

Cf. Philip Thody, Jean-Paul Sartre, A Literary & Pol. Study

COMMUNISM AND THE FRENCH LEFT by Chas. A. Micaud, Praeger, 1963

The author has a good understanding of Fr. intellectuals, thus Malraux when he was Communist fellow traveller, p. 58 "not in an intellectual conversion to Marxist dogma but rather in collective adventure," then (p. 59 he quotes Malraux's introd. to Le Temps du Mepris: "For the last 50 yrs. the his. of artistic sensitivity in Fr. could be called the agony of virile fraternity. Its real enemy is an unformulated individualism spread throughout the 19th c.; it is born much less of the will to create the full man than of the fanatical desire to be different. It is an individualism of artists preoccupied, above all, with safeguarding the inner world, and which is justified only when it applies to the realm of feelings & dreams... The individual opposes himself to the collectivity, yet is nourished by it; what is important is not so much to know what he is opposed to, but to know what nourishes him... In the eyes of Kassner & of many Communist intellectuals, Communism gives back to the individual his fertility" Again, p. 62: "Like Malraux, Sartre started from the nihilistic assumption of the absurdity of existence now that man had freed himself of religious beliefs (Dieu est mort) & of transcendental values." (p. 63: "the acceptance of Marxism does not derive from a process of intellectual conversion, but from emotional SHOCK of revelation.")

(Key) Claude Bourdet & France-Observateur. In 1960 creation of PSU, only "new Left", whose young theoretician is Serge Mallet

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Intellectual emergence
of new group