

# THE FRENCH

THE  
DILEMMA OF  
AMERICANIZATION

## SEDUCING

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KUISEL



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# Seducing The French The Dilemma Of Americanization

**Denis M. Provencher**



## **Seducing The French The Dilemma Of Americanization:**

*Seducing the French* Richard F. Kuisel, 1993 When Coca Cola was introduced in France in the late 1940s the country's most prestigious newspaper warned that Coke threatened France's cultural landscape This is one of the examples cited in Richard Kuisel's engaging exploration of France's response to American influence after World War II In analyzing early French resistance and then the gradual adaptation to all things American that evolved by the mid 1980s he offers an intriguing study of national identity and the protection of cultural boundaries The French have historically struggled against Americanization in order to safeguard Frenchness What would happen to the French way of life if gaining American prosperity brought vulgar materialism and social conformity A clash between American consumerism and French civilisation seemed inevitable Cold War anti Communism the Marshall Plan the Coca Cola controversy and de Gaulle's efforts to curb American investment illustrate ways that anti Americanization was played out Kuisel also raises issues that extend beyond France including the economic social and cultural effects of the Americanized consumer society that have become a global phenomenon Kuisel's lively account reaches across French society to include politicians businessmen trade unionists Parisian intelligentsia and ordinary citizens The result reveals much about the French and about Americans As Euro Disney welcomes travellers to its Parisian fantasyland and with French recently declared the official language of France to defend it from the encroachments of English Kuisel's book is especially relevant

**Expressing America** George Ritzer, 1995-02-09 This innovative text focuses on an American icon central to United States culture that is rapidly becoming a global expression of prosperity the credit card George Ritzer explains what the credit card tells us both good and bad about the essence of the modern US and why and how the credit card is helping to transform much of the world Drawing on the insights of both classic and contemporary social thinkers including Georg Simmel C Wright Mills Karl Marx and Max Weber as well as micro macro agency structure and Americanization theories Ritzer also reveals to students the powerful insights gained from using the sociological imagination applied to a topic that students know about and are interested in

**The Risky Business of French Feminism** Jennifer L. Sweatman, 2014-08-26 *The Risky Business of French Feminism* Publishing Politics and Artistry examines the institutional history of the publishing house Editions des Femmes as well as its relationship to the French Women's Liberation Movement MLF from 1972 to the present The founding and subsequent success of Editions des Femmes in the publishing milieu intensified the ideological divisions within the MLF and highlighted the extent to which that movement failed to adequately reflect on the power inherent in its recourse to print culture as an agent of change In particular Editions des Femmes produced several periodical publications and pioneered a woman centered subculture that attached militant political meanings to the practice of buying and publishing books While the MLF succeeded in changing legislation detrimental to women it was not able to create unified cultural politics or construct a long term media strategy that could preserve the movement's original ideals and unity Jennifer L Sweatman explores the long term dissipation of the

MLF as a unified force not only as an outcome of ideological disagreement but also due to conflicting views on culture women s creativity as a strategy for empowerment and the utility of media for creating change As the MLF fragmented unable to fully come to terms with its various consumer identities its need for capital to support creative projects and its difficult experience with collective decision making the Editions des Femmes project was seen as incredibly controversial However Editions des Femmes embodied a broader strategy for cultural transformation that privileged women s creative works rather than feminism situating it as a successful forerunner of the revitalization of the publishing industry from below as small independent houses challenged the large media conglomerate control of the industry **The French Defeat of**

