

# The Myth Of The Unconscious New French Thought

For decades, France has been renowned for its intellectual contributions to various fields. From philosophy to literature, French thinkers and