

participation" to appeal to, we are left with the specter of arbitrariness that has haunted so much recent building.

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**McBRIDE, WILLIAM L.** *Sartre's Political Theory*. Bloomington, In.: Indiana University Press, 1991, 246 pp. ISBN 0-253-33621-X

"Jean-Paul Sartre died in 1980 in his seventy-fifth year, having spent the better part of the last decade of his life in a painfully debilitated condition, unable to read and often afflicted by other maladies typical of the less fortunate aged. Since then, there has been a revival of interest in him, fueled in part by the posthumous publication of a number of Sartrean manuscripts, as well as by the appearance of the first comprehensive Sartre biography and of a number of other significant studies of aspects of his life, of his thought, or of both considered together; this book itself will, I hope, be a contribution to that revival. As one would anticipate under such circumstances, new images of Sartre have begun to emerge and proliferate.

... The label that I have chosen to focus the object of this study is Sartre's political theory, or political philosophy, or political thought; for present purposes I am not distinguishing among those terms. In fact I could with equal accuracy have denominated this a study in Sartre's 'social theory' or 'social and political theory,' terms for which I myself have a preference. But 'political theory' is the older and still more familiar expression, and one of my purposes in examining these aspects of Sartre's thought here is to demonstrate some of the many ways in which, in dealing as

he does with questions concerning the nature of society and history in an often unfamiliar, sometimes even eccentric, vocabulary, Sartre is nevertheless reconsidering some of the issues that have dominated Western philosophical thought about political life from the pre-socratics and Plato onward.

... What are the central themes that the reader may expect to see emerging from this study? Sometimes the most obvious answer to a question of this sort is the wisest. At the time of this return from a German prisoner-of-war camp during the Occupation period, Sartre organized a short-lived Resistance group, devoted primarily to writing activities, that called itself 'Socialism and Freedom'. These twin notions, both subject to the most important keys to the entire range of Sartre's political thought. If one of the two has a lexical priority, it is freedom."

From the "Introduction" to *Sartre's Political Theory*.

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## ANNONCES ET NOUVELLES

### FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

The International Society for Phenomenology and Literature announces

I. XVIIth Annual Conference of the International Society for Phenomenology and Literature

DATE: April 9, 10, 11, 1992

PLACE: Cronkhite Graduate Center, 6 Ash Street,  
Cambridge MA