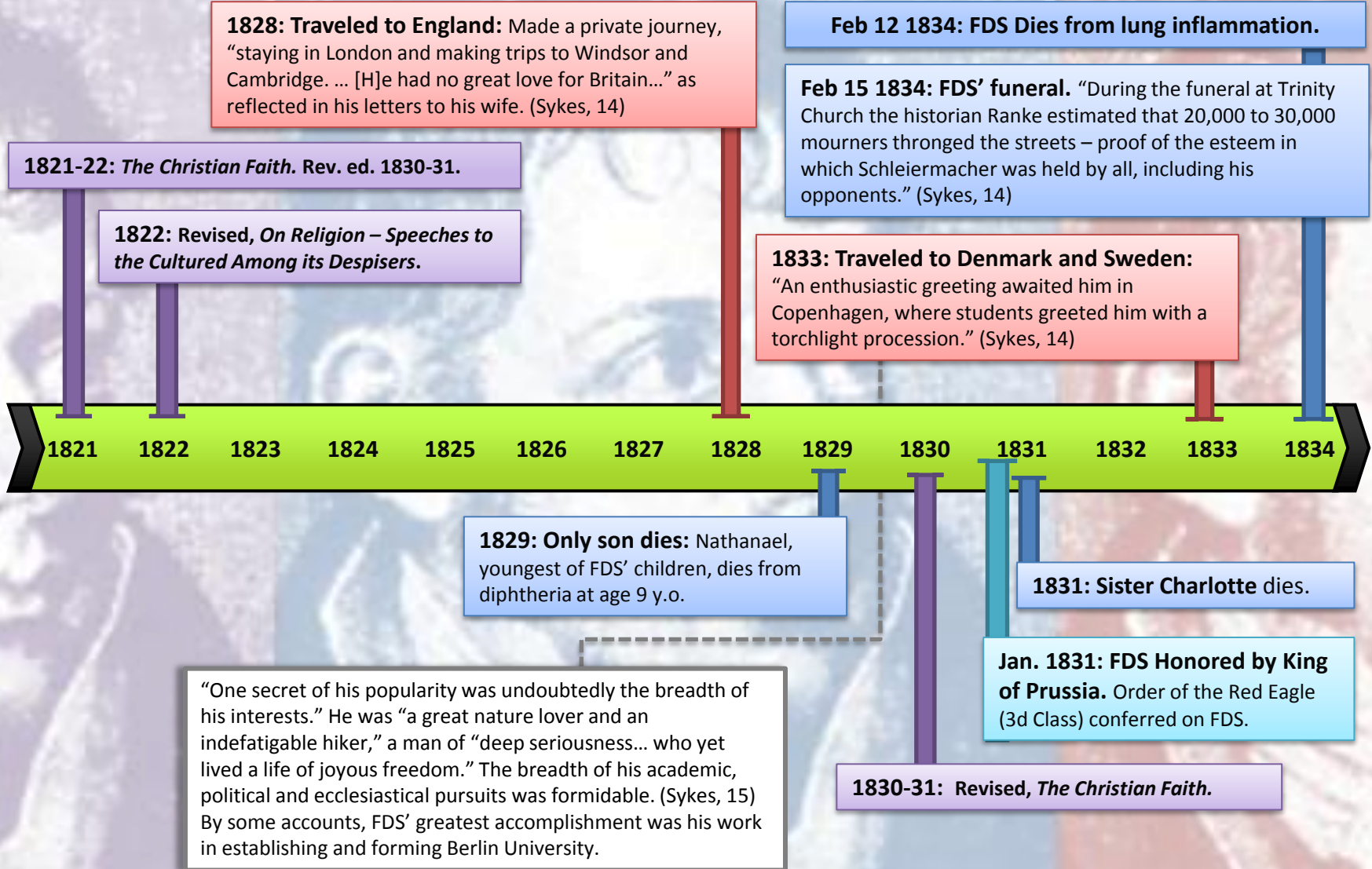
Step-Son

FDS's Half-Sister Nanni lives with the FDS family.

