

Book Reviews

Situating Sartre in Twentieth-Century Thought and Culture edited by Jean-François Fourny and Charles D. Minahen. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1997.

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This new collection of ten recent essays affirms Sartre's influence on critical movements within the last twenty years. A comprehensive volume in itself, it includes essays that re-examine Sartre's importance in fields such as psychoanalysis, literature and philosophy. The editors aim to update and widen the study of Sartre in order to demonstrate that the works of Jean-Paul Sartre remain relevant throughout the twentieth century.

In his introduction, Jean-François Fourny reminds us that Sartre continues to be one of the most studied French authors in the world. At the same time, he points out the evolution of the Sartrean subject from its thirty-year old predecessor. As biography and autobiography have again come into fashion, one notices that the scholar tends to focus on Sartre's unfinished autobiography and a number of correspondence.

The first essay presented explores *Le Scénario Freud*, a screenplay written for John Houston's film, *Freud: The Secret Passion*. The essay's author, Rhiannon Goldthorpe, shows that through close examination, one can trace Sartre's intellectual development which occurred during its composition, thus forcing the reader to re-evaluate the screenplay's significance. In another insightful essay, George Bauer examines Sartre's fiction, his philosophical writings and his personal diaries to reveal that his elaborate use of food suggests his feelings and opinions on homosexuality.

The final essay by Philip Wood investigates Sartre's influence by evaluating his successors, structuralism and post-structuralism.

Fourny and Minahen succeed in their effort to update and expand studies on Sartre. By presenting essays from such diverse perspectives, one is forced to reconsider both the importance and the impact of Sartre's works on today's criticism. This book follows a pseudo-chronological pattern by beginning with an essay which highlights Sartre's intellectual development and by ending with an essay focusing on the intellectual developments after him, thus compelling the twentieth-century scholar to rediscover his or her roots.

If looking for one particular work referred to in any of the essays, the editors have provided a wonderful index of both names and titles. If seeking to dive further into the study of Sartre, a works cited for all of the essays has also been supplied. *Situating Sartre in Twentieth-Century Thought and Culture* is a valuable addition to both personal and institutional libraries.

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