



After Jena: Goethe's Elective Affinities and the End of the Old Regime (Hardback)

By Peter J. Schwartz

Bucknell University Press, United States, 2010. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. After Jena is the first scholarly work in English to set Goethe's influential and controversial novel *Elective Affinities* (*Die Wahlverwandtschaften*, 1809) squarely within the turbulent time in which it was written. Peter J. Schwartz explores the era of rapid modernization following Prussia's defeat at the battle Jena-Auerstedt. Adducing evidence from many spheres and applying the tools of several disciplines, Schwartz persuasively shows how *Elective Affinities* reflects post-Jena changes in marriage, property, and inheritance law, and in the political role of the German nobility. He links questions of character, fate, and sacrifice in the novel to modern problems of sovereignty and legitimacy and investigates how key scenes in the novel comment implicitly on Napoleon, Rousseau, the French Revolution, and the politics and aesthetics of the German Romantics. After Jena reveals the novel's ethical core to be a calculus of political legitimacy, and its aesthetics a means of conciliating tensions provoked by modernity's onrush. It will be of special interest to students of literature, history, philosophy, art, and aesthetics.



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