Hegel’s Germany

I. Crisis of German Enlightenment

• Frederick II, King of Prussia, dies in 1786, replaced by Frederick III, who imposes restrictions on freedom of press and religious thought

• Same year Lessing’s confessed Spinozism fuels charge that enlightenment rationalism leads to atheism and fatalism

• Kant’s dualisms can’t be synthesized

II. Reaction to French Revolution and Napoleon’s victorious invasion