

THE FRENCH SOCIALIST AND COMMUNIST PARTY UNDER THE FIFTH REPUBLIC, 1958-1981 pdf

1: History of the French Communist Party | Revolvry

Get this from a library! The French Socialist and Communist Party under the Fifth Republic, from opposition to power. [Wayne Northcutt].

The Catholic bishops mistrusted the Republic and the ideas of the French Revolution, as well as the idea of popular sovereignty, which questioned the superiority of the spiritual power over the temporal. For this reason, it supported all the conservative governments of the 19th century, notably MacMahon and his policy of "moral order". The previous year, another encyclical, *Rerum novarum* had denounced both capitalistic society and socialist ideology, and advocated the creation of Catholic popular organisations. In 1876, students founded *Le Sillon* The Furrow. Its leader, Marc Sangnier, campaigned for spiritual values, democracy and social reforms. It represented the progressive wing of French Catholicism. Radical forces triumphed in 1905 and disestablished the Catholic Church and seized its properties. The very conservative Pope Pius X told the bishops to distance themselves from the state. Better relations were restored in the 1920s, but the parties on the left Radical, Socialist and Communist were strongly anticlerical. However, more liberal Christian Democratic ideas arose in intellectual circles. Emmanuel Mounier founded the review *Esprit* mind or spirit which denounced fascism and passivity of the Western democracies. These circles participated actively in the anti-Nazi underground Resistance during the Second World War. It claimed its loyalty to de Gaulle, who led the provisional government composed of Communists, Socialists and Christian democrats. At the November legislative election, the MRP was second. The MRP benefited from the absence of real right-wing challengers to rally the conservative electorate. Indeed, among the three largest parties, it was the only one that was not Marxist. Furthermore, it appeared the closest to de Gaulle. It supported the reforms decided by the provisional government and inspired by the programme of the National Council of Resistance written during the war: Wanting to achieve the complete integration of Catholicism in the Republic, the MRP supported the principle of parliamentary democracy against De Gaulle. Relations with De Gaulle deteriorated. In January 1958, the president of the provisional government resigned in protest at the restoration of the "parties regime". The MRP ministers chose to stay in government. Nevertheless, the party called on voters to reject the proposed constitution in May 1958, fearing the election of a pro-Communist regime. After that, the MRP became the largest party in parliament after the June legislative election. It was allied with the Socialists and the Communists in the Three-parties alliance until spring 1959. Then, it joined the Third Force that brought together centre-left and centre-right parties against the Communists on the one hand and the Gaullists on the other hand. Two Christian Democrats led the cabinet: Indeed, European unification was an important part of the MRP platform. At the legislative election, it lost half of its voters. The MRP also dominated French foreign and colonial policies during most of the later 1950s and 1960s. Along with the French Socialist Party, it was the most energetic supporter in the country of European integration. It participated in the government of national unity behind De Gaulle, then broke with him in 1963 over his opposition to extending European economic integration into the realm of political integration. Faced with the Gaullist hegemony [edit] When De Gaulle proposed a referendum on presidential election by universal suffrage, the MRP took part in the "coalition of the no".

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2: The Communist Manifesto - Wikipedia

*The French Socialist and Communist Party under the Fifth Republic, From opposition to power [Wayne Northcutt] on www.enganchecubano.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers.*

The President holds most executive power and is elected by popular vote every five years. History Edit During the invasion of Hungary by the Soviet Union, rightist factions in the French Communist Party led by Charles Tillon and Boris Souvarine successfully convinced the politburo to take a predominantly anti-Soviet stance distance itself from the Soviet bloc, re-uniting the Marxists with the other elements of the left and undermining the popularity of the post-Structuralist intellectuals. In the wake of the Cuban Missile Crisis, the party gained in polls. The far-right reactionary regime elected in the United States in light of humiliating defeats blunderously coordinated its European allies towards intervention in the conflict, the threat of which popularized the movement and spelled the downfall of De Gaulle. Duclos, to attract moderate votes, created the "Open Question" platform, promising vague improvements in certain areas but leaving the precise way that could be accomplished to public discussion following his election. Moderates, who wrongly believed their numbers could overwhelm the Communists, were comforted. The platform also unified his party and the leftists led by Juquin. Furthermore, Duclos ran on a campaign of ideas, advancing pragmatic solutions that seemed intelligent with the support of qualified leftist academics to everyday problems which drew in center voters. Political change was grassroots with works by leftist politicians and intellectuals disseminating through universities, trade unions, and sympathetic authors and journalists. The nail in the coffin was an effective PCF campaign to smear the Gaullist opposition by accusing them of attempting to cooperate with reactionaries in the United States and Spain to restore a counter-revolutionary administration. Duclos immediately set out to consolidate the revolution and avoid a cycle. Understanding that open alignment with the Soviet Union would be unpopular, he offered the "Equal Proposition", an offer of cooperation to any country that would take it. Strategy and rational choice dictated that the USSR and France had an unequal relationship where the USSR reinforced the fledgling French Communist administration in its security needs but could not stop the French from developing their own ideology to break from Soviet domination. Open Question discussions in the PCF and its coalition to streamline thought developed the distinct ideology of Eurocommunism. Incorporating anti-linearist elements of postmodern authors who held great influence in the French academia, Eurocommunism endorsed democracy, an end Duclos and his pragmatic allies made sure exited to encourage alignment from socialist governments in Scandinavia. Eurocommunism focused more on the middle class and established a "practical hierarchy" where the most educated naturally had positions of greater esteem, displacing the bureaucratic emphasis of Marxism-Leninism and contributing to the success of the French education system. The new government immediately created re-distribution campaigns and instituted dirigism and nationalization to stabilize the economy and gain popular and middle class support. It also pursued foreign policy goals to ensure re-election: Duclos engineered a conflict with Francoist Spain that precipitated in a border war in which Spain was handily defeated with the help of a communist fifth column. The consequent Eurocommunist coups in Spain and Portugal placed them under the French orbit, while France acquiesced to a successful Basque and Catalan separatist movement to avoid conflict with the Soviet union. The perceived excellent handling of the Spanish war created a Falklands factor in which the formerly uncertain re-election of the Communists became a given. During this period, Scandinavia and the Netherlands also subscribed to Eurocommunism, bandwagoning on French success and being forced to choose between French democratic domination and that of the dictatorial Soviet Union. Eurocommunism differs from Soviet Socialism in a number of areas. Eurocommunists believe that there is a disconnect between the Marxist theory of class struggle and the idea of a classless society. Rather, they believe that there is a least-worst-option dilemma in each class struggle and that successive struggles are unpredictable. Seeing the "economic failures" of Soviet Communism compelled Eurocommunists to create a "hierarchy of education" where the most

