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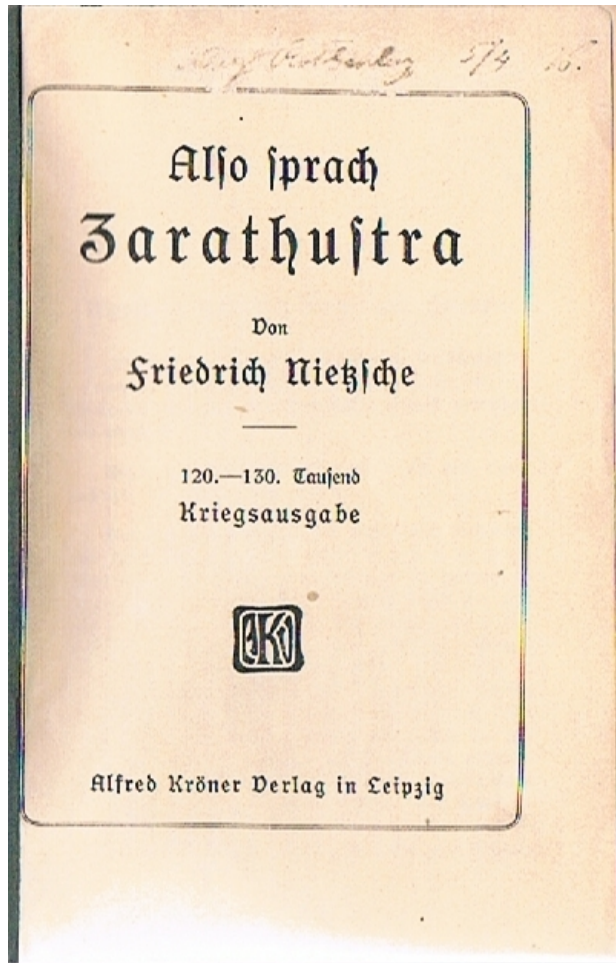


Cambridge Online German for Schools

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Topic: Nietzsche



1914 proved a turning-point in the long and complex history of Friedrich Nietzsche's (1844-1900) reception in Germany. Hitherto, Nietzsche had been perceived as a pan-European thinker, with radical, potentially revolutionary ideas and an evident aversion to the German Empire. In the course of World War I, however, conservative and nationalist intellectuals gradually appropriated him as a patriotic and essentially German thinker, invoking some of his principal ideas – "the will to power", "the transvaluation of all values", and "the Overman" – to glorify the German war effort. Nietzsche's sister, Elisabeth Förster-Nietzsche, played an important role in this process, notably with her essay "Nietzsche and War", which was published in several German newspapers on 10 September 1914. The essay portrayed Nietzsche as deeply attached to the spirit of Prussian militarism and as a "friend of war" who had reminded his fellow Germans that "the good war hallowed every cause" and exhorted them to "live dangerously". In her capacity as director of the Nietzsche Archive in Weimar, Elisabeth also oversaw the publication of a so-called "war edition" ("Kriegsausgabe") of her brother's most famous work, *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* (1883). This was an affordable, popular edition released by Kröner Verlag in Leipzig and prefaced by a selection of "Nietzsche aphorisms on war and peace", chosen by Elisabeth. The "Kriegsausgabe" of *Zarathustra* went through multiple reprints between

1914 and 1918, reaching a print run of over 200,000 copies. The above image shows the title page of the 1916 edition.