**1940** Joel Blatt,1997-08-01 Why France the major European continental victor in 1918 suffered total defeat in six weeks at the hands of the vanquished power of 1918 only two decades later remains moot Why the stunning reversal of fortunes In this volume thirteen prominent scholars reexamine the French debacle of 1940 in interwar perspectives utilizing fresh analysis original approaches and new sources Although the tenor of the volume is critical the contributors also suggest that French preparations for war knew successes as well as failures that French defeat was not inevitable and that the Battle of France might have turned out differently if different choices had been made and other paths been followed French Anti-Americanism (1930-1948) Seth D. Armus,2007-02-09 French Anti Americanism offers a historical exploration of the central role of anti Americanism in French thought and the often compromised position of France s intelligentsia during World War II It was in the years preceding World War II with its complex fears and uncertainties that America first took center stage as a target for French anxieties Dr Seth D Armus examines the cultural stability of French anti Americanism and how it has survived colossal political shifts nearly unchanged Focusing on the contributions made by inter war intellectuals this book demonstrates how some of the most striking elements of contemporary anti Americanism including a frequent intersection with anti Semitism were fully developed six or seven decades ago Through a study of characters ranging from Nazi collaborators to Catholic humanists Dr Armus provides a sophisticated analysis of French anti Americanism as a cultural phenomenon distinct from mere political opposition to American foreign policy French Anti Americanism is an engaging read that will appeal to scholars of French and American studies as well as those interested in international relations The French Republic Edward G. Berenson,Vincent Duclert,Christophe Prochasson,2011-10-15 In this invaluable reference work the world s foremost authorities on France s political social cultural and intellectual history explore the history and meaning of the French Republic and the challenges it has faced Founded in 1792 the French Republic has been defined and redefined by a succession of regimes and institutions a multiplicity of symbols and a plurality of meanings ideas and values Although constantly in flux the Republic has nonetheless produced a set of core ideals and practices fundamental to modern France s political culture and democratic life Based on the influential Dictionnaire critique de la r publique published in France in 2002 The French Republic provides an encyclopedic survey of French republicanism since the Enlightenment Divided into

three sections Time and History Principles and Values and Dilemmas and Debates The French Republic begins by examining each of France's five Republics and its two authoritarian interludes the Second Empire and Vichy It then offers thematic essays on such topics as Liberty Equality and Fraternity laicity citizenship the press immigration decolonization anti-Semitism gender the family cultural policy and the Muslim headscarf debates Each essay includes a brief guide to further reading This volume features updated translations of some of the most important essays from the French edition as well as twenty-two newly commissioned English language essays for a total of forty entries Taken together they provide a state-of-the-art appraisal of French republicanism and its role in shaping contemporary France's public and private life **French DNA** Paul Rabinow, 2002-10-01 In 1993 an American biotechnology company and a French genetics lab developed a collaborative research plan to search for diabetes genes But just as the project was to begin the French government called it to a halt barring the laboratory from sharing something never previously thought of as a commodity unto itself French DNA

**Queer French** Denis M. Provencher, 2016-05-23 In this book Denis M Provencher examines the tensions between Anglo-American and French articulations of homosexuality and sexual citizenship in the context of contemporary French popular culture and first person narratives In the light of recent political events and the perceived hegemonic role of US forces throughout the world an examination of the French resistance to globalization and Americanization is timely in this context He argues that contemporary French gay and lesbian cultures rely on long-standing French narratives that resist US models of gay experience He maintains that French gay experiences are mitigated through gay French language that draws on several canonical voices including Jean Genet and Jean Paul Sartre and various universalistic discourses Drawing on material from a diverse array of media Queer French draws out the importance of a French gay linguistic and semiotic tradition that emerges in contemporary textual practices and discourses as they relate to sexual citizenship in 20th and 21st century France It will appeal to an interdisciplinary readership in gender and sexuality studies cultural studies linguistics media and communication studies and French studies Colonial Ambivalence, Cultural Authenticity, and the Limitations of Mimicry in French-ruled West Africa, 1914-1956 James Eskridge Genova, 2004 Colonial Ambivalence Cultural Authenticity and the Limitations of Mimicry in French Ruled West Africa 1914-1956 offers an innovative and provocative reassessment of the history and legacies of French colonial rule in West Africa between the First World War and the late 1950s Making critical use of postcolonial and cultural theory James E Genova argues that the colonizers and the colonized were locked in a struggle for authority increasingly structured by competing notions of what it meant to be French or African This book breaks new ground by demonstrating the centrality of the cultural question in the imperial encounters between France and West Africa It maps the emergence of the French educated elite as a social class in French West Africa as a window into the complex relationship between agency and structural context in the making of history A disjunction developed between decolonization and liberation in the colonial liaison of France and West Africa that left colonizers and colonized trapped in a neocolonial

