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MAJOR EUROPEAN AUTHORS

SARTRE THE NECESSITY OF FREEDOM

This book is a comprehensive study of the writings of Jean-Paul Sartre. As well as examining the drama and the fiction, the book analyses the evolution of his philosophy, explores his concern with ethics, psychoanalysis, literary theory, and biography and autobiography, and includes a lengthy section on the still much-neglected study of Flaubert, *L'Idiot de la famille*. One important aim of the book is to rebut the charges made by many recent theorists and philosophers by revealing that Sartre is in fact a major source for concepts such as the decentred subject and detotalized truth, and for the revolt against individualistic humanism. Dr Howells also takes into account much posthumously published material, in particular the *Cahiers pour une morale*, but also the *Lettres au Castor* and the *Carnets de la drôle de guerre*.

The work is a substantial contribution to Sartre studies, but has been written with the non-specialist in mind; to that end all quotations are translated into English and gathered in an appendix.

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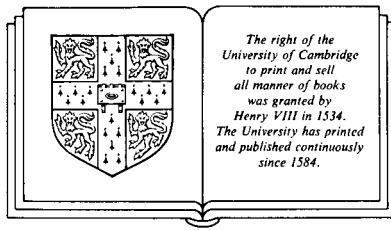
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General preface to the series

This series was initiated within the Cambridge University Press in the late 1960s, as an at first untitled collection of general critical studies. For convenience it was referred to inside the Press as ‘the Major European Authors series’, and once the prejudice against the useful cliché ‘major’ was overcome, the phrase became the official title.

The series was meant to be informal and flexible, and when the books are commissioned no strict guidelines are imposed. The aim has always been to provide critical studies which can justifiably be given a title which starts with the name of the author and is then not too seriously qualified by the subtitle: therefore to be introductory, general and accessible. When the series started the general assumptions were ‘New Critical’; there was a strong disinclination to start from a biographical, or even from a more general literary–historical, approach. The general aim was and still is to address the works of the author directly as literature or drama, and to try to give a sense of the structure and effect of novels and poetry, or the way drama works with an audience. More specifically, writers of these studies guide the reader through the whole *œuvre*, being willing to make judgements about importance and quality by selecting which works to dwell on. Readers are helped to form direct impressions by being given liberal quotation and judicious analysis. Little prior knowledge is assumed; in some volumes quotation is entirely in English, and in others translations are given.

The aim is to keep classics of European literature alive and active in the minds of present-day readers; both those pursuing formal courses in literature and educated general readers – a class which still exists, though it is smaller than it ought to be.

Acknowledgements

A version of the second half of Chapter 6 appeared in the *Modern Language Review*, July 1979, vol. 74, no. 3; of Chapter 7 in *French Studies*, April 1979, vol. 33, no. 2; of Chapter 9 in the *Journal of the British Society of Phenomenology*, January 1982, vol. 13, no. 1. Material for Chapters 6 and 7 and the first half of Chapter 8 has been used in my previous study of Sartre: *Sartre's Theory of Literature*, M.H.R.A., 1979, and I am grateful for permission to reprint.

My thanks to the Warden and Fellows of Wadham College, Oxford, for the sabbatical leave which enabled me to finish this book, and for the maternity leave which allowed me to postpone its completion.

And thanks finally to Bernard, my husband, for his unstinting willingness to listen and discuss, for his encouragement, criticism and loving practical feminism; and to Marie-Elise and Dominic for putting the whole enterprise into perspective.

Abbreviations

<i>B</i>	<i>Baudelaire</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>Cahiers pour une morale</i>
<i>CRD</i>	<i>Critique de la raison dialectique</i>
<i>E</i>	<i>Esquisse d'une théorie des émotions</i>
<i>EH</i>	<i>L'Existentialisme est un humanisme</i>
<i>EN</i>	<i>L'Être et le Néant</i>
<i>I</i>	<i>L'Imaginaire</i>
<i>IF</i>	<i>L'Idiot de la famille</i>
<i>Im</i>	<i>L'Imagination</i>
<i>M</i>	<i>Les Mots</i>
<i>Mall</i>	<i>Mallarmé (Obliques 18–19)</i>
<i>MS</i>	<i>Les Mains sales</i>
<i>OR</i>	<i>Œuvres romanesques</i>
<i>SG</i>	<i>Saint Genet, comédien et martyr</i>
<i>Sit I–X</i>	<i>Situations, vols I–X</i>
<i>TE</i>	<i>La Transcendance de l'Ego</i>
<i>TS</i>	<i>Un Théâtre de situations</i>

References throughout are to the French edition.
 Translations are my own.