Adopts FDS's half-sister's child

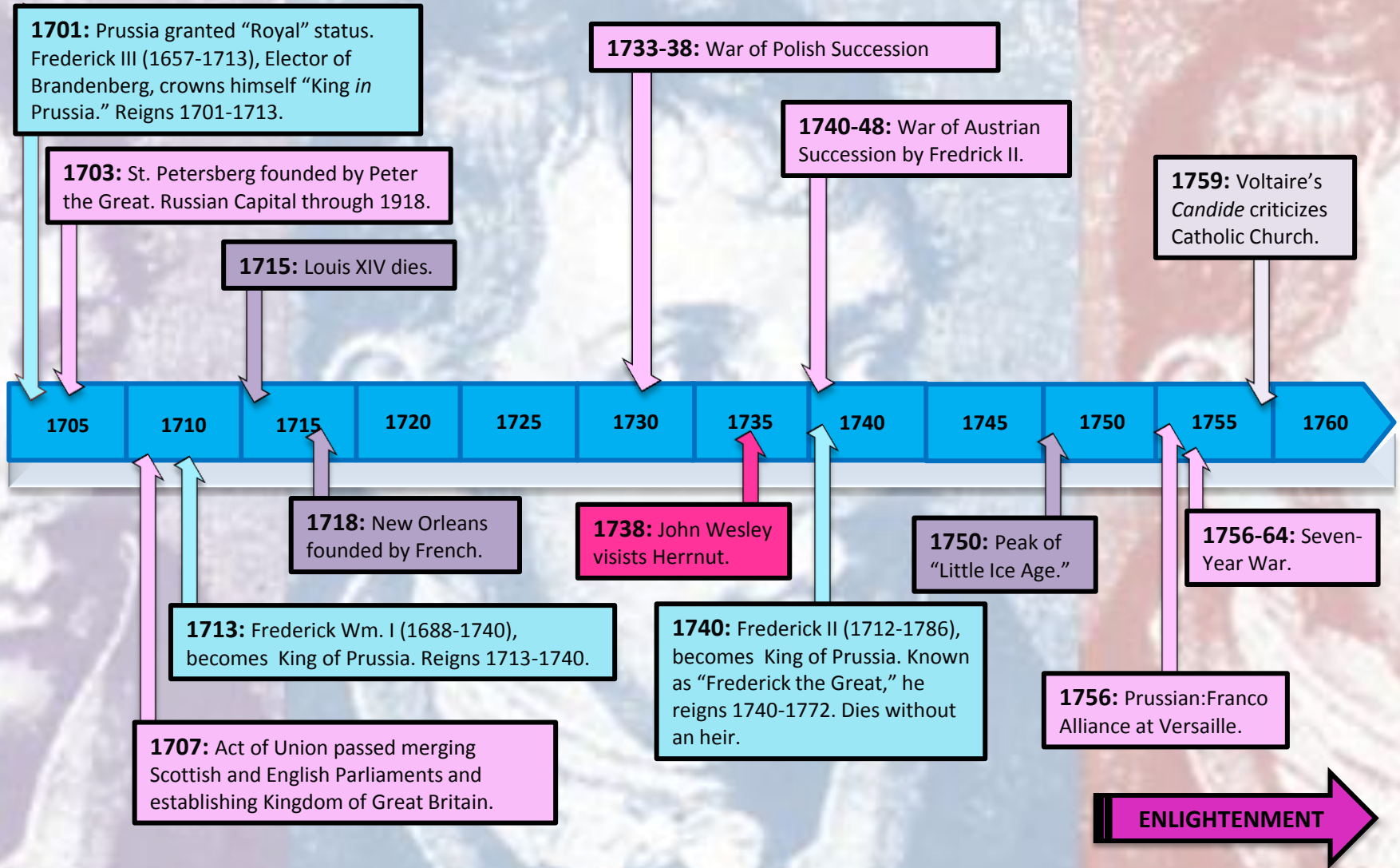
Adopts a friend's child

## Friedrich Daniel Ernst