cultural framework actualizing Frantz Fanon's deepest fears about the postcolony

**Jazz and Postwar French Identity**  
 Elizabeth Vihlen McGregor, 2016-06-23 In the context of a shifting domestic and international status quo that was evolving in the decades following World War II French audiences used jazz as a means of negotiating a wide range of issues that were pressing to them and to their fellow citizens Despite the fact that jazz was fundamentally linked to the multicultural through its origins in the hands of African American musicians happenings within the French jazz public reflected much about France's postwar society In the minds of many jazz was connected to youth culture but instead of challenging traditional gender expectations the music tended to reinforce long held stereotypes French critics musicians and fans contended with the reality of American superpower strength and often strove to elevate their own country's stature in relation to the United States by finding fault with American consumer society and foreign policy aims Jazz audiences used this music to condemn American racism and to support the American civil rights movement expressing strong reservations about the American way of life French musicians lobbied to create professional opportunities for themselves and some went so far as to create a union that endorsed preferential treatment for French nationals As France became more ethnically and religiously diverse due to immigration from Africa Asia and the Caribbean French jazz critics and fans noted the insidious appearance of racism in their own country and had to contend with how their own citizens would address the changing demographics of the nation even if they continued to insist that racism was more prevalent in the United States As independence movements brought an end to the French empire jazz enthusiasts from both former colonies and France had to reenvision their relationship to jazz and to the music's international audiences In these postwar decades the French were working to preserve a distinct national identity in the face of weakened global authority most forcefully represented by decolonization and American hegemony Through this originally African American music French listeners commentators and musicians participated in a process that both challenged and reinforced ideas about their own culture and nation

[The Americanisation of European Business](#)  
 Matthias Kipping, Ove Bjarnar, 2002-09-11 This book examines the mechanisms and channels through which American managerial know how and US management models were transferred to Europe after 1945 as well as the actual influence on European industries companies and regions in the 1950s and 1960s It explores the role of the European Productivity Agency business leaders US multinationals regional networks and institutions as well as the actual transfer process and potential political cultural and institutional barriers The final section contains the cases of three European companies which adopted American Management methods to a considerable extent during the 1950s and 1960s

*Imagining the popular in contemporary French culture* Diana Holmes, David Looseley, 2017-10-03 This groundbreaking book is about what popular culture means in France and how the term's shifting meanings have been negotiated and contested It represents the first theoretically informed study of the way that popular culture is lived imagined fought over and negotiated in modern and contemporary France It covers a wide range of overarching concerns the roles of state policy the market political ideologies

changing social contexts and new technologies in the construction of the popular But it also provides a set of specific case studies showing how popular songs stories films TV programmes and language styles have become indispensable elements of culture in France Deploying yet also rethinking a Cultural Studies approach to the popular the book therefore challenges dominant views of what French culture really means today

