

where the content of the thoughts is more important than the conditions of their production." Mona Ozouf, *Le Nouvel observateur*.

Pierre Manent is director of studies at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales in Paris and coeditor of the journal *La Pensée Politique*.

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RENAUT, ALAIN. *The Era of the Individual: Contribution to a History of Subjectivity*. Translated by M. B. DeBevoise and Franklin Philip. Foreword by Alexander Nehamas. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1997. Pp 290. ISBN 0-691-00637-7.

With the publication of *French Philosophy of the Sixties*, Alain Renaut and Luc Ferry in 1985 launched their famous critique against canonical figures such as Foucault, Derrida, and Lacan, bringing under rigorous scrutiny the entire post-structuralist project that had dominated Western intellectual life for over two decades. Their goal was to defend the accomplishments of liberalism to an "antihumanism" inherited mainly from Heidegger. In *The Era of the Individual*, widely hailed as Renaut's *magnum opus*, the author explores the most salient features of post-structuralism: the elimination of the human subject. At the root of this thinking lies the belief that humans cannot know or control their basic natures, a premise that led to Heidegger's distrust of an individualistic, capitalist modern society and that allied him briefly with Hitler's National Socialist Party. While acknowledging some of Heidegger's misgivings toward modernity as legitimate, Renaut argues that it is nevertheless wrong to equate modernity with the triumph of individualism. Here he distinguishes between individualism and subjectivity and, by offering a history of the two, powerfully dangerous, reductionist views of humanity.

Alain Renaut, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Caen and cofounder of the Collège de Philosophie, is among the foremost representatives of liberal humanism in France today.

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VENUTI, LAWRENCE. *The Translator's Invisibility*. London and New York: Routledge, 1995. Pp. 353. ISBN 0-415-11538-8

*The Translator's Invisibility* traces the history of translation from the seventeenth century to the present day. It presents a fascinating and

comprehensive account of how fluency prevailed over other translation strategies to shape the canon of foreign literatures in English.

Lawrence Venuti locates alternative translation theories and practices in British, American and European cultures. *The Translator's Invisibility* is an indispensable explanation of the way in which translation can be studied and practiced as a locus of difference. It will make illuminating and helpful reading for students of translation at all levels.

Lawrence Venuti, Professor of English at Temple University, Philadelphia, has been a professional translator for the past fifteen years.

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GENETTE, GERARD. *The Work of Art: Immanence and Transcendence*. Translated by G.M. Goshgarian. Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 1996. Pp. 256. ISBN 0-8014-8272-0.

What art is--its very nature--is the subject of this book by one of the most distinguished continental theorists writing today. *The Work of Art* seeks to discover, explain, and define how art exists and how it works. To this end, Gérard Genette explores the distinction between a work of art's immanence, its physical presence, and transcendence, the experience it induces.

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HOTTOIS, GILBERT. *De la Renaissance à la Postmodernité: Une histoire de la philosophie moderne et contemporaine*. Collection Le Point Philosophique dirigée par Daniel Giovannangeli. Paris, Bruxelles: De Boeck & Larcier, 1997, Pp. 492. ISBN 2-8041-2444-4.

Cette histoire de la philosophie, claire et documentée, conduit le lecteur de la fin du Moyen Age au seuil du XXI<sup>e</sup> siècle. Après un rappel substantiel des figures classiques - de Bruno et Bacon à Kant, Hegel et Marx -, l'ouvrage entreprend de combler un vide important. Il n'existe guère en effet d'histoire accordant autant d'attention à la philosophie de la seconde moitié de notre siècle et aux grands problèmes contemporains qui l'interprètent. Privilégiant l'étude de la philosophie en liaison avec l'évolution des sciences, des techniques, des éthiques et des politiques, l'ouvrage ne perd jamais de vue le contexte historique du développement de notre civilisation multiculturelle et technoscientifique. Il introduit d'une