Historian, essayist, and sage, Thomas Carlyle was one of most influential writers of Victorian England. He was born in a small village in Scotland, and was educated in Edinburgh, studying the classics and German. After leaving university, he started to write magazine articles, many on modern German literature. He then started to write longer pieces, including Sartor Resartus, his commentary on life, a history of the French Revolution, and many studies of heroes and strong leaders. Though often accused, rightly, of being undemocratic, Carlyle's writing attempts to invigorate the human soul and elevate the spirit.