Schleiermacher Time Line 1821 – 1834

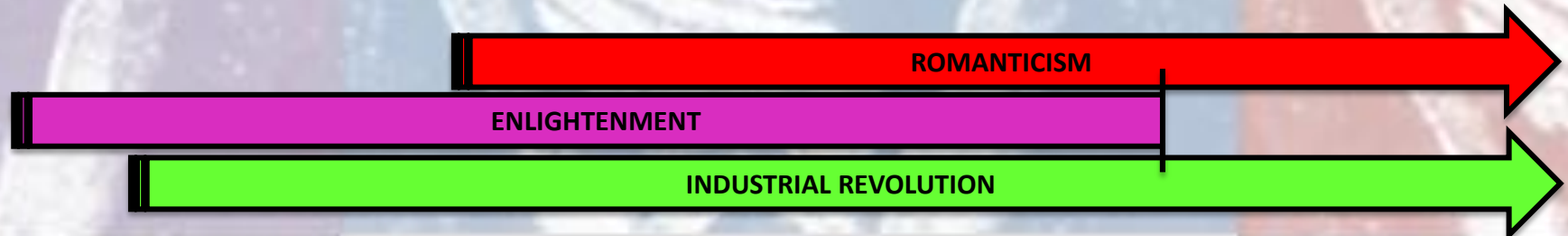
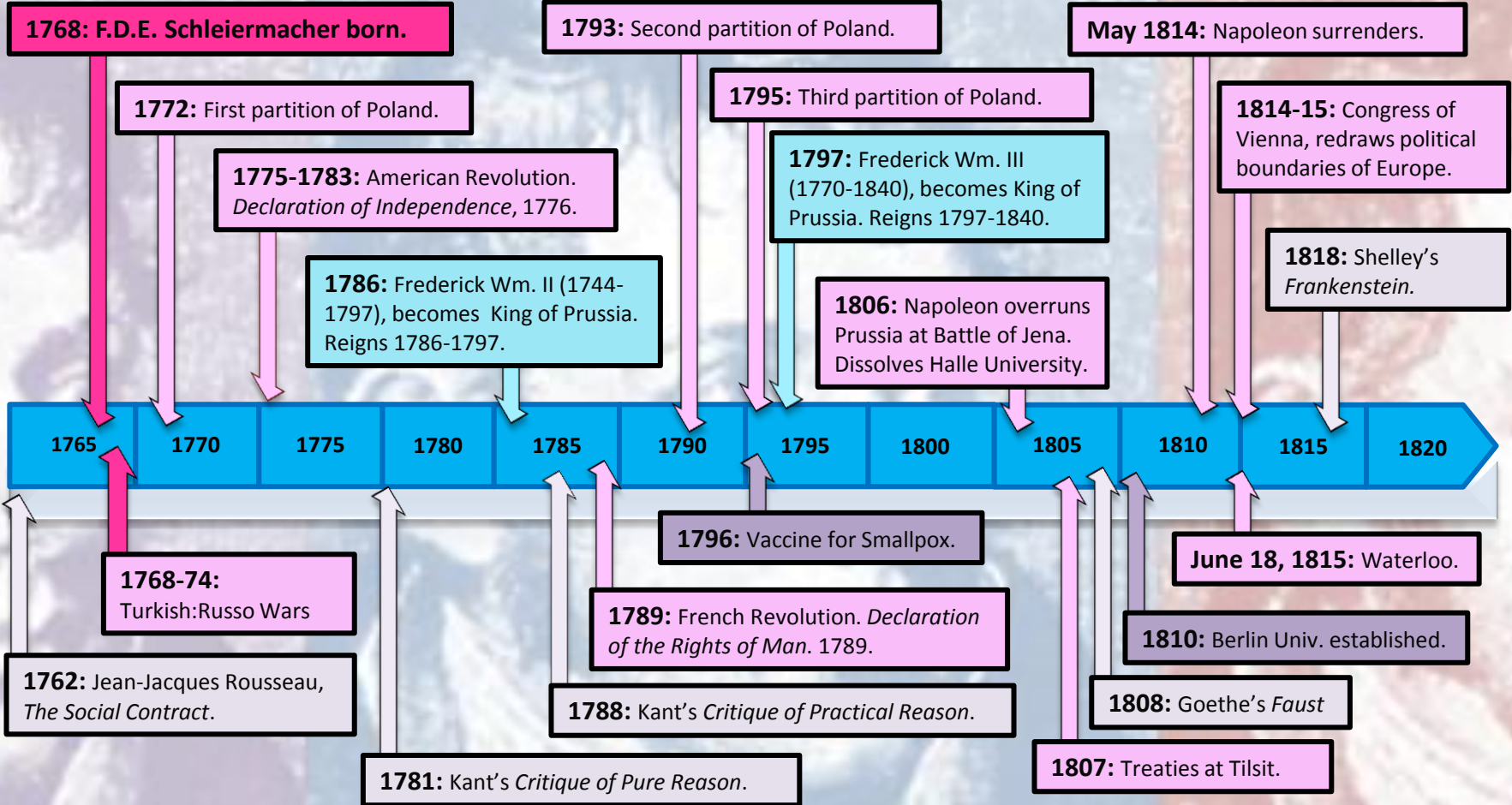