Chronological biography

- 1905 *21 June*. Birth of Jean-Paul-Charles-Aymard Sartre in Paris, 13, rue Mignard, XVI^e.
- 1906 Father dies.
- 1906–11 Lives with mother and grandparents in Meudon.
- 1911–15 Moves to Paris, 1, rue Le-Goff, v^e.
- 1913 Lycée Montaigne.
- 1915 Lycée Henri IV.
- 1917 Mother remarries (Joseph Mancy).
 The family moves to La Rochelle where Sartre is unhappy at school.
- 1920 Returns to Lycée Henri IV.
- 1921/2 Baccalauréat.
- 1922–4 Lycée Louis-Le-Grand to prepare entrance to Ecole Normale Supérieure.
- 1923 Publishes short story ‘L’Ange du morbide’ and several chapters of ‘Jésus la Chouette’ in *La Revue sans titre*.
- 1924–9 Ecole Normale Supérieure.
- 1928 Fails *agrégation*.
- 1929 Meets Simone de Beauvoir.
 Passes *agrégation* in first place, having reconciled himself to presenting more traditional philosophical ideas.
- 1929–31 Military service.
- 1931–6 Teaches philosophy at *lycée* in Le Havre. Starts first version of *La Nausée*.
- 1933–4 Obtains grant to study at the French Institute in Berlin where he discovers phenomenology, writes *La Transcendance de l’Ego* and a second version of *La Nausée*.
- 1935 Tries mescaline which produces depression and hallucinations.
- 1936 Publication of *L’Imagination* (Alcan).
 He and Simone de Beauvoir incorporate Olga Kosakiewicz into their life together to form a *ménage*

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- à trois*. Its failure is recounted in de Beauvoir's novel *L'Invitée*.
 Gallimard refuse *Melancolia (La Nausée)*.
- 1936–7 Teaches in Laon.
- 1937 *La Nausée* accepted by Gallimard after some pressure.
- 1937–9 Teaches in Lycée Pasteur in Paris.
- 1938 Writes *La Psyché* from which *L'Esquisse d'une théorie des émotions* is drawn.
 Publication of *La Nausée*.
- 1939 Publication of *Le Mur* and *L'Esquisse*.
 Conscripted on 2 September to 70th Division in Nancy, later transferred to Brumath and then Morsbronn. Meanwhile working on *L'Age de raison* and *L'Etre et le Néant*.
- 1940 Publication of *L'Imaginaire*.
 Prix du Roman Populiste for *Le Mur*.
 Imprisoned in Padoux, then Nancy, then Stalag XII D in Trèves.
 Teaches Heidegger to fellow-prisoners.
 Writes and directs *Bariona* in prisoner-of-war camp.
- 1941 Obtains his freedom from prisoner-of-war camp by dint of posing as a civilian.
 Finds a short-lived intellectual Resistance group, Socialisme et Liberté, with Merleau-Ponty.
 Teaches in Lycée Condorcet until 1944.
- 1943 Publication of *Les Mouches* and *L'Etre et le Néant*.
 Writes articles of literary criticism on, amongst others, Camus, Blanchot and Bataille.
- 1944 Meets Genet.
 Sets up editorial board for *Les Temps modernes*.
- 1945 Publication of *Huis clos*, *L'Age de raison*, *Le Sursis*.
 Refuses Legion of Honour.
 Goes to the United States as a special representative of *Combat* (Camus's journal) and *Le Figaro*, and again later in the year to give a series of lectures in American universities.
 The first number of *Les Temps modernes* appears.
 Gives the (in)famous lecture on 'L'Existentialisme est un humanisme'. This is at the start of the great vogue for existentialism and of Sartre's notoriety.
- 1946 Publication of *L'Existentialisme est un humanisme*, *Morts sans sépulture*, *La Putain respectueuse*, *Réflexions sur la question juive*, *Les Jeux sont faits*.