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educated formed a de facto upper class. Therefore, "Communal values" need to be increased: France emphasizes democracy and reward for charitable giving, believing that individual thinking needs to be changed to be more collective before the state can be unnecessary. In its early years, the Sixth Republic was under constant threat of military coup by reactionary officers. Furthermore, it understood it could never challenge the USSR and USA militarily and needed to play them against each other and operate diplomatically. Communist authors also believed the chauvinistic interventions of past regimens solidified them, citing de Gaulle and Napoleon III as examples of leaders who increased their power by feeding French pride and intervening in conflicts that had nothing to do with direct French interests. As a pragmatic sanction, Eurocommunism detested militarization. Eurocommunists think this is oversimplified and that a Kantian dialectic is more appropriate than a binary, false dichotomy Hegelian dialectic. Material is valuable but can be stimulated or mitigated in need based off the quality and passion for ideas. Academic work and the marketplace of thought therefore are valuable too. Welfare programs in France are strong but production is rewarded, an unorthodox development for Communism. Property is not intuitive, but the idea that it cannot be stole and the commons need be maintained is. Eurocommunists hold that "property" as an idea is possessive and leads to waste but give licenses to lend land from the communes based off which worker councils best maintain it and agree to use it. The overall effects of Eurocommunism have been increased economic prosperity, a powerful space program, and resistance to militarization.

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3: List of indirect presidential elections in France - Wikipedia

The Fifth Republic, France's current republican system of government, was established by Charles de Gaulle under the Constitution of the Fifth Republic on 4 October

France has a parliamentary government under the republican constitution of 1958. The next 16 months see a series of ineffective coalition governments. The Popular Front, a leftist alliance against rising fascism, takes its first tentative steps. Internal divisions and conservative opposition to his fiscal measures lead him to resign and the Front to lose strength, but not before preventing the rise of fascism in France. German invasion ends the Third Republic. The authoritarian Vichy government collaborates with the Nazis in plundering resources and deporting Jews. The Allies land in Normandy and liberate France with assistance from the Resistance movement. De Gaulle becomes head of a provisional government of centrists, Communists, and Socialists. The Fourth Republic is proclaimed, with a new constitution that again provides for a weak executive and a powerful national assembly. A series of impermanent governments are unable to stem inflation or the political and social unrest in the colony of Indochina. Socialists fail to bring stability and lose strength as a party. De Gaulle loses support and resigns as party leader. France invests in its colonies to prepare them for independence. Conflict between nationalists and the French army in Algeria contrasts with the peaceful decolonization of Morocco and Tunisia. A revolt in Paris overthrows the Fourth Republic. A new constitution establishes the Fifth Republic, subordinating the legislature to the presidency. De Gaulle becomes president. Socialists split over support for the Fifth Republic and make several unsuccessful alliances. France moves toward military and nuclear independence. He grants Algeria independence in 1962, incurring criticism from settlers and French officers. Still, his supporters win a majority in the elections. Several sub-Saharan African colonies transition more smoothly to independence. De Gaulle continues an independent approach to foreign policy, withdrawing France from NATO commands and testing a hydrogen bomb. De Gaulle resigns from a shaken government and former Prime Minister Georges Pompidou is elected president. Pompidou maintains some Gaullist principles in foreign policy but is generally more conciliatory. Mitterrand and his allies begin to transform the left, building a strong PS. Pompidou dies in office in 1974. He implements conservative domestic policies and insists on the primacy of French interests and nuclear weapons. Economic crisis undermines his government. The united left elects PS leader Mitterrand president, and the Socialists sweep subsequent parliamentary elections. Although dominated by the PS, the government also includes four communist ministers. The administration introduces a far-reaching program of social reform, decentralization, and nationalization. Communist members of the cabinet resign, opposed to a drastic PS economic policy shift and increased reliance on markets. In 1981 Mitterrand forms a new government excluding the Communists. Mitterrand appoints opposition leader Jacques Chirac as prime minister, resulting in the first government "cohabitation," which ends 30 years of president and prime minister being drawn from the same coalition. The extreme right National Front does well in municipal elections, pressuring the government into adopting a hard line against illegal immigration. The Parti Socialiste loses the national assembly elections. Balladur resigns in the wake of corruption scandals. Chirac loses support after a nuclear testing debacle in the Pacific. He calls for general elections a year early so the government can continue the austerity measures designed for membership in the European Monetary Union. His plan backfires when the Socialists, opposed to the measures, win and Lionel Jospin becomes prime minister. Labor criticizes Jospin for retreating from campaign promises. In regional elections, the ruling Socialist, Green, and Communist coalition wins 37 percent of the vote, the mainstream right 36 percent. The National Front splits in two. Political scandals undermine government in general. The left wins Paris city council, but the right strengthens elsewhere. Scattered leftist votes in the presidential election puts extreme rightist Jean-Marie Le Pen in second place; all mainstream parties rally around President Chirac in the runoff. A pro-Chirac conservative coalition wins parliamentary elections, ending five years of "cohabitation. Backed by majority support, President Chirac voices strong opposition to the U. When the

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three-week military campaign proves not to be the long struggle he had predicted, Chirac faces a possible loss of credibility at home. Relations with Britain are tense after a split over the Iraq war. France calls for a central role for the United Nations in the new administration of Iraq.

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4: French Fifth Republic - Wikipedia

The PCP under the Fifth Republic 81 the Soviet leadership, in line with its Marxist-Leninist ideology. Annie Kriegel, a former member of the PCF, adopts this view in.

