

⑨ Immanuel Kant, (born April 22, 1724, Königsberg, Prussia [now Kaliningrad, Russia] - died February 12, 1804, Königsberg), German philosopher whose comprehensive and systematic work in epistemology (the theory of knowledge), ethics, and aesthetic greatly influenced all subsequent philosophy, especially the various schools of Kantianism and idealism.

Kant was one of the foremost thinkers of the enlightenment and arguably one of the greatest philosophers of all time. In him were subsumed new trends that had begun with Kant lived in the remote province where he was born for his entire life. His father, a saddler, was, according to Kant, a descendant of a Scottish immigrant, although scholars have found no basis for this claim; his mother was remarkable for her character and natural intelligence. Both parents were devoted followers of the pictist branch of the Lutheran church, which taught that religion belonged to the inner life expressed in simplicity and obedience to moral law. The influence of their pastor made it possible for Kant - the fourth of nine children but the eldest surviving child - to obtain an education.

At the age of eight Kant entered the pictist school that his pastor directed. This was a Latin school, and it was presumably during the eight and a half years he was there that Kant acquired his lifelong love for the Latin classics, especially for the naturalistic poet Lucretius. In 1740 he enrolled in the university of Königsberg as a theological student but, although he attended to mathematics and physics. Aided by a young professor who had studied Christian Wolff.