

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

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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