**Travel in Twentieth-Century French and Francophone Cultures** Charles Forsdick, 2005-05-19 This book is one of the first studies of twentieth century travel literature in French tracking the form from the colonial past to the postcolonial present Whereas most recent explorations of travel literature have addressed English language material Forsdick's study complements these by presenting a body of material that has previously attracted little attention ranging from conventional travel writing to other cultural phenomena such as the Colonial Exposition of 1931 in which changing attitudes to travel are apparent Travel in Twentieth Century French and Francophone Cultures explores the evolution of attitudes to cultural diversity explaining how each generation seems simultaneously to foretell the collapse and reinvention of elsewhere It also follows the progressive renegotiation of understandings of travel and travel literature across the twentieth century focusing in particular on the emergence of travel narratives from France's former colonies The book suggests that an exclusive colonial understanding of travel as a practice defined along the lines of class gender and ethnicity has slowly been transformed so that travel has become an enabling figure encapsulated in notions such as James Clifford's traveling cultures central to analyses of contemporary global culture Engaging initially with Victor Segalen's early twentieth century reflection on travel and exoticism and Albert Kahn's Archives de la Plan te Forsdick goes on to examine a series of interrelated texts and phenomena early African travel narratives inter war ethnography post war accounts of Citro n 2CV journeys the travel stories of immigrant workers the work of Nicholas Bouvier and the Pour une litt rature voyageuse movement narratives of recent walking journeys and contemporary Polynesian literature In delineating a francophone space stretching far beyond metropolitan France itself the book contributes to new understandings of French and Francophone Studies and will also be of interest to those interested in issues of comparatism as well as colonial and postcolonial culture and identity

**Gender and French Identity after the Second World War, 1944-1954** Kelly Ricciardi Colvin, 2017-09-07 The enfranchisement of women in Charles de Gaulle's France in 1944 is considered a potent element in the nation's self crafted triumphant World War Two narrative the French conquered by the Germans valiantly resisted until they rescued themselves and built a new democracy honoring France's longstanding liberal traditions Kelly Ricciardi Colvin's Gender and French Identity after the Second World War 1944 1954 calls that potent element into question By analyzing a range of sources including women's magazines trials memoirs and spy novels this book explores the ways in which culture was used to limit the power of the female vote It exposes a wide network of constructed behavioral norms that supported a conservative vision of French identity Taken together they depicted men as virile Resisters for French democracy and history and women as solely domestic support Indeed Colvin shows that women's

access to the vote emerged alongside an explosion of cultural messages that encouraged them to retreat into the home to find mates to have millions of beautiful babies in the words of de Gaulle and not to challenge patriarchy in any way This is a vital study for understanding the nature of postwar France and women s history in 20th century Europe

**Anticommunism in French Society and Politics, 1945-1953** Aaron Clift, 2023 A work which evaluates anticommunism among the French population 1945 1953 examining its causes character and consequences through a series of case studies on areas of French society including the scouting movement family organisations agricultural associations middle class groups and trade unions and other working class organisations

**A Companion to Contemporary French Cinema** Alistair Fox, Michel Marie, Raphaëlle Moine, Hilary Radner, 2015-01-27 A Companion to Contemporary French Cinema presents a comprehensive collection of original essays addressing all aspects of French cinema from 1990 to the present day Featuring contributions from an international cast of established and emerging scholars of French cinema these innovative essays highlight the diversity of French films and filmmaking techniques that have emerged since the New Wave era Themes and topics covered include the social political and cultural contexts of recent French cinema contemporary filmmakers and performers genres cycles and cinematic forms gender and sexuality and emerging trends and innovative new filmmaking forms Among the French films examined in depth are hit comedies including *Bienvenue chez les Ch'tis* and *Intouchables* blockbusters such as *The Crimson Rivers* police films like *36th Precinct* historical films such as *Farewell My Queen* and *Days of Glory* celebrated animated features such as *Kirikou* and the Sorceress films representative of the new French extreme such as *Romance Baisemoi* and *Trouble Every Day* and numerous auteur films ranging from Bruno Dumont s *Hors Satan* and Fran ois Ozon s shorts to Pascale Ferran s *Lady Chatterley* and Alain Guiraudie s *L Inconnu du lac* Combining cutting edge scholarship with wide ranging methodological approaches and perspectives A Companion to Contemporary French Cinema is an invaluable resource for students and scholars of French film as well as all those interested in the evolution of this celebrated cinematic tradition

