
André Malraux

A Condição Humana

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Author: André Malraux

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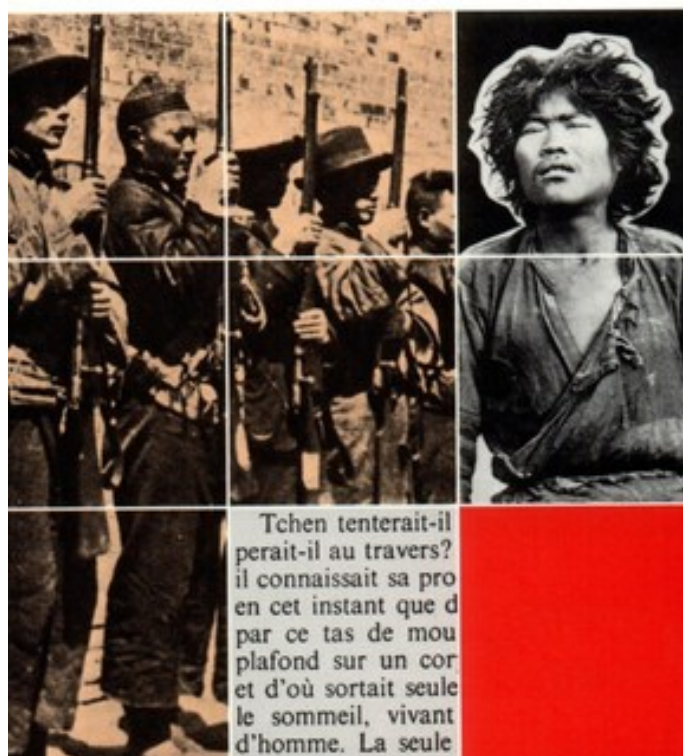
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Description

China, março de 1927. Um homem corroído pela amargura. Um país sacudido por uma insurreição. Atrás de fachadas insuspeitas de cidades sufocadas por riquixás, automóveis e bondes, fumaça de carvão, excrementos e suores de brancos e amarelos, homens planejam uma revolução, muitos divididos entre a culpa e a ideologia. Publicado em 1933, este livro de André Malraux é um relato dos acontecimentos que deram início à Revolução Chinesa. Um depoimento pessoal sobre um dos momentos históricos mais dramáticos do século XX. Neste clássico da literatura mundial – estruturado como romance, mas escrito em tom de reportagem – as questões morais, intelectuais e políticas estão em primeiro plano, e os personagens representam valores e formas de ação.

Insightful reviews

L.S.: My Review through <http://liftingshadows.wordpress.com/2...>

Am terminat de citit *Conditia umana* a lui Malraux (vezi aici coperta). :D Trebuie sa recunosc ca lectura mi s-a parut greoaie in prima parte... dar lucrurile s-au fluidizat pe parcurs, totul terminandu-se in ton cu seninatatea lui Gisors. Am avut sentimentul ca ceea ce scrie autorul nu este deajuns pentru a intelege suficient contextul socio-economic si politic in care se desfasoara actiunea, dar imi parea ca eram provocat la a face investigatii de natura jurnalistica. Una peste alta cred ca este o carte monumentala. Absurditatea mortii lui Cen este unul dintre lucrurile care contribuie la asta.

Redau mai jos un fragment care mi-a placut in mod deosebit.

“- Credeți oare că poți cunoaște, într-adevăr cunoaște, pe cineva? Îl întreb? pe bătrân.

- Gândirea care vrea să descifreze ce se petrece într-o femeie este întotdeauna subminat? de erotism. Când dorești să cunoști o femeie, dorești –nu e așa?- de fapt fie să-o posezi, fie să te răzbiți pe ea. Cred că atunci când recurgi la spirit, încerci de fapt să contrabalansezi acest gând: cunoașterea unei ființe este un sentiment negativ. Sentimentul pozitiv, realitatea, este faptul că ne îngrozește ideea că vom rămâne întotdeauna stăniți ființelor pe care le iubim.

- Oare iubim vreodată cu adevărat?

- Numai timpul poate vindeca această angoasă. Nu poți niciodată cunoaște pe cineva, dar uneori încetăm să simțim că nu știm ce se petrece în sufletul altuia. A căuta să înțelegi, slujindu-te de inteligență, a cunoaște prin intermediul inteligenței, reprezintă doar o zadarnică ispită; și anume aceea de a elimina din construcția mintală elementul timp.

-Nu sunteți și dumneavoastră de părere că e o prostie, caracteristică de altfel speciei umane, ca să se sacrifice cineva pentru o idee, când știe că n-are decât o viață de trăit?

- Se întâmplă foarte rar ca un om să poată suporta – cum să spun?- propria condiție

uman?...<“Oamenii accept? s? doar? nesocotind propriile interese, pentru a justifica condi?ia uman?, punând la temelie via?ii demnitaea”>.

- În general oamenii nu se sinchisesc de putere. Ceea ce îi fascineaz?, de fapt, nu este puterea efectiv? ci iluzia c? pot ac?iona dup? bunul lor plac. Omul n-are chef s? guverneze. Are chef s? –i constrâng? pe semenii lui s? fac? ce vrea el. Vrea s? fie mai mult decât un om, în această lume a oamenilor. S? scape de condi?ia uman?. Nu dore?te s? fie puternic, ci atotputernic. Maladia himeric?, justificat? pe plan intelectual de dorin?a de putere, este de fapt dorin?a de a fi zeu. Orice om dore?te s? fie zeu...”

Wesley Blixt: This was my introduction to the notion of the "engaged man," and it was central (at the age of 22) to my developing sense of commitment to a revolution that now continues to recede from me. There was a sense, at the time, that our revolution would not ONLY foster social justice, but would usher in the age of a new humanity, and a new human. Communist Man would be unlike any other man. I comment now only because I have added to my list of 100 Best -- a stupid enterprise, I know, but kinda entertaining. Viva la guerra popular! Venceremos!

Todd: A gripping novel set just before, during, and after the 1927 Shanghai insurrection, this book offers an inside look at the lives of Communists in Shanghai. At points the dialogue between the characters could be difficult to follow, as sometimes the characters spoke asides to themselves, and it became easy to lose track of who said what in some of the more rapid-fire back-and-forth. That said, the dialogue was the highlight of the work, being incisive, witty, or poignant in various parts. Perhaps cliché to say about a French author like Malraux, the work is also very psychological. Malraux was clearly under the influence of [Friedrich Nietzsche](#) and focuses on characters imposing their wills upon on another, always seeking to control and possess.

Malraux does not do more than brush upon the suffering of the poor, focusing instead on the Communist cadres. Therefore, he does not evoke the same sympathy for them as other protest writers of this time, but he does give one an inside look at the mind, heart, and life of a revolutionary. To show that he does not only just understand Communism, one of the main characters is a French businessman. His coverage of that man's travails, especially his dealings with his fellow bankers and government ministers, shows also a deep understanding of the workings and dysfunctions of the crony capitalism in practice. Malraux's characters also deal with the growing phenomenon of nationalism and how that undermined the appeal of doctrinaire Communism, something that would certainly have been clearer to Malraux when he wrote the book (in 1934).

A friend recommended this work to me as being one of the three great social protest works of the 20th century, the other two being [The Grapes of Wrath](#) and [Fontamara](#). While I enjoyed this book and recommend it, I found it nowhere in the same class as the other two. Some reviewers complained about the translation of this work; while I found most of it to be smooth reading, there were points that became unusually stilted or formal (i.e., like the repeated use of the word "intercourse" instead of a wider variety of words meaning the same thing). My friend may have

read this in the original French, and that may explain my less complimentary assessment. Throughout the book, the idea of "man's fate" was indeed tossed about and discussed by the characters. Perhaps the most poignant version came at the end (don't read if you don't like spoilers!):

"You know the phrase: 'It takes nine months to make a man, and a single day to kill him.' We both know this as well as one can know it... May, listen: it does not take nine months, it takes fifty years to make a man, fifty years of sacrifice, of will, of...of so many things! And when this man is complete, when there is nothing left in him of childhood, nor of adolescence, when he is really a man--he is good for nothing but to die."

Isabelle: Ok, I learn this booklet twice! as soon as in highschool and as soon as final year. it's a masterpiece of French literature, admittedly! I didn't love it the 1st time I learn it, so I made a decision I might learn it again, now that I'm mature. I presumed I'd now have the wherewithal to "get it". Nah-ah!

Kingfan30: This began relatively promising, the innovations of a guy approximately to kill someone, I used to be intrigued to work out if he could pass forward or not. yet after that the tale misplaced it for me, I couldn't connect to the characters and located my brain drifting constantly. simply now not my kind of ebook I am afraid.

Marci Miller: I cannot end this book. I've got learn 40 pages yet I'm struggling. the tale turns out very good, however the translation (in Spanish) I'm interpreting turns out appalling. I'm giving five celebrity to offer the advantage of the doubt to Mr Malraux and never positioned other folks off which are analyzing it in different languages. The attention-grabbing half is that I've got performed a few googling and many humans turns out to imagine precisely like me--the translation into Spanish is too terrible and makes the publication unreadable. what is much more attention-grabbing is that a few people who have learn the interpretation to English additionally bitch in regards to the terrible caliber of the textual content they have--I have no idea why that may be, yet I do want I may learn French....

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