Edmund Husserl was a German philosopher and the principal founder of phenomenology making him one of the most influential philosophers of the twentieth century. Phenomenology is the analysis and explication of the structures of conscious experience making it a core element in all existentialist philosophies. For Husserl philosophy had to proceed, like all science, from real problems and issues and not merely from the works of other philosophers. Husserl was born April 8, 1859, into a Jewish family in Prossnitz, Moravia, then a part of the Austrian Empire and now in the Czech Republic. When he received from Martin Heidegger a copy of his Kant and the Problem of Metaphysics in the summer of 1929 not long before Husserl had determined to reread Heidegger's writings in order to arrive at a definitive position on Heidegger's philosophy. With this in view, Husserl reread and made extensive marginal comments in Being and Time and Kant and the Problem of Metaphysics. This essay by the Edmund Husserl, German philosopher, the founder of Phenomenology, a method for the description and analysis of consciousness through which philosophy attempts to gain the character of a strict science. The method reflects an effort to resolve the opposition between Empiricism, which stresses.  Professor of Philosophy, University of Cologne. Director of the Husserl Archives, Cologne. Author of Phaenomenologie und Geschichte. See Article History. Husserl traces this spiritual unity back to the development of philosophy and science in the ancient Greek world; it is the emergence of the spirit of such science and philosophy, claims Husserl, that makes European culture unique (PCP, 156–157). This spirit consisted essentially in a new kind of attitude of people toward their environment: instead of being concerned solely with survival and practical needs, the Greeks acquired interest in systematic and universal knowledge that transcended any immediate application to their own, localized situation. Notes 1 Edmund Husserl, Phenomenology and the Crisis of Philosophy, trans. Quentin Lauer (New York: Harper and Row, 1965), p. 71. Hereafter cited as PCP.