**Post-War French Popular Music: Cultural Identity and the Brel-Brassens-Ferré Myth** Adeline Cordier, 2016-04-08 Jacques Brel Georges Brassens and L o Ferr are three emblematic figures of post war French popular music who have been constantly associated with each other by the public and the media They have been described as the epitome of *chanson* and of Frenchness But there is more to the trio than a musical trinity this new study examines the factors of cultural and national identity that have held together the myth of the trio since its creation This book identifies the combination of cultural and historical circumstances from which the works of these three singers emerged It presents an innovative analysis of the correlation between this iconic trio and the evolution of national myths that nurtured the cultural aspirations of post war French society It explores the ways in which Brel Brassens and Ferr embody the myth of the left wing intellectual and of the authentic Gaul spirit and it discusses the ambiguous attitude of post war French society towards gender relations The book



takes an original look at the trio by demonstrating how it illustrates the popular representation of a key issue of French national identity the paradoxical aspiration to both revolution and the maintenance of the status quo May 68 in French Fiction and Film Margaret Attack,1999 This is the first study of May 68 in fiction and in film It looks at the ways the events themselves were represented in narrative evaluates the impact these crucial times had on French cultural and intellectual history and offers readings of texts which were shaped by it The chosen texts concentrate upon important features of May and its aftermath the student rebellion the workers strikes the question of the intellectuals sexuality feminism the political thriller history and textuality Attention is paid to the context of the social and cultural history of the Fifth Republic to Gaullism and to the cultural politics of gauchisme The book aims to show the importance of the interplay of real and imaginary in the text s of May and the emphasis placed upon the problematic of writing and interpretation It argues that re reading the texts of May forces a reconsideration of the existing accounts of postwar cultural history The texts of May reflect on social order on rationality logic and modes of representation and are this highly relevant to contemporary debates on modernity **American Exceptionalism, the French Exception, and Digital Media Law** Lyombe S. Eko,2013-07-10

This volume explores the sameness and difference between the United States and France in the matters of freedom of expression on the Internet The United States and France are liberal democracies that are part of the Western family of nations However despite their many similarities they have a number of cultural and ideological differences The United States is generally France s ally in time of war and its cultural nemesis in time of peace One of the reasons for this unusual relationship is that the United States and France are self described exceptional countries The United States and France are therefore two Western countries separated by different exceptionalist logics Lyombe Eko uses this concept of exceptionalism as a theoretical framework for the analysis of American and French resolution of problems of human rights and freedom of expression in the traditional media and on the Internet This book therefore analyzes how each country applies rules and regulations designed to manage a number of issues of media communication in real space to the realities and specificities of cyberspace within the framework of their respective exceptionalist logics The fundamental question addressed concerns what happens when rules and regulations designed to regulate the media in clearly defined national and regional geographic spaces are suddenly confronted with the new realities and multi communication platforms of the interconnected virtual sphere of cyberspace **Transactions, Transgressions, Transformations** Heide Fehrenbach,Uta G. Poiger,2000

American culture has been one of the most controversial exports of the United States greeted with enthusiasm by some with hostility by others Yet few societies escape its influence However not all changes should be interpreted simply as Americanization The shaping of the postwar world has been much more complex than this term implies as is shown in this volume that explores the links between Americanization and modernity in Western Europe and Japan In considering the impact of products and images ranging from movies and music to fashion and architecture a multi disciplinary group of

contributors asks how American culture has been employed internationally in the articulation of postwar identities be they national or subnational socially sanctioned or socially transgressive Their essays on France Italy Germany and Japan move beyond the simple paradigms of colonization and democratic modernization yet retain a sensitivity to the asymmetries in the postwar power relationships between these countries and the United States An extensive introduction historically locates changing interpretations of American influences abroad and suggests the problems and promises of Americanization as an analytical tool Its comparative focus and interdisciplinary scope will appeal to a wide range of students and scholars of cold war and post cold war history

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