French socialism until [change change source] After the failure of the Paris commune , French socialism was figuratively beheaded. Its leaders were killed or exiled. The Socialists suffered a severe split over participation in the wartime government of national unity. In the anti-war socialists were heavily defeated in elections. This party joined the Third International , that was founded by Lenin. This alliance did not survive the Cold War. Blum proposed the construction of a Third Force with the center-left and the center-right, against the Gaullists and the Communists. Mollet was supported by the left wing of the party. Paradoxically, he spoke a Marxist language without questioning the alliance with the center and the center-right. He was Prime Minister at the head of a minority government in The SFIO returned to opposition in The SFIO did not nominate a candidate for the election. He was resolutely anti-Gaullist. He obtained an honourable result and faced De Gaulle in an unexpected second ballot. He thus appeared as the leader of the non-Communist left. He proposed an "ideological dialogue" with the Communists. Mitterrand defeated the Savary-Mollet duo by proposing an electoral programme with the Communists. Nevertheless, Mitterrand was re-elected President in with a moderate programme entitled "united France". He proposed neither nationalisations nor privatisations. He chose as Prime Minister the most popular and moderate of the Socialist politicians, Michel Rocard. His cabinet included 4 center-right ministers but it was supported by only a plurality in the National Assembly elected in June During his second term, Mitterrand focused on foreign policy and European construction. Jospin and the "Plural Left" â€” [change change source] In opposition, the PS reconstructed a coalition with the other left-wing forces: This "Plural Left" Gauche plurielle gained the legislative election and Jospin became Prime Minister of the third " cohabitation ". His policy was broadly progressive but had little to do with socialism as traditionally understood. The Aubry laws reduced the working time to 35 hours a week. A universal medical cover was instituted. However, the policy of privatization was pursued. On April 21, Jospin was eliminated at the first round of the presidential election. After the shock[change change source] In the regional elections , the Socialists had a major comeback. In coalition with the former "Plural Left", they gained power in 20 of the 22 metropolitan regions all except Alsace and Corsica and in the four overseas regions. In fact, it benefited from a "sanction-vote" against the right. For the presidential election , many potential candidates appeared:

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5: Popular Republican Movement - Wikipedia

Second President of the Fifth Republic of France, from until his death in Royal, Segolene A prominent French politician who is a member of the French Socialist Party.

Synopsis[edit] The Communist Manifesto is divided into a preamble and four sections, the last of these a short conclusion. The introduction begins by proclaiming "A spectre is haunting Europe—the spectre of communism. All the powers of old Europe have entered into a holy alliance to exorcise this spectre". Pointing out that parties everywhere—including those in government and those in the opposition—have flung the "branding reproach of communism" at each other, the authors infer from this that the powers-that-be acknowledge communism to be a power in itself. Subsequently, the introduction exhorts Communists to openly publish their views and aims, to "meet this nursery tale of the spectre of communism with a manifesto of the party itself". The first section of the Manifesto, "Bourgeois and Proletarians", elucidates the materialist conception of history, that "the history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles". Societies have always taken the form of an oppressed majority exploited under the yoke of an oppressive minority. In capitalism, the industrial working class, or proletariat, engage in class struggle against the owners of the means of production, the bourgeoisie. As before, this struggle will end in a revolution that restructures society, or the "common ruin of the contending classes". The bourgeoisie, through the "constant revolutionising of production [and] uninterrupted disturbance of all social conditions" have emerged as the supreme class in society, displacing all the old powers of feudalism. The bourgeoisie constantly exploits the proletariat for its labour power, creating profit for themselves and accumulating capital. However, in doing so, the bourgeoisie serves as "its own grave-diggers"; the proletariat inevitably will become conscious of their own potential and rise to power through revolution, overthrowing the bourgeoisie. The section goes on to defend communism from various objections, including claims that it advocates "free love" or disincentivises people from working. The section ends by outlining a set of short-term demands—among them a progressive income tax; abolition of inheritances and private property; abolition of child labour; free public education; nationalisation of the means of transport and communication; centralisation of credit via a national bank; expansion of publicly owned etc. The third section, "Socialist and Communist Literature", distinguishes communism from other socialist doctrines prevalent at the time—these being broadly categorised as Reactionary Socialism; Conservative or Bourgeois Socialism; and Critical-Utopian Socialism and Communism. While the degree of reproach toward rival perspectives varies, all are dismissed for advocating reformism and failing to recognise the pre-eminent revolutionary role of the working class. It ends by declaring an alliance with the social democrats, boldly supporting other communist revolutions, and calling for united international proletarian action—Working Men of All Countries, Unite! At its First Congress in 1847, the League tasked Engels with drafting a "profession of faith", but such a document was later deemed inappropriate for an open, non-confrontational organisation. This became the draft Principles of Communism, described as "less of a credo and more of an exam paper. The League thus unanimously adopted a far more combative resolution than that at the First Congress in June. Marx especially and Engels were subsequently commissioned to draw up a manifesto for the League. Upon returning to Brussels, Marx engaged in "ceaseless procrastination", according to his biographer Francis Wheen. Following this, he even spent a week 17–26 January in Ghent to establish a branch of the Democratic Association there. Subsequently, having not heard from Marx for nearly two months, the Central Committee of the Communist League sent him an ultimatum on 24 or 26 January, demanding he submit the completed manuscript by 1 February. This imposition spurred Marx on, who struggled to work without a deadline, and he seems to have rushed to finish the job in time. For evidence of this, historian Eric Hobsbawm points to the absence of rough drafts, only one page of which survives. In all, the Manifesto was written over 6–7 weeks. Although Engels is credited as co-writer, the final draft was penned exclusively by Marx. From the 26 January letter, Laski infers that even

