

Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz

BORN ON JULY 1ST (ACCORDING TO THE JULIAN CALENDAR ON JUNE 21ST), 1646
AT LEIPZIG

DIED ON NOVEMBER 14TH, 1716 AT HANOVER

PHILOSOPHER, SCHOLAR, STATESMAN, AND MATHEMATICIAN

- School education at the Leipzig Nicolaischule
- 1661 - 66 Studies of law, philosophy, and mathematics at the Leipzig university
- 1663 Studies at the Jena university;
LEIBNIZ receives the degree of a bachelor after finishing a work entitled „De principio individui“
- 1666 LEIBNIZ continues his studies at the university of Altdorf/Nuremberg;
publication of the work „Dissertatio de arte combinatoria“
- 1667 Doctorate (LLD) after finishing a thesis entitled „De casibus perplexis in iure“
- 1667 - 73 Work for the minister J. CHR. BOYNEBURG (Electorate of Mainz);
start of working-out of his political and philosophical writings
- 1668 Publication of „Systema theologicum“ (describing the the unification of the catholic and protestant church, Latin and German edition in 1820 by A. RAESS and N. WEIS)
- 1670 Appointment as a councillor at the electoral appeal court
- 1671 Publication of „Hypothesis physica nova“;
founding of the dynamics as a new theory of motion
- 1672 Discovery of the summation of the inverse matrixes of trinangular numbers
- 1672 - 76 Stay at Paris (till 1673 as a member of the diplomatic mission);
meetings with A. ARNAULD, N. MALEBRANCHE, P. NICOLE, E. W. v. TSCHIRNHAUS, as well as C. HUYGENS (with whom he made friends for a lifetime)
- 1673 LEIBNIZ becomes a member of the Royal Society
- 1673 - 75 Invention of the differential and integral calculus (published in [1684*](#) and [1686*](#) in *Acta eruditorum Lipsiensium*)
- 1674 Analytical quadrature of the circle by means of the arc tan progression
- 1675 Demonstration of a self-invented calculator in the Académie des Sciences at Paris (nevertheless he did not become a member of this academy)

- 1676 Return to Germany via the Netherlands (there LEIBNIZ visited B. SPINOZA and A. van LEEUWENHOEK)
- 1676 - 1716 Work as a librarian and historiographer for the royal dynasty of Hanover
- 1677 Publication of „Caesarini Fuerstenerii de iure suprematis ac legationis principum Germaniae“
- 1679 Emendation of the binary numerical system
- 1680 - 85 Mining engineer in the Harz mountains area
- 1684 Publication of „Nova methodus de maximis and minimis“* and of „Meditationes de cognitione, veritate et ideis“
- 1685 Appointment as a court historiographer of the dynasty of the Guelphs and as a Hofrat;
beginning of a collection a material for writing a history of the Guelphs at Brunswick
- 1686 Publication of „De geometria recondita et analysi indivisibilium atque infinitorum“*, „Discours de métaphysique“, and of „Brevis demonstratio erroris memorabilis Cartesii et aliorum circa legem naturae“
- 1687 - 90 Study trip to South Germany and Italy (there LEIBNIZ met M. MALPIGHI and V. VIVIANI)
- 1691 Appointment as a librarian at Wolfenbüttel
- 1693 - 1700 Publication of „Codex iuris gentium diplomaticus“ (2 voll.)
- 1695 Publication of „Système nouveau“ (treatise on the relationship between matter and the predetermined harmony of body and soul)
- 1697 Publication of „De rerum originatione“ and „Novissima Sinica historiam nostri temporis illustrata“
- 1698 Publication of „De ipsa natura“
- 1698 - 1700 Publication of „Accessiones historicae“ (2 voll.)
- 1700 *11.7.:* Foundation of the *Churfürstliche Societät der Wissenschaften* ([Königlich] *Preußische Akademie der Wissenschaften*, now [Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften](#)) by prince elector Frederic III on LEIBNIZ' initiative
12.7.: Appoitment of LEIBNIZ as the first president of the academy by prince elector Frederic III
- 1704 Publication of „Nouveaux essais sur l'entendement humain“

- 1707 - 11 Publication of „Scriptores rerum Brunsvicensium illustrationi inservantes“ (3 voll.)
- 1710 Publication of „Essais de Theodicée sur la bonté de Dieu, la liberté de l’homme et l’origine du mal“ (2 voll.)
- 1711 Foundation of the Academy of Sciences at St. Peterburg by tsar PETER I on LEIBNIZ’ initiative
- 1711 - 13 LEIBNIZ was accused of plagiarism by an investigating committee of the Royal Society on the occasion of a priority dispute between I. NEWTON and him concerning the infinitesimal calculus
- 1712 - 14 Stay at Vienna
- 1713 Appointment as a Reichshofrat (Austrian court degree)
- 1714 Publication of „Principes de la nature et de la grâce“ (treatise finished at Vienna and dedicated to Prince EUGEN), appointment as a baron by the Austrian emperor CHARLES VI
- 1717 Publication of „Collectanea etymologica“ (etymological studies based on LEIBNIZ’ relationship reaching up to China by support of the Jesuits)
- 1720 Publication of „Monadologie“, i. e. „Monadology“ (edited by H. KÖHLER)
- 18 43 - 45 Publication of „Annales imperii occidentis Brunsvicenses“ (edited by L. PERUTZ according to LEIBNIZ’ autograph, 2 voll.)
- 1875 - 90 Publication of „Die philosophischen Schriften von G. W. LEIBNIZ“ (first complete edition of LEIBNIZ’ philosophical writings by C. J. GERHARDT, 7 voll.)
- 1923 Foundation of the scientific research project „[Leibniz-Edition](#)“ at the Prussian Academy of Sciences and Humanities (now [Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften](#))

Sources:

- Brockhaus - die Enzyklopädie, Leipzig u. Mannheim ²⁰1996 ff.
 Der Große Brockhaus, Leipzig ¹⁵1928 ff.
 Hartkopf, Die Berliner Akademie der Wissenschaften, Berlin 1992.
 The New Encyclopaedia Britannica, Chicago u. a. ¹⁵1997 ff.