# Schleiermacher's World (1705 – 1765)

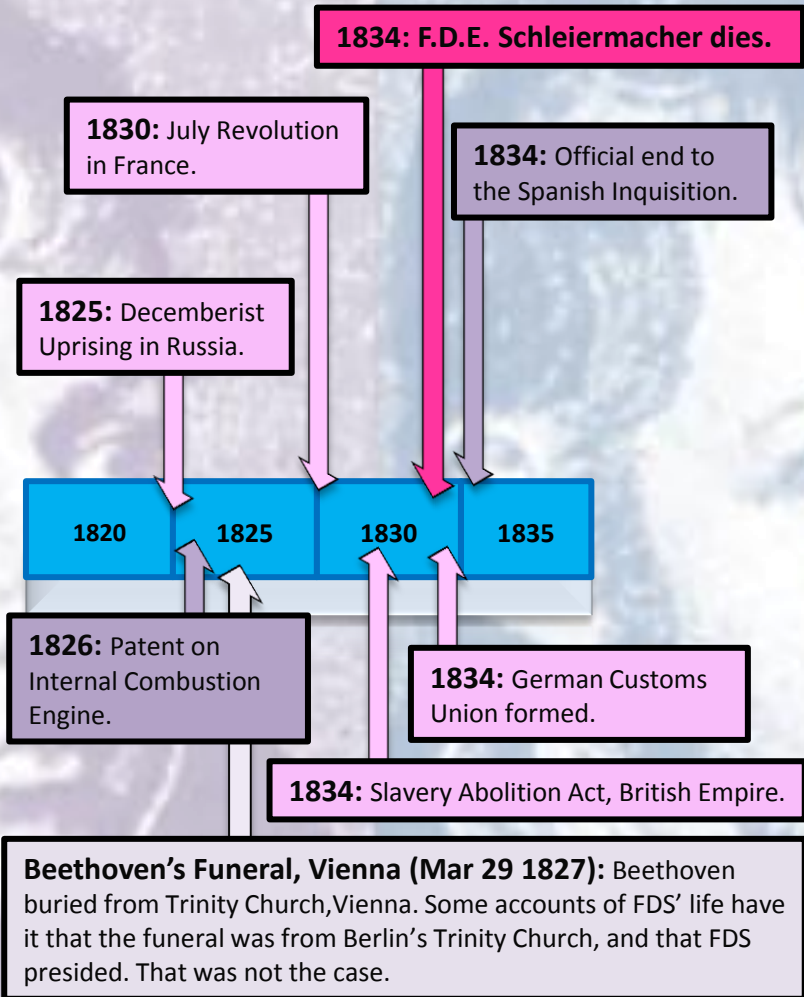


# Schleiermacher's World (1765 – 1825)



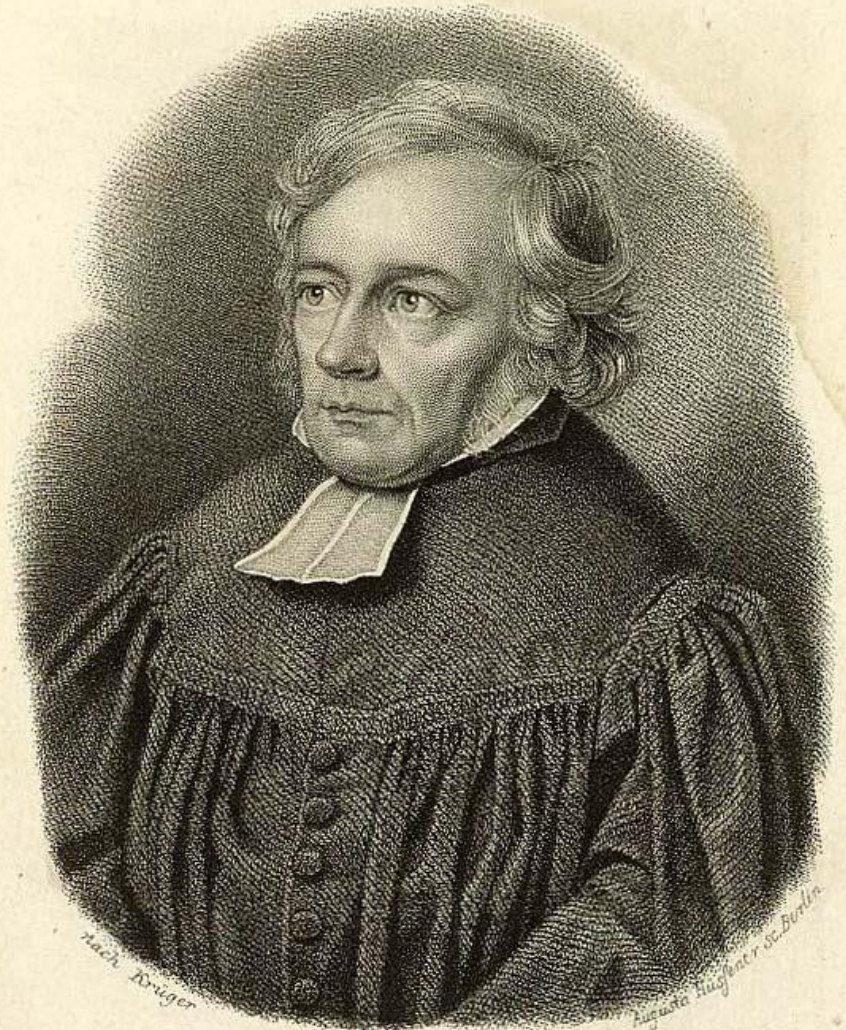