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the League considered Marx to be the sole draftsman and that he was merely their agent, imminently replaceable. Further, Engels himself wrote in that "The basic thought running through the Manifesto Laski argues that while writing the Manifesto, Marx drew from the "joint stock of ideas" he developed with Engels, "a kind of intellectual bank account upon which either could draw freely. Written in German, the page pamphlet was titled *Manifest der kommunistischen Partei* and had a dark-green cover. On 4 March, one day after the serialisation in the *Zeitung* began, Marx was expelled by Belgian police. Two weeks later, around 20 March, a thousand copies of the Manifesto reached Paris, and from there to Germany in early April. In April the text was corrected for printing and punctuation mistakes; Marx and Engels would use this page version as the basis for future editions of the Manifesto. Polish and Danish translations soon followed the German original in London, and by the end of , a Swedish translation was published with a new title "The Voice of Communism: Declaration of the Communist Party. Her version begins, "A frightful hobgoblin stalks throughout Europe. We are haunted by a ghost, the ghost of Communism. Soon after the Manifesto was published, Paris erupted in revolution to overthrow King Louis Philippe. The Manifesto played no role in this; a French translation was not published in Paris until just before the working-class June Days Uprising was crushed. Its influence in the Europe-wide revolutions of was restricted to Germany , where the Cologne-based Communist League and its newspaper *Neue Rheinische Zeitung* , edited by Marx, played an important role. Within a year of its establishment, in May , the *Zeitung* was suppressed; Marx was expelled from Germany and had to seek lifelong refuge in London. After the defeat of the revolutions the Manifesto fell into obscurity, where it remained throughout the s and s. Hobsbawm says that by November the Manifesto "had become sufficiently scarce for Marx to think it worth reprinting section III Over the next two decades only a few new editions were published; these include an unauthorised and occasionally inaccurate Russian translation by Mikhail Bakunin in Geneva and an edition in Berlin the first time the Manifesto was published in Germany. According to Hobsbawm, "By the middle s virtually nothing that Marx had written in the past was any longer in print. Rise, "[edit] In the early s, the Manifesto and its authors experienced a revival in fortunes. Hobsbawm identifies three reasons for this. Secondly, Marx also came into much prominence among socialists and equal notoriety among the authorities for his support of the Paris Commune of , elucidated in *The Civil War in France*. During the trial prosecutors read the Manifesto out loud as evidence; this meant that the pamphlet could legally be published in Germany. Thus in Marx and Engels rushed out a new German-language edition, writing a preface that identified that several portions that became outdated in the quarter century since its original publication. This edition was also the first time the title was shortened to *The Communist Manifesto* *Das Kommunistische Manifest* , and it became the bedrock the authors based future editions upon. Over the next forty years, as social-democratic parties rose across Europe and parts of the world, so did the publication of the Manifesto alongside them, in hundreds of editions in thirty languages. Marx and Engels wrote a new preface for the Russian edition, translated by Georgi Plekhanov in Geneva. In it they wondered if Russia could directly become a communist society , or if she would become capitalist first like other European countries. Among these is the English edition, translated by Samuel Moore and approved by Engels, who also provided notes throughout the text. It has been the standard English-language edition ever since. The principal region of its influence, in terms of editions published, was in the "central belt of Europe", from Russia in the east to France in the west. In comparison, the pamphlet had little impact on politics in southwest and southeast Europe, and moderate presence in the north. For instance, the German SPD printed only a few thousand copies of the Communist Manifesto every year, but a few hundred thousand copies of the *Erfurt Programme*. Further, the mass-based social-democratic parties of the Second International did not require their rank and file to be well-versed in theory; Marxist works such as the Manifesto or *Das Kapital* were read primarily by party theoreticians. Ubiquity, "[edit] *The Bolshevik* by Boris Kustodiev. Further, party leaders were expected to base their policy decisions on Marxist-Leninist ideology. Therefore works such as the Manifesto were required reading for the party rank-and-file. Works by Marx, Engels, and Lenin were published on a very large scale, and cheap editions of their works were available in several

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languages across the world. This affected the destiny of the Manifesto in several ways. Firstly, in terms of circulation; in the American and British Communist Parties printed several hundred thousand copies of a cheap edition for "probably the largest mass edition ever issued in English". Secondly the work entered political-science syllabuses in universities, which would only expand after the Second World War. For its centenary in 1983, its publication was no longer the exclusive domain of Marxists and academicians; general publishers too printed the Manifesto in large numbers. One of these, *The Communist Manifesto: A Modern Edition* by Verso, was touted by a critic in the *London Review of Books* as being a "stylish red-ribboned edition of the work. The tool of money has produced the miracle of the new global market and the ubiquitous shopping mall. Read *The Communist Manifesto*, written more than one hundred and fifty years ago, and you will discover that Marx foresaw it all. There are passages that could have come from the most recent writings on globalisation. Bernstein noted that the working-class was not homogeneous but heterogeneous, with divisions and factions within it, including socialist and non-socialist trade unions. Marx himself, later in his life, acknowledged that the middle-class was not disappearing in his work *Theories of Surplus Value*. It has created enormous cities. It echoed the original meaning of the Greek term *idiotes* from which the current meaning of "idiot" or "idiocy" is derived, namely "a person concerned only with his own private affairs and not with those of the wider community". In the course of the decades since the 19th century, and in movements whose members, unlike Marx, were not classically educated, the original sense was lost and was misread. *The Communist Manifesto* also takes influence from literature. References[edit] Adoratsky, V. *How To Change The World. The Revolutionary Life of Friedrich Engels*. Schumpeter, Joseph []. *From Marx to Keynes*.

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6: Socialist Party (France) - Simple English Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

A critical assessment of Mitterrand's political ascendancy in France can be found in Wayne Northcutt, [The French Socialist and Communist Party Under the Fifth Republic, From Opposition to Power](#) ().

Its leaders were killed or exiled. It was characterised as "possibilist" because it promoted gradual reforms. Two parties split off from it: The party was hemmed in between the middle-class liberals of the Radical Party and the revolutionary syndicalists who dominated the trade unions. Furthermore, the goal to rally all the Socialists in one single party was partially reached: Together with the Radicals, who wished to install laicism , the SFIO was a component of the Left Block Bloc des gauches without to sit in the government. In , the General Confederation of Labour trade union claimed its independence from all political parties. They suffered a severe split over participation in the wartime government of national unity. In the anti-war socialists were heavily defeated in elections. In , during the Tours Congress , the majority and left wing of the party broke away and formed the French Section of the Communist International to join the Third International founded by Vladimir Lenin. These governments failed because the Socialists and the Radicals could not agree on economic policy, and also because the Communists, following the policy laid down by the Soviet Union, refused to support governments presiding over capitalist economies. The question of the possibility of a government participation with Radicals caused the split of "neosocialists" at the beginning of the s. Indeed, for the first time in its history, the SFIO obtained more votes and seats than the Radical Party and it formed the central axis of a left-wing parliamentary majority. Within a year, however, his government collapsed over economic policy and also over the issue of the Spanish Civil War. The demoralised Left fell apart and was unable to resist the collapse of the French Third Republic after the military defeat of This alliance installed the main elements of the French welfare state and the French Fourth Republic , but it did not survive the Cold War. Blum proposed the construction of a Third Force with the centre-left and the centre-right, against the Gaullists and the Communists. Mollet was supported by the left wing of the party. Paradoxically, he spoke a Marxist language without questioning the alliance with the centre and the centre-right. His leadership was shaken when the party divided in about the European Defence Community the half of the SFIO parliamentary group voted "no", against the instructions of the party lead, participating to the failure of the project. But later, Mollet got involved the SFIO in the build of a centre-left coalition, the Republican Front , which won a plurality in the elections. Consequently, he was Prime Minister at the head of a minority government. But the party was in decline, as were the Radicals, and the left never came close to forming a united front. Indeed, this led Mollet to assert, "the Communist Party is not on the left, but in the East". The SFIO returned to opposition in Discredited by its fluctuating policy during the Fourth Republic, it reached its lowest ebb in the s. He was resolutely anti-Gaullist. Supported by all the left-wing parties, he obtained a good result and faced De Gaulle in an unexpected second ballot, becoming the leader of the non-Communist left. But unable to benefit from the May events, it imploded after its disastrous defeat at the June legislative elections. He proposed an "ideological dialogue" with the Communists. Mitterrand defeated the Savary-Mollet duo by proposing an electoral programme with the Communists and took the lead. During the Socialist International conference, he explained the alliance of left-wing parties is a yearning of French left-wing voters. The left, and notably the Socialist Party, experienced an electoral recovery at the legislative election. Mitterrand, the candidate of the left-wing alliance, came close to winning the presidential election. Indeed, he obtained They represented the "left-wing Christian" and non-Marxist group. The most conservative members of the PS, they advocated an alignment of French socialism along the lines of European social democracy , that is, a clear acceptance of the market economy. While the "Union of the Left" triumphed at the municipal election, the electoral rise of the PS worried the Communist Party. In spite of positive polls, the "Union of the Left" lost the legislative election. For the first time since , the Socialists scored better in the polls than the Communists, becoming the main left-wing party, but their defeat caused an internal crisis. Mitterrand felt that the left could not win without the

