



ARK

HERBERT MARCUSE

EROS AND CIVILISATION

A PHILOSOPHICAL INQUIRY INTO FREUD





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A PHILOSOPHICAL INQUIRY INTO FREUD

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Reading

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EROS AND CIVILIZATION A PHILOSOPHICAL INQUIRY INTO FREUD

In this stimulating introduction to the philosophical aspects of Freud's ideas, Herbert Marcuse takes as his starting-point Freud's statement that civilization is based on the permanent subjugation of the human instincts. The methodical sacrifice of libido, and its rigid deflection to socially useful activities and expressions, is the basis of western civilization – especially its negative aspects and its repressive tendencies.

But, as Marcuse shows, Freud's own theory provides reasons for rejecting his identification of civilization with repression. Marcuse therefore applies the insights of Freud's speculative later work – his 'metapsychology': his theory of the instincts, his reconstruction of the prehistory of mankind – to an interpretation of the basic trends of civilization, stressing the philosophical and sociological implications of Freudian concepts.

HERBERT MARCUSE

Herbert Marcuse (1898-1979) was born and educated in Berlin. In 1934 he left Nazi Germany, and took refuge in the USA, where he taught at Columbia University. He then held appointments at Harvard, Brandeis and the University of California at San Diego, becoming known in the 1960s as the official ideologue of 'campus revolutions' in the USA and Europe. His books include *Reason and Revolution* (1941), *Soviet Marxism* (1958) and *One-Dimensional Man* (1964).

WRITTEN IN MEMORY OF

SOPHIE MARCUSE

1901-1951

Preface

This essay employs psychological categories because they have become political categories. The traditional borderlines between psychology on the one side and political and social philosophy on the other have been made obsolete by the condition of man in the present era: formerly autonomous and identifiable psychical processes are being absorbed by the function of the individual in the state — by his public existence. Psychological problems therefore turn into political problems: private disorder reflects more directly than before the disorder of the whole, and the cure of personal disorder depends more directly than before on the cure of the general disorder. The era tends to be totalitarian even where it has not produced totalitarian states. Psychology could be elaborated and practiced as a special discipline as long as the psyche could sustain itself against the public power, as long as privacy was real, really desired, and self-shaped; if the individual has neither the ability nor the possibility to be for himself, the terms of psychology become the terms of the societal forces which define the psyche. Under these circumstances, applying psychology in the analysis of social and political events means taking an approach which has been vitiated by these very events. The

task is rather the opposite: to develop the political and sociological substance of the psychological notions.

I have tried to reformulate certain basic questions and to follow them in a direction not yet fully explored. I am aware of the tentative character of this inquiry and hope to discuss some of the problems, especially those of an aesthetic theory, more adequately in the near future.

The ideas developed in this book were first presented in a series of lectures at the Washington School of Psychiatry in 1950-51. I wish to thank Mr. Joseph Borkin of Washington, who encouraged me to write this book. I am deeply grateful to Professors Clyde Kluckhohn and Barrington Moore, Jr., of Harvard University, and to Doctors Henri and Yela Loewenfeld of New York, who have read the manuscript and offered valuable suggestions and criticism. For the content of this essay, I take the sole responsibility. As to my theoretical position, I am indebted to my friend Professor Max Horkheimer and to his collaborators at the Institute of Social Research, now in Frankfurt.

H. M.



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LES LIAISONS DANGEREUSES

'Even today *Les Liaisons* remain the one French novel that gives us an impression of danger: it seems to require a label on its cover reserving it for external use only.' – Jean Giraudoux

A great sensation at the time of first publication, with readers attempting to identify the real-life originals of the novel's characters, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* reads as much the most 'modern' of eighteenth-century novels. It shows two experienced 'libertines', planning together to seduce two innocent characters whose lives they thus destroy. A married woman is also seduced and then abandoned as part of the game.

Brilliantly observed and vividly rendered in the letters which make up the novel, the characters take on a life of their own. Laclos lays bare layer after layer of their souls until we know them intimately. The novel is, as Richard Aldington writes in the Introduction, 'a tragic story well told, with a subtlety of psychological analysis not unworthy of a countryman of Stendhal, Flaubert and Balzac.'

PIERRE AMBROISE FRANCOIS CHODERLOS DE LACLOS

Born in Amiens in 1741, Pierre Ambroise François Choderlos de Laclos entered the army at the age of eighteen and spent the next twenty years in various garrison towns without ever seeing battle. In 1779 he was sent to the island of Aix to assist in building a fort, and there wrote *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*. In 1786 he married Marie-Soulange Duperré and became an exemplary husband and father. He left the army in 1788, entered politics and was twice imprisoned during the Reign of Terror. He returned to the army as a general under Napoleon in 1800, and died at his post in Taranto, Italy, in 1803.

Laclos also wrote a treatise on the education of women and another on Vauban, but it is for *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, his single masterpiece, that he is remembered.



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A HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH PEOPLE IN 1815

Elie Halévy's *A History of the English People*, the first volume of which appeared in Paris in 1912 and 1913, is regarded as a classic by historians of the nineteenth century. Published in six volumes, the *History* is now being reissued in paperback, beginning with Volume 1, *A History of the English People in 1815*.

Asa Briggs writes in the Foreword: 'This new edition deserves to be widely read, for now, just as much as when it first appeared, the *History* raises fundamental questions both about "England", a term which for Halévy included Wales, Scotland and Ireland, and about "history" as a discipline. ... *A History of the English People in 1815* deals in three parts with the constitution and political institutions, economic life, and religion and culture. The sweep is impressive, the rich detail always illuminating. This is a superb study of inter-related structures. ... History becomes not only a living subject, with the perspectives always changing, but an analytical study which tests the critical intelligence as much as it stimulates the imagination.'