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- 1947 First quarrel with Camus.
 Publication of *Situations I, Baudelaire, Théâtre I. Qu'est-ce que la littérature?* is serialized in *Les Temps modernes*.
- 1948 Publication of *Les Mains sales, Situations II, L'Engrenage*.
 Participates in the founding of the Rassemblement Démocratique Révolutionnaire (R.D.R.)
 The Catholic Church puts all Sartre's works on the Index.
 Sartre is working on his *Morale* and a long study of Mallarmé (parts of both will be published posthumously).
- 1949 Publication of *La Mort dans l'âme, Situations III, Entretiens sur la politique*.
 Disaffection with and abandonment of R.D.R.
 Controversy with Mauriac.
 Visits Guatemala, Panama, Curaçao, Haiti, Cuba and Havana.
- 1950/1 Publication of *Le Diable et le Bon Dieu* (1951). Studies history and economy and rereads Marx.
 Part of the study of Genet is published in *Les Temps modernes*.
 Sartre and Merleau-Ponty denounce the Soviet concentration camps.
 Travels in Sahara and Black Africa.
 Significant differences of opinion with Merleau-Ponty over the Korean war.
- 1952–5 Publication of *Saint Genet, comédien et martyr* (1952), *Kean* (1954).
 For the next four years Sartre's concerns are primarily political; he writes *Les Communistes et la paix*; signs a manifesto against the Cold War; forbids a production of *Les Mains sales* in Vienna; speaks on behalf of the peace movement; visits Heidegger; protests against the execution of the Rosenbergs (1953); participates in an extraordinary meeting of the World Council for Peace in Berlin (1954); visits the Soviet Union and describes his experiences there in *Libération* and *L'Unità*; is named vice-president of the France–U.S.S.R. association; visits China (1955); returns to the Soviet Union.
- 1956 Publication of *Nekrassov*.

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- The Soviet intervention in Hungary is condemned by Sartre who leaves the France–U.S.S.R. association, writes *Le Fantôme de Staline* and produces a special number of *Les Temps modernes* devoted to the Hungarian question.
- 1957 Begins writing the *Critique de la raison dialectique*. Protests against the Algerian war and torture.
- 1958–9 Writes a commentary on Henri Alleg's *La Question* for *L'Express* and the journal is seized. Various subsequent issues of *Les Temps modernes* are also seized. Participates in demonstrations against de Gaulle; speaks at an anti-fascist rally; gives a press conference on the violation of human rights in Algeria.
- 1960–6 Publication of *Les Séquestrés d'Altona* and *Critique de la raison dialectique*. Visits Cuba, meets Castro and Che Guevara.
 Gives lecture on theatre in the Sorbonne.
 Visits Yugoslavia, meets Tito, gives a lecture in Belgrade.
 Participates in further debates on Algeria, signs manifestos, gives press conferences.
- 1962 Further political activity. Visits Poland and the Soviet Union; meets Khrushchev.
 John Huston's film *Freud* is released. Sartre's scenario has been changed and he withdraws his name from the titles.
- 1963 Publication of *Les Mots*.
 Participates in political press conferences, gives an anti-apartheid lecture, visits Czechoslovakia.
- 1964 Publication of *Situations IV, V and VI*.
 Speaks at U.N.E.S.C.O. Kierkegaard conference and at Conference on Ethics in Gramsci Institute in Rome. Is awarded and refuses the Nobel Prize (about £25,000).
- 1965 Publication of *Situations VII, Les Troyennes*.
 Refuses to lecture in Cornell University in States.
 Visits the U.S.S.R.
 Supports Mitterrand as presidential candidate.
- 1966 Publishes extracts from his study of Flaubert in *Les Temps modernes*.
 Joins the Russell Tribunal investigating American war crimes in Vietnam.