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alliance between the Socialists and the Communists. Three major tendencies or factions emerged within the PS by the end of the Seventies. One was represented by the Mitterrandists who wanted reform but not a complete break with capitalism. He dissolved the National Assembly and, for the first time in their history, the French Socialists won an absolute majority of the seats. This landslide victory for the Socialists took place to the detriment of the right-wing parliamentary parties Rally for the Republic and Union for French Democracy, as well as the Communist Party. Mitterrand attempted to carry out socialist-inspired reforms the Propositions, furthering the dirigiste economic planning trends of the preceding conservative governments. The Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy nationalised the banks, the insurance industry and the defence industries, in accordance with the Common Program. Reforms included the abolition of death penalty, creation of a solidarity tax on wealth ISF, introduction of proportional representation in legislative elections which was applied only at the election, decentralization of the state's laws, repeal of price liberalization for books Lang Law of, etc. In Mitterrand and his second Prime Minister, Laurent Fabius, clearly abandoned any further socialist measures. The "Union of the Left" died and the Communist ministers resigned. Although there were two periods of mild economic reflation first from to and again from to, monetary and fiscal restraint was the essential policy orientation of the Mitterrand presidency from onwards. Nevertheless, Mitterrand was re-elected President in with a moderate programme entitled "United France". He proposed neither nationalisations nor privatisations. He chose as Prime Minister the most popular and moderate of the Socialist politicians, Michel Rocard. His cabinet included four centre-right ministers but it was supported by only a plurality in the National Assembly elected in June. During his second term, Mitterrand focused on foreign policy and European integration. He convened a referendum for the ratification of the Maastricht Treaty. He left domestic policy to his prime ministers: The party was hit by scandals about its financing and weakened by the struggle between the heirs of "Mitterrandism". In, during the Rennes Congress, the "Mitterrandist group" split between the supporters of Laurent Fabius and the friends of Lionel Jospin. Finally, many on the left were disappointed by the results of the Socialist governments. The Socialist group of the National Assembly numbered 53 deputies against during the previous term. Rocard became First Secretary of the party, and was considered the "natural candidate" for the next presidential election. He called for a political "big bang", an agreement with the centre and the centre-right, but his efforts were in vain. He was overthrown by a motley coalition led by Henri Emmanuelli, a "Mitterrandist" left-winger. One year before the presidential election, the PS was affected by a leadership crisis. Rocard lost the most part of his followers after his electoral crash, Fabius was weakened by the infected blood scandal, the presidentiability of Emmanuelli was questioned. The hope of some party members transferred to Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission and a favourite according to the polls, but he declined due to the radicalisation of the party which prevented his centrist strategy. For the first time, the party members were called to nominate their candidate for presidency. Benefiting from a good image in the polls, a strong loyalty to the party as former First Secretary and governmental experience as former Education Minister, and the teachers were numerous and influential in the PS, he defeated Emmanuelli in the internal ballot. Then, he was defeated by Jacques Chirac in the run-off election but, given the PS crisis, his result was judged good and he returned as First Secretary. Jospin and the "Plural Left" [edit] In the legislature, the PS reconstructed a coalition with other left-wing parties: This "Plural Left" won the legislative election and Jospin became Prime Minister of the third "cohabitation". His policy was broadly progressive. The Aubry laws reduced the working time to 35 hours a week, while Universal medical insurance was instituted. However, the policy of privatisation was pursued. The Green and Communist allies were weakened by their governmental participation. The presidential election was focused on the theme of insecurity. He announced his retirement from politics, and the PS called on its supporters to vote for Chirac in order to defeat the far-right National Front leader Jean-Marie Le Pen, who had surprisingly advanced to the run-off. Two months later, the "Plural Left" lost the legislative election. In the regional elections, the Socialists had a major comeback. In coalition with the former "Plural Left", they gained power in 20 of the 22 metropolitan regions all except Alsace and Corsica and in the four overseas

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regions. The party benefited from increasing frustration with right-wing parties. However, the Socialist Party has experienced considerable difficulty in formulating an alternative to right-wing policy. Fabius was ejected from the executive office of the party. In November, during the Le Mans Congress, three main groups were present. Finally, another faction "New Socialist Party" claimed it was necessary to renovate the party by proposing left-wing policies and a profound reform of French institutions. French Socialist Party presidential primary, From left to right: Many potential candidates appeared for the presidential election: Some Socialist leaders asked Jospin to return. He declared he was "available" then finally refused. At the same time, some personalities of the right wing of the party such as Bernard Kouchner accepted to join the government nominated by Nicolas Sarkozy. In the 10 and 17 June National Assembly elections, the Socialist Party won out of seats, and about 10 affiliated, gain of 40 seats. After the winning March municipal election, the campaign with a view to the Reims Congress started. A part of the left wing split and founded the Left Party. During the Reims Congress, which happened in a very tense climate, the leaders of the factions failed to form a majority. Consequently, the PS members had to elect directly the next First Secretary. On 22 November it was announced that Aubry had defeated Royal by the narrow margin of 42 votes, and Royal asked for a recount. After checking, Martine Aubry was elected by a margin of votes and

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-French politician who was President of France from to longest-serving President of France -leader of the Socialist Party, the first figure from the left elected President under the Fifth Republic.

