**Young Germany**, a group of German writers during the pre-1848 period. Reacted strongly against perceived apolitical and reactionary tendencies in German Romanticism. Several, including Heinrich Laube, Karl Gutzkow, Heinrich Heine, and Georg Herwegh, were known personally to Wagner; others include Ludwig Börne, Theodor Mundt, Ludolf Wienbarg, and Georg Büchner. In 1835, the German Confederation proscribed many such writings as injurious to the Christian religion and morality; Laube’s subsequent imprisonment made a great impression upon Wagner. According to Heine (*Die romantische Schule*), *Young Germans*, unlike Goethe and the Romantics, treated life and literature as one; as for Wagner, this signaled revival of the Hellenic spirit following Christian aberration. Wagner published articles in Laube’s Leipzig-based *Zeitung für die elegante Welt*, including his *Autobiographical Sketch* (1842), where Wagner likens *Das Liebesverbot* to Laube’s *Young Europe* in their “victory of free sensualism over puritanical hypocrisy.” *Young German* influence may be traced throughout Wagner’s dramatic oeuvre, especially *Tannhäuser*.

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