

Kant's *Observations* of 1764 and *Remarks* of 1764–65 (a set of fragments written in the margins of his copy of the *Observations*) document a crucial turning-point in his life and thought. Both texts reveal the growing importance for him of ethics, anthropology, and politics, but with an important difference. The *Observations* attempts to observe human nature directly. The *Remarks*, by contrast, evinces a revolution in Kant's thinking, largely inspired by Rousseau, who "turned him around" by disclosing to him the idea of a "state of freedom" (modeled on the state of nature) as a touchstone for his thinking. This and related thoughts anticipate such famous later doctrines as the unconditional goodness of good will, the categorical imperative, and the primacy of moral freedom. The essays by leading Kant scholars that are included in the present volume illuminate many and varied topics within these two rich works, including the emerging relations between theory and practice, ethics and anthropology, men and women, philosophy, history, and the "rights of man."