The new SFIC defined itself as revolutionary and democratic centralist. The party gained representation in the French parliament in successive elections, but also promoted strike action and opposed colonialism. The party helped to secure French support for the Spanish Republicans during the Spanish Civil War, and opposed the Munich agreement with Hitler. During this period the PCF adopted a more patriotic image, and favoured an equal but distinct role for women in the communist movement. The party was banned in on the outbreak of World War II. Under Comintern direction the PCF opposed the war and may have sabotaged arms production. The leadership, threatened with execution, fled abroad. After the German invasion of the party failed to persuade the occupiers to legalise its activities, and while denouncing the war as a struggle between imperialists, began to organise opposition to the occupation. When Germany invaded the Soviet Union the next year, the Comintern declared Germany to be an enemy, and the PCF expanded its anti-German activities, forming the National Front movement within the broader Resistance and organising direct action and political assassinations through the armed Francs-Tireurs et Partisans FTP group. By the time the German occupation ended in , the party had become a powerful force in many parts of France. It was among the leading parties in elections in and , and entered into the governing Tripartite alliance with the socialist SFIO and the Christian democratic MRP. The Tripartite governments pursued social reforms and statism. However, amid concerns within France and abroad over the extent of communist influence, the PCF was excluded from government in May Under pressure from Moscow, the PCF thereafter distanced itself from other parties and focussed on agitation within its trade union base. For the rest of the Fourth Republic period the PCF, led by Thorez and Jacques Duclos, remained politically isolated, still taking a Stalinist line, though retaining substantial electoral support. During the student riots and strikes of May, the party supported the strikes while denouncing the revolutionary student movements. Under Marchais the party continued loyal to the Soviet Union up to its fall in , and made little move towards "Eurocommunism". Under Buffet, the PCF turned away from parliamentary strategy and sought broader social alliances. The FG has continued up to the present and has brought the French communists somewhat better electoral results, at the price of some tension within the party and with other parties in the FG. With Pierre Laurent as leader since , in a symbolic move the party no longer includes the hammer and sickle logo on its membership cards. Gradually, anti-war factions gained in influence in the party and Ludovic-Oscar Frossard was elected general secretary in October They observed the second congress of the Communist International, during the course of which Vladimir Lenin set out the 21 conditions for membership. When they returned, Frossard and Cachin recommended that the party join the Communist International. This majority option won three quarters of the votes from party members at the congress. These members went on to form a rump SFIO, which had a much smaller membership than the SFIC but which could count on a strong base of officeholders and parliamentarians. The new communist party defined itself as a revolutionary party, which used legal as well as clandestine or illegal means. The party organization was run under strict democratic centralist precepts, until the s: Ho Chi Minh, who would create the Viet Minh in and then declare the independence of Vietnam, was one of its founding members. Indeed, the party leadership was opposed to the strategy of the "proletarian unique front". The general secretariat of the Party was shared by Louis Sellier center faction and Albert Treint left-wing faction. In the legislative election, the PCF won 9. But under the leadership of the left-wing faction, priority was given to general strikes and revolutionary actions rather than elections. He wanted to put an end to sectarianism, which was criticized by communist officeholders and leaders of the CGTU. Most notably, he proposed alliances with other left-wing parties including the SFIO in order to combat fascism. This strategy was criticized by the board of the Communist International as "parliamentarist". On his release from prison, he became more and more controversial. They

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applied the "class against class" political line of the Communist International, denouncing social democracy and the SFIO as akin to bourgeois parties. By the end of the 1920s, the party contained fewer than 30,000 members. The collegial leadership of the party was divided between young leaders and more experienced politicians. The secretary for organization, Maurice Thorez, was chosen as the new secretary-general in 1929. Nonetheless, the strategy was continued. Indeed, the Wall Street Crash of 1929 and the Great Depression, which affected France beginning in 1930, caused much anxiety and disturbance, as in other countries. As economic liberalism failed, many were eagerly looking for new solutions. Technocratic ideas were born during this time: Groupe X-Crise, as well as autarky and corporatism in the fascist movement, which advocated union of workers and employers. Some members were attracted to these new ideas, most notably Jacques Doriot. A member of the presidium of the Executive Committee of the Comintern from 1924 onwards, and from 1929 onwards the secretary of the French Federation of Young Communists, later elected to the French Chamber of Deputies from Saint-Denis, he came to advocate an alliance between the Communists and SFIO. Doriot was then expelled in 1931, and with his followers. Afterwards he moved sharply to the right and formed the French Popular Party, which would be one of the most collaborationist parties during the Vichy regime. The election saw the victory of another Cartel des gauches. This time, although the PCF did not participate in the coalition, it supported the government from the outside (soutien sans participation), similar to how the Socialists, prior to the First World War, had supported republican and Radical governments without participating. Following this crisis, the PCF, like the whole of the socialist movement, feared that France was on the verge of fascist takeover. The PCF made substantial gains in the cantonal elections and established themselves as the dominant political force in working-class municipalities surrounding Paris (the Red Belt) in the municipal elections. The PCF often played a major role in such actions, and it sent a number of French volunteers to fight for the republicans in the International Brigades. At the end of the conflict, the PCF organized humanitarian aid for Spanish refugees. Above all the Communists portrayed themselves as French nationalists. Young Communists dressed in costumes from the revolutionary period and the scholars glorified the Jacobins as heroic predecessors. In the 1930s there was a new model, of a separate but equal role for women. The Party discarded its original notions of Communist femininity and female political activism as a gender-neutral revolutionary. It issued a new model more attuned to the mood of the late 1930s and one more acceptable to the middle class elements of the Popular Front. It now portrayed the ideal Young Communist as a paragon of moral probity with her commitment to marriage and motherhood, and gender-specific public activism. The non-aggression pact between the Nazis and Moscow dismayed many French communists, a number of whom rejected the pact. The PCF became a clandestine organization, at first rather disorganized. Domestically, the PCF led anti-war actions, but although the party published pacifist propaganda for soldiers they stopped short of inciting desertion. The role of the PCF in alleged sabotage operations, against armaments plants, has been a point of debate among historians. But these negotiations were a disaster for the party, as Hitler disavowed Otto Abetz and Vichy was successfully able to oppose the legalization of the PCF. In August 1940, a new policy categorically forbade any expressions of solidarity with the occupiers and limited interactions between the PCF and the occupiers. One of the major actions organized by the PCF against the occupation forces was a demonstration of thousands of students and workers, staged in Paris on 11 November 1940. Armed resistance June 1944 National Front logo, When Germany invaded the Soviet Union in June 1941, Stalin ordered all communists to engage in the armed struggle against the new Nazi enemy. The PCF expanded Resistance efforts within France notably advocating the use of direct action and political assassinations which had not been systematically organized up until this point. The communists began cooperating with the Free French, all the while maintaining their distance from other resistance organizations in the north and the south—remaining independent of the Unified Movements of the Resistance (MUR), the structure organized by Jean Moulin which organized the southern resistance. Under their leadership, the PCF maintained strong internal cohesion under centralized authority, which greatly boosted their power and influence within the resistance movement. In the regions, local communists played significant roles in spearheading the resistance. By 1944 the PCF had reached the height of its influence, and was