ELIE HALEVY

Born in 1870, Elie Halévy studied at the Ecole Normale Supérieure, where he became the close friend of the philosopher Alain. He first visited England in 1892, staying in London, Oxford and Cambridge, and going on to Ireland. During this visit, the first of what were to become annual events, he met Henry James, heard General Booth, leader of the Salvation Army, and went to the House of Commons, where he heard speeches by Gladstone, Balfour and Joseph Chamberlain.

For almost 40 years, from 1898 onwards, Halévy gave a course of lectures on British political ideas at the Ecole des Sciences Politiques in Paris. Apart from the classic *History of the English People*, Halévy's books include *The Growth of Philosophic Radicalism* and *Era of Tyrannies*, a collection of essays. He died in 1937.



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THE GREAT WAR 1914-1918

In this brilliant book, already a modern classic, the renowned French historian Marc Ferro explains why the war of 1914-1918 was unique in human history. For him it is THE GREAT WAR. He shows how a set of separate but connected conflicts – from the mud of Flanders to the empty plains of Russia, a war fought under the ocean in submarines, as well as in the steamy heat of East Africa – formed a new style of war. He shows a conflict which engulfed the whole world, directly or indirectly. Ferro reveals how statesmen unwittingly loosed uncontrollable social forces, like nationalism and religious hatred, onto the world in an effort to win; no other book is so broad in its sweep or so incisive in its judgments.

‘... written with great verve, a remarkable gift for concise statement of complicated issues, and a command of telling detail. It not only covers the principal events of the War, diplomatic and military, but also introduces a social dimension that is rarely found in such works.’
– Norman Stone, *TES*

‘... a work of genius ... succeeds supremely well in reflecting a new understanding of the nature of war.’ – Arthur Marwick, *THES*

MARC FERRO

Marc Ferro is Co-Director of *Annales* and Director of Studies at the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes in Paris. His other books include *The Russian Revolution of 1917: The Fall of Tsarism* and *The Use and Abuse of History: How the Past is Taught*.



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OUT OF BATTLE THE POETRY OF THE GREAT WAR

'Should find a permanent place in the literature dealing with the Great War' – *New Statesman*

'How stimulative of ever-fresh speculation is Jon Silkin's logically developed exploration, sometimes impassioned and often exciting.' – *The Times*

Out of Battle is a poet's book, distinguished by the same qualities as Jon Silkin's poetry: a profound compassion and concern with the roots of human experience. No other book on this subject – central to the mythology of the twentieth century – ranges so widely or probes so deeply the responses and achievements of the 'war poets' – Hardy, Kipling, Rupert Brooke, Edmund Blunden, Charles Sorley, Edward Thomas, Ivor Gurney, Siegfried Sassoon, Herbert Read, Richard Aldington, Ford Madox Ford, Wilfred Owen, Isaac Rosenberg and David Jones.

JON SILKIN

Well-known as a poet and from his poetry readings in the UK and the USA, Jon Silkin is also the founder and co-editor (with Lorna Tracy and John Wardle) of *Stand Magazine*, the quarterly of new writing. His most recently published volumes of poetry are *Selected Poems* (1980), *The Psalms with their Spoils* (1980) and *The Ship's Pasture* (1986), all published by Routledge & Kegan Paul. Apart from his poetry, Jon Silkin has written *Gurney: A Play in Verse* (Iron Press, 1985), and is the editor of *The Penguin Book of First World War Poetry* (Penguin, 1979), *Wilfred Owen: The Poems* (Penguin, 1985) and (as co-editor with Jon Glover) *The Penguin Book of First World War Prose* (Penguin, 1987).

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JOHN DEE
THE WORLD OF AN ELIZABETHAN MAGUS

'A remarkable book.'

– Hugh Trevor-Roper, *Sunday Times*

'This scholarly book, based on impressive original research...'

– Frances Yates, *New York Review of Books*

John Dee was Renaissance England's first Hermetic magus, a philosopher-magician. He was also a respected practical scientist, an immensely learned man who investigated all areas of knowledge. In this fine biography, Peter French shows that not only magic and science, but geography, antiquarianism, theology and the fine arts were fields in which Dee was deeply involved.

Through his teaching, writing and friendships with many of the most important figures of the age, Dee was at the centre of great affairs and had a profound influence on major developments in sixteenth-century England. Peter French places this extraordinary individual within his proper historical context, describing the whole world of Renaissance science, Platonism and Hermetic magic.

PETER FRENCH

Peter French was born in New Jersey and lived most of this life in New England. He studied at the University of Dijon and at the Institute of Historical Research at the University of London, and died in 1976.



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PSYCHOLOGY AND THE OCCULT

Over his long career, Jung maintained a compelling interest in occult phenomena as a subject of psychological concern. His very first publication, in 1902, was a psychiatric study of a medium, and his letters and autobiography frequently comment on parapsychological phenomena. This book brings together Jung's writing on the occult, beginning in 1902 and concluding in 1960, the year before his death. Included is the text of a public lecture 'On Spiritualist Phenomena', in which he surveyed the history and psychology of the subject in America and Europe, and told of his experience in investigating eight mediums in Zürich.

C G JUNG

C G Jung (1875-1961), the Swiss psychiatrist and founder of Analytical Psychology, was an original thinker who made an immense contribution to the understanding of the human mind. In his early years he was a lecturer in psychiatry at the University of Zürich and collaborated with Sigmund Freud. He gave up teaching to devote himself to his private practice in psychiatry and to research. He travelled widely and was a prolific author, often writing on subjects other than analytical psychology, such as mythology, alchemy, flying saucers and the problem of time. Jung was also responsible for defining such influential and widely-used terms as the Collective Unconscious, Extraversion/Introversion and Archetypes.

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