

## **Migrations of 'Spirit' in Mill's Theory of History**

John Stuart Mill wrote the essay *The Spirit of the Age* as seven installments in the *Examiner* between January and May, 1831. This essay was Mill's first attempt to outline in a systematic way his new opinions following his mental crisis in 1826 and the subsequent break with Benthamism. This paper examines the uses and meanings of "spirit" in this essay and then explores the ways in which "spirit" migrated into and became central in Mill's later philosophy and in those of his closest followers. Spirit could be said to represent the conceptual lever by which Mill moved both himself and 19<sup>th</sup> century liberalism from its older foundations and on to newer historical and evolutionary ones.

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