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978-0-521-47213-5 - Genealogies of the Text: Literature, Psychoanalysis, and
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Jeffrey Mehlman

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In this book, which includes a substantial new introduction and several unpublished essays, Jeffrey Mehlman confronts the politically devastating resonances of the work of several leading French writers. The essays focus on the series of enigmas surrounding the “Blanchot affair” – a scandal provoked by Mehlman’s revelation in 1980 that Maurice Blanchot, one of the tutelary figures of contemporary French thought, had in the 1930s been a prominent fascist journalist. Mehlman takes the issue of Blanchot’s forgotten political essays deep into the most revered – and misunderstood – of his novels, *L’Arrêt de mort*. Using this affair as a point of departure, Mehlman sheds new light on the question of the usability of psychoanalysis for literary readings (examining, for example, Mallarmé, Valéry, and Proust); he also investigates the ideological and political connotations of similar literary and theoretical material. The volume as a whole provides a consistently provocative meditation on literature, ethics, and the experience of the French in World War II.

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Literature, psychoanalysis, and politics in modern France

JEFFREY MEHLMAN

*Professor of French Literature
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*For Alicia
for Natalia and Ezra*

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