## Schleiermacher's World (1825 – 1875)

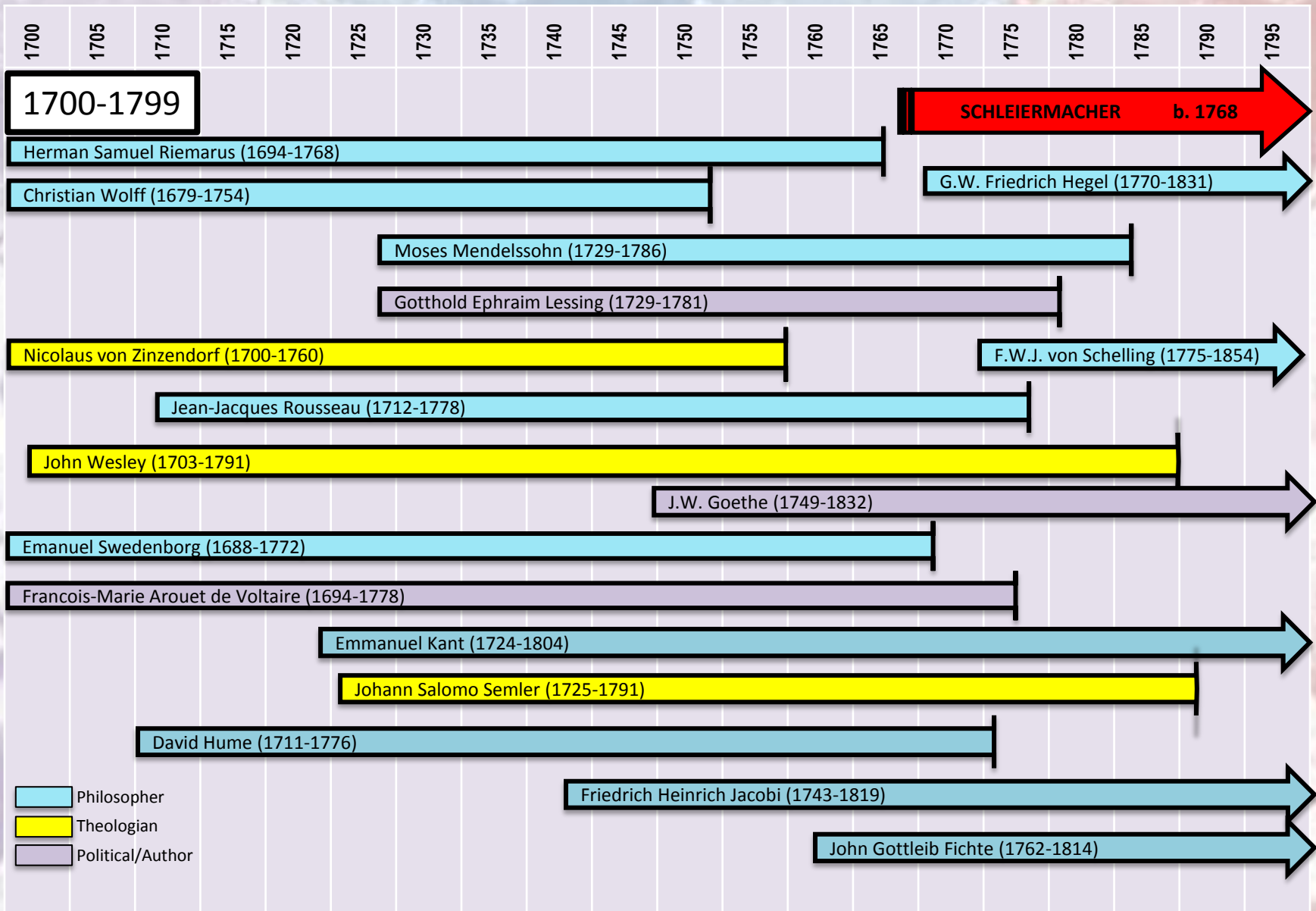


ROMANTICISM

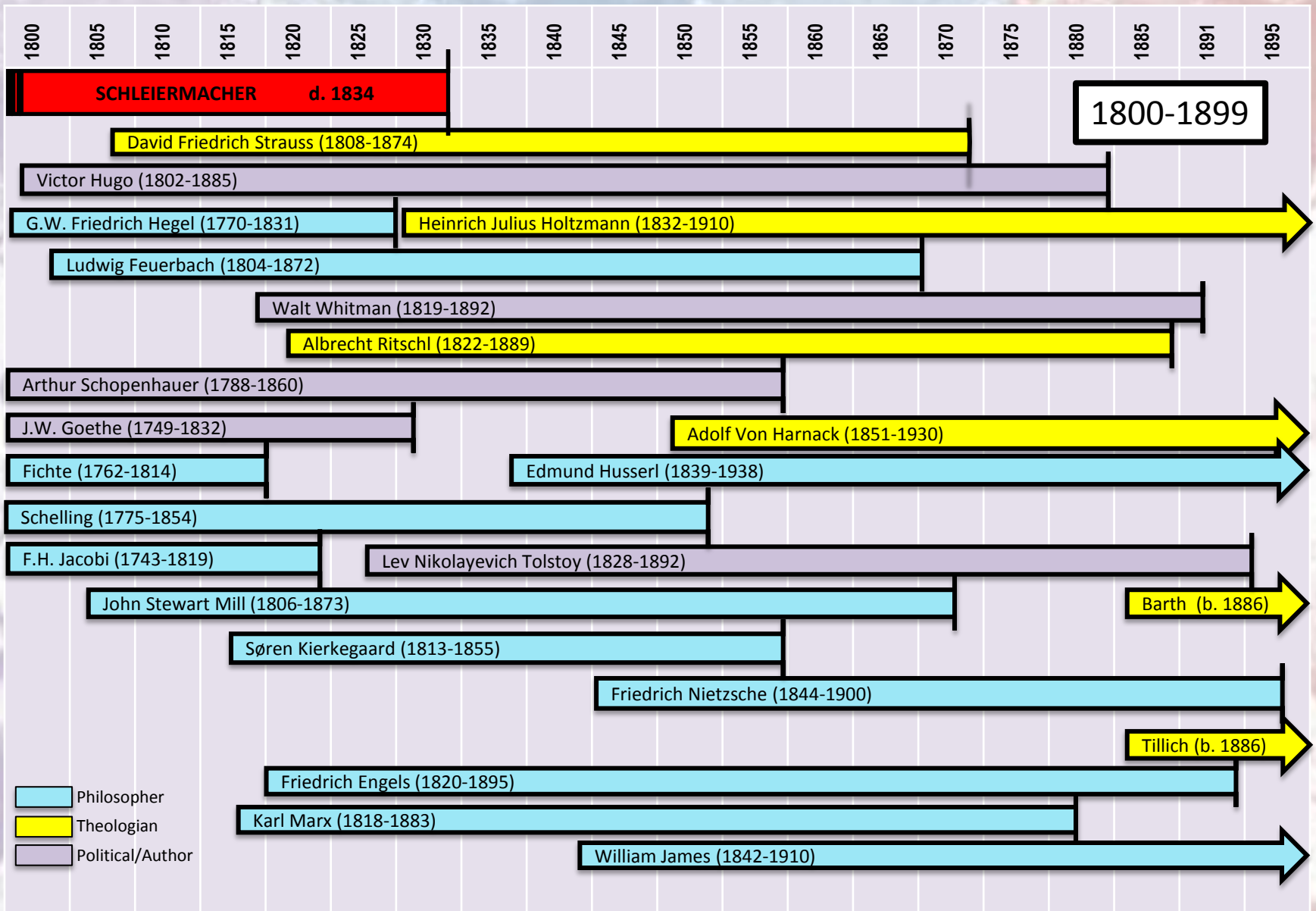
INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION



FRIEDRICH SCHLEIERMACHER.







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The End