

Chronology

- 1844 Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche is born on 15 October to Karl Ludwig and Franziska Nietzsche in Röcken, Saxony.
- 1849 Nietzsche's father, a Protestant minister, dies of 'softening of the brain'.
- 1850 Nietzsche's younger brother, Joseph, dies, and the family moves to Naumburg.
- 1858–64 He attends the elite boarding school Schulpforta on a full scholarship that he received as the orphan of a minister.
- 1864 Enrols at the University of Bonn to study theology, although he no longer plans to become a minister. He joins a fraternity, but resigns soon after.
- 1865 Follows the philologist Professor Albrecht Ritschl to the University of Leipzig. He buys a copy of Schopenhauer's *World as Will and Representation* in his landlord's shop.
- 1865 Refuses to take Communion during his Easter visit home to Naumburg.
- 1866 Publishes an essay on Theognis in a philological journal edited by Ritschl. Studies F. A. Lange's *History of Materialism*.
- 1867 Enlists in an artillery regiment after managing to pass a physical exam.

- 1868 Injures himself while riding. Reads Kuno Fischer's book on Kant. Meets Richard Wagner in a café in Leipzig, through the mediation of Mrs Ritschl. After his 24th birthday becomes emancipated from his guardian.
- 1869 Appointed Extraordinary Professor of Classical Philology in Basel on Ritschl's recommendation. Renounces Prussian citizenship. Begins frequent visits to Wagner in nearby Tribschen.
- 1870 Volunteers as a medical orderly in the Franco-Prussian War, but after two months becomes ill with dysentery and diphtheria.
- 1872 Publishes his first, controversial book, *The Birth of Tragedy out of the Spirit of Music*. Accompanies Wagner to Bayreuth for the laying of the foundation stone for the new opera house.
- 1873 Meets Paul Rée in Basel.
- 1873–75 Publishes *Unfashionable Observations*. Relationship with Wagner begins to sour.
- 1875 Studies Paul Rée's *Psychological Observations*.
- 1876 Begins working with Peter Gast, who takes dictation for an essay on Wagner. Visits the Bayreuth Festival and sees Wagner for the last time in Sorrento.
- 1878 Publishes the first part of *Human, All Too Human*.
- 1879 Publishes the two additions to *Human, All Too Human*. Resigns from Basel with a small pension. Begins a long period of wandering, mostly through Italy and Switzerland, staying in off-season boarding houses.
- 1881 Publishes *Daybreak*.
- 1882 His friendship with Paul Rée ends. Publishes the first edition of *The Gay Science*. In April travels to Rome, meets Lou Salomé, and proposes marriage to her. She declines and the relationship ends badly.
- 1883–84 Publishes *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*.
- 1884 Breaks with his sister Elisabeth over her fiancé's anti-Semitism.
- 1886 Publishes *Beyond Good and Evil*. Plans new editions of previous works, for which he writes five new prefaces, among other material.

- 1887 Writes *On the Genealogy of Morality* in July and August. It is published in November in an edition of 600 copies. He pays for the printing himself.
- 1888 Subject of sympathetic, well-attended lectures in Copenhagen by Georg Brandes. Publishes *The Case of Wagner*. Writes *The Anti-Christ*, *Ecce Homo*, *Nietzsche Contra Wagner* and *Twilight of the Idols*.
- 1889 Suffers a breakdown and collapses in Turin, after writing megalomaniacal postcards to many friends and celebrities. He is retrieved by his friend Franz Overbeck, who takes him to Basel. Nietzsche's mother then takes him to an asylum in Jena.
- 1890 Nietzsche is moved to his mother's apartment in Jena, and then to Naumburg. His sister Elisabeth returns to Germany from Paraguay. She later takes control of her brother's literary estate.
- 1894 Belated publication of *The Antichrist*, written in 1888. Elisabeth founds the Nietzsche Archive, which houses Nietzsche and his papers.
- 1895 Publication of first volume of Elisabeth's biography.
- 1896 Elisabeth moves Nietzsche and the Archive to Weimar.
- 1897 Death of Franziska Nietzsche. Publication of second volume of Elisabeth's biography. Relocates to Weimar under the care of his sister.
- 1900 Dies in Weimar on 25 August.