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- 1967 Gives series of lectures in Japan.
 Lectures in Egypt, meets Nasser, visits refugee camps.
 Travels in Israel in a less formal capacity.
 Correspondence with de Gaulle over the Russell Tribunal.
 Sartre and Aragon refuse to participate in the Tenth Congress of Soviet Writers in protest against the Sinyavsky–Daniel trial.
 Supports Israel over opening of the Gulf of Aqaba.
 Gives lecture on Vietnam in Brussels.
- 1968 Supports student movement in May uprising.
 Accuses Communist Party of betraying the May revolution.
 Condemns intervention of Soviet troops in Czechoslovakia.
- 1969 Sartre's mother dies.
 Protests against expulsion of 34 students from University of Paris.
 Asks for release of Régis Debray.
 Gives T.V. interview on Vietnam War.
- 1970 Signs declaration on Biafra.
 Takes over as editor of *La Cause du peuple*, whose previous two editors have been imprisoned.
 Meets Pierre Victor, with whom he later collaborates in ethical discussions.
 Participates in founding of Secours Rouge.
 Is made nominal director of several minor publications of the extreme Left.
 Blames the State as employer for fatal accidents at Lens colliery.
- 1971 Publication of *L'Idiot de la famille*, vols I and II.
 Has mild heart attack.
 Supports a hunger strike in favour of political prisoners. Participates in abortive occupation of Sacré Cœur.
 Breaks off relations with Cuba over Padilla affair.
 Demonstrates against racism.
 Signs petition asking for right to emigrate for Soviet citizens.
- 1972 Publication of *Situations VIII* and *IX* and of *L'Idiot de la famille*, vol. III.
 Start of film on his life and works by Astruc and Con-

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- tat. Disaffection with over-simple line of class-hatred of *La Cause du peuple*.
 Agrees to edit new daily paper, *Libération*.
 1973 Further, more serious heart attack.
 Moves from boulevard Raspail to bd Edgar-Quinet.
 Semi-blindness after two haemorrhages in his good eye.
 Pierre Victor reads to Sartre who can no longer see sufficiently well.
 Takes side of Israel in war of Yom Kippur.
 1974 Publication of *On a raison de se révolter*.
 Abstains in presidential elections.
 Gives up editorship of various left-wing journals on health grounds.
 Meets Marcuse for discussion about the situation of the intellectual.
 Starts autobiographical dialogues on tape with S. de Beauvoir.
 With three others Sartre prepares a series of television programmes on the last seventy years of history. The project is never produced.
 Dissociates from U.N.E.S.C.O. as a protest in defence of the State of Israel.
 Goes to Stuttgart to meet the terrorist A. Baader and denounces his conditions of imprisonment.
 1975 Visits Portugal.
 Signs petitions condemning Soviet repression.
 In an interview with M. Contat declares himself in favour of 'libertarian socialism'.
 Decides to reduce his public activities and spend more time on the preparation for the book on ethics, *Pouvoir et liberté*, with Pierre Victor.
 1976 Publication of *Situations X*.
Sartre par lui-même (film) appears.
 Accepts doctorate from University of Jerusalem.
 Signs various political petitions and articles.
 1977 Publication of *Sartre* – text of the film.
 Takes up position against the 'nouveaux philosophes', and also declares 'Je ne suis plus Marxiste' (in an interview in *Lotta continua*).
 Calls on Israel to respond to President Sadat's peace initiative.

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- 1978 Goes to Israel to try to further the peace initiative.
 Participates in film on S. de Beauvoir.
 Appeals for return to France of D. Cohn-Bendit.
- 1979 Participates in Israeli–Palestinian conference organized by *Les Temps modernes* in Foucault's house. Extract from *Mallarmé* appears in *Obliques*.
 Participates in press conference for Boat People from Vietnam.
- 1980 Continues interviews with Pierre Victor.
 Supports boycott of Olympic Games in Moscow.
 20 March. Hospitalized for oedema of the lungs.
 13 April goes into a coma and dies on 15 April.
 19 April. Funeral procession from hospital to cemetery of Montparnasse where his ashes are buried.

Further biographical details may be obtained from the seventy-page chronology introducing the Pléiade edition of Sartre's *Œuvres romanesques; Les Ecrits de Sartre*, ed. M. Contat and M. Rybalka; F. Jeanson, *Sartre dans sa vie*, Seuil, 1974; S. de Beauvoir, *La Force de l'âge, La Force des choses, Tout Compte fait, La Cérémonie des adieux*; A. Cohen-Solal, *Sartre 1905–1980*; R. Hayman, *Writing Against: A Biography of Sartre*, 1986.