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powerful in large areas of the country through the Resistance units under its command. Many well-known figures joined the party during the war, including Pablo Picasso, who joined the PCF in 1944. Share of vote at elections, 1945-1958 Provisional Government and the Fourth Republic 1958-1962 The PCF at its peak and the Tripartite governments 1962-1968 The Communists came out extraordinarily strengthened from the Resistance, in terms of both organisation and prestige. With the liberation of France in 1944, the PCF, along with other resistance groups, entered the government of Charles de Gaulle. As in post-war Italy, the communists were very popular and formed one of the major political forces in the country. By the close of 1945 party membership stood at half a million, an enormous increase from its pre-Popular Front figure of less than thirty thousand. In the first post-war elections for the unicameral interim Constituent National Assembly in October 1945, the PCF became the single largest party in France with 26.5%. In the November elections, 1946, which elected the first legislature of the new French Fourth Republic, the PCF obtained its best result in its history 29.7%. Between 1946 and May 1958, the PCF participated in governing coalitions. Maurice Thorez served in cabinet between November 1946 and May 1958, including a period as vice-president of the council of ministers between January and May 1947. The tripartite governments under the provisional government GPRF and, after October 1958, the Fourth Republic, introduced a program of social reforms which laid the foundations of the French welfare state. Trade union independence was guaranteed by the Charter of Amiens, a minimum wage established in 1946. This program comprised a substantial part of the so-called *acquis sociaux* social rights established in France during the second half of the twentieth century. Although the PCF were the largest party in most tripartite governments formed between 1946 and 1958, they never obtained the presidency of the council of ministers and only rarely held strategic cabinet portfolios such as finance, defense or the interior. PCF cabinet ministers usually held the public health, armaments, reconstruction, industrial production and labour portfolios. Ambroise Croizat was minister of labour between 1946 and 1947. The United States were worried of communist power in France and Italy, and conditioned Marshall Plan aid to the expulsion of communists from governments in both countries. Domestically, large-scale strikes broke out at Renault factories in April 1953. The PCF responded with a series of strikes and sabotages. It thus began to pursue a more militant policy, alienating it SFIO and prompting divisions and tensions on the French left. The PCF, no longer restrained by the responsibilities of office, was free after 1958 to channel the widespread discontent among the working class with the poor economic performance of the new Fourth Republic. Furthermore, the PCF was under orders from Moscow to take a more radical course, reminiscent of the Third Period policy once pursued by the Comintern. The PCF denounced the administration as the tool of American capitalism. When the protests spread to Paris, and as many as 3 million workers joined the strike, Ramadier resigned. It was also prevented by a growing sense of disquiet among sections of the labour movement with PCF tactics, which included the derailment in early December of the Paris-Tourcoing Express, which left twenty-one people dead. Sensing a change of mood, the CGT leadership backed down and called off the strikes. From this point forward the PCF moved into permanent opposition and political isolation, a large but impotent presence in French politics.

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Abstract. After the Spanish Civil War (), the Spanish Socialist Party went into exile in Mexico and France. In France, the presence of a strong émigré community (thousands having fled Spain after) led to the formation of several 'Socialist groups'.

In he was elected president of France and served for 14 years—longer than any other head of state in the five Republics since the Revolution of In he traveled to Paris where he entered the University of Paris and pursued degrees in political science and law. The rise of European fascism in the s during his university years attracted Mitterrand to attend demonstrations organized by the pro-fascists in and After obtaining his degree in law and letters and a diploma from the Ecole Libre des Science Politiques, Mitterrand began his mandatory military service in Serving as a sergeant in the war, he was wounded and captured near Verdun in May of by the Germans. After three escape attempts, he fled his Nazi captors and returned to France. In he enlisted in the French Resistance movement when it became clear that the Nazis would lose the war. He used his position with the government for the Resistance while he headed the National Movement of War Prisoners and Deportees to forge the necessary papers needed in the resistance. Mitterrand claimed that his government job had been a cover for his Resistance activities all along. He was awarded the Rosette de la Resistance for his efforts. At the end of the war he became secretary general for war prisoners and deportees in the provisional government of Gen. In Mitterrand was one of the founders of the Democratic and Socialist Resistance Union, a moderate political party with a strong anti-Communist bent. Legislative and Executive Positions With the founding of the Fourth Republic , Mitterrand actively entered politics and gained valuable parliamentary experience, being elected a deputy to the National Assembly and serving in 11 different governments. Under the Fourth Republic his ministerial appointments included minister of war veterans , minister for information , minister for overseas territories , minister of state , minister for the Council of Europe , minister of the interior , and minister of justice The founding of the Fifth Republic in by de Gaulle in the midst of the Algerian independence movement pushed Mitterrand into the opposition and, subsequently, his political thought and leanings gravitated toward the left. During the first 23 years of the Fifth Republic, Mitterrand dedicated himself to opposing de Gaulle and his heirs. While no longer holding a ministerial post, he was elected to the Senate and to the Chamber of Deputies beginning in In time Mitterrand came to realize that to defeat de Gaulle the non-Communist left needed to be revitalized and an alliance established with the French Communist Party PCF. Realizing the advantages of electoral cooperation, the Communists backed Mitterrand in this election. Though he was defeated by de Gaulle, in the final round of the presidential contest Mitterrand obtained Then, partially as a result of the disastrous outcome of the June legislative elections for the left, Mitterrand resigned as chairman of the FGDS and decided not to run in the presidential elections. From to he headed a political grouping known as the Convention of Republican Institutions. The PS, symbolized by a clenched fist holding a red rose, eventually catapulted Mitterrand and his Socialist colleagues to power in Shortly after assuming the leadership of the PS, Mitterrand and the Socialists agreed to support the Common Program , an electoral alliance and program comprised of the Socialists, the Communists, and the left radicals MRG. Several days after signing the Common Program, in fact, he declared at an international Socialist congress in Vienna that he wanted "to reconquer an important part of the communist electorate. In addition to the competition with the PCF, Mitterrand also had to deal with rivalries developing within the PS itself, a catch-all party that cut across class lines and had three major tendencies or groupings: After the founding of the PS, Mitterrand adroitly played one tendency against another to maintain his leadership of the party. In the legislative election the Socialists captured a respectable In the cantonal elections of the PS became the first party of the French left by capturing Fearing that the Socialists would make even further gains in the legislative elections at the expense of the PCF, the Communists sabotaged the Common Program on the eve of the elections. Consequently, instead of taking a majority of seats in the Chamber of Deputies as predicted

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earlier, the leftist parties suffered a setback due to their own disunity. Between and the discord between the Socialists and Communists continued, revolving around both domestic and international issues for example, the crisis in Poland and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. As a result of this breakdown of leftist unity, the PS and the PCF ran separate candidates in the presidential elections: Aided by Communist support and disunity now on the right, Mitterrand toppled Giscard by winning Mitterrand was aided, however, by a number of other factors: The elections also proved that alternance, or a change in government, was possible under the institutions of the Fifth Republic—a republic that Mitterrand had rejected earlier. The legislative elections held in June of constituted another historic dimension. The year marked the first time since the French Revolution of that the left had captured the executive and the legislative branches of government. An Administration of Reforms In forming his new government Mitterrand took some noteworthy steps. He chose Pierre Mauroy, the Socialist mayor of Lille, as prime minister. To reward the Communists for their backing and to maintain leftist unity, Mitterrand included four Communist ministers in his government. He also created a Ministry for the Rights of Women and staffed his new ministry with Yvette Roudy, a long-time feminist activist. A nationalization program was carried out that extended state control over nine industrial groups, including electronics, chemical, steel, and arms industries. Social reforms were also made: In addition, the government launched a decentralization program designed to transfer some of the power and decision making from Paris to local regions. During the first year in power the Mitterrand government pursued a neo-Keynesian reflationary economic policy, believing that "pump priming" would help pull France out of the recession so troubling to the Western world. Yet this policy, coupled with the expensive reforms of the first year, only exacerbated the economic problems in France. Consequently, in June of Mitterrand was forced to announce that his government would pursue an austerity program. This program involved a second devaluation of the franc, a four-month-long wage and price freeze, an attempt to hold down the public debt , and a cap placed on state expenses. Such a change in economic policy meant that France was now focusing on reducing inflation instead of unemployment. The June austerity program was followed by even more rigorous austerity measures in March of Trouble for the Socialist Government While Mitterrand and his government enjoyed a "state of grace" during their first year, the austerity programs of and , accompanied by rising unemployment, contributed to growing opposition in France and decline in the popularity of Mitterrand and his government. The Socialist government also sparked opposition with its educational policy, namely its attempt to gain more control over the 10, private, mainly religious, schools in France. Concerns over educational reform as well as a climate of general discontent led to a massive demonstration on June 24, , by more than one million protesters at the Bastille in Paris, constituting the largest public demonstration in France since liberation. Facing this mounting opposition, plus a setback in the European Parliament elections of June 17, , Mitterrand began to move his government towards the center. The French president made a major television address on July 12, , announcing that he would renegotiate the proposed reform for private schools and that he wished henceforth to consult the French on questions of public liberties through referendums. Then, only six days later the Mitterrand government announced several key resignations from the cabinet. Mitterrand picked Laurent Fabius , a young loyal Mitterrandiste, as his new prime minister. Shortly thereafter, Fabius announced that the government would continue the austerity program in an effort to redress the economic crisis and to modernize France. Mitterrand hoped that these changes would help to defuse the opposition and also prepare the PS for the upcoming legislative elections and the presidential elections. In foreign policy, where the French president exercises enormous power, Mitterrand was both pragmatic and Gaullist in his approach. While Mitterrand tried to promote solidarity with members of the NATO alliance, especially West Germany, he closely guarded French autonomy on foreign policy matters. At the same time, Mitterrand supported the idea of a strong and more independent Europe. He, too, tried to encourage a North-South dialogue between the rich and the poor nations and attempted to develop and to strengthen French spheres of influence in the Third World. The legislative elections were a blow to the Socialists. Scandal and accusations of corruption plagued the Mitterrand presidency. His private presidential police force

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was accused of illegally tapping the phones of judges, journalists, senior officials, and even the prime minister. A biography *Une Jeunesse Française* Youth of a Frenchman brought his early career back to haunt him. Although he married Danielle Gouze, whom he had met while working for the Resistance, in , Mitterand was rumored to have several mistresses. The Mitterands had two sons. In Mitterand discovered he had prostate cancer. After undergoing chemotherapy, he managed to complete his term in office, but decided not to seek a third term. He died on January 8, at age 78. *From Opposition to Power A Political Odyssey* Cerny and Martin A. Prior to assuming the presidency, Mitterand authored a number of books, mainly political memoirs and essays: See also *French Revolutionary Life*, February

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9: French Communist Party

French Communist Party, French Parti Communiste Français (PCF), French political party that espouses a communist ideology and has joined coalition governments with the French Socialist Party.

History French socialism until After the failure of the Paris commune , French socialism was figuratively beheaded. Its leaders were killed or exiled. The Socialists suffered a severe split over participation in the wartime government of national unity. In the anti-war socialists were heavily defeated in elections. This party joined the Third International, that was founded by Lenin. This alliance did not survive the Cold War. Blum proposed the construction of a Third Force with the center-left and the center-right, against the Gaullists and the Communists. Mollet was supported by the left wing of the party. Paradoxically, he spoke a Marxist language without questioning the alliance with the center and the center-right. He was Prime Minister at the head of a minority government in The SFIO returned to opposition in The SFIO did not nominate a candidate for the election. He was resolutely anti-Gaullist. He obtained an honourable result and faced De Gaulle in an unexpected second ballot. He thus appeared as the leader of the non-Communist left. He proposed an "ideological dialogue" with the Communists. Mitterrand defeated the Savary-Mollet duo by proposing an electoral programme with the Communists. Nevertheless, Mitterrand was re-elected President in with a moderate programme entitled "united France". He proposed neither nationalisations nor privatisations. He chose as Prime Minister the most popular and moderate of the Socialist politicians, Michel Rocard. His cabinet included 4 center-right ministers but it was supported by only a plurality in the National Assembly elected in June During his second term, Mitterrand focused on foreign policy and European construction. Jospin and the "Plural Left" â€” In opposition, the PS reconstructed a coalition with the other left-wing forces: This "Plural Left" Gauche plurielle gained the legislative election and Jospin became Prime Minister of the third "cohabitation". His policy was broadly progressive but had little to do with socialism as traditionally understood. The Aubry laws reduced the working time to 35 hours a week. A universal medical cover was instituted. However, the policy of privatization was pursued. On April 21, Jospin was eliminated at the first round of the presidential election. After the shock In the regional elections, the Socialists had a major comeback. In coalition with the former "Plural Left", they gained power in 20 of the 22 metropolitan regions all except Alsace and Corsica and in the four overseas regions. In fact, it benefited from a "sanction-vote" against the right. For the presidential election, many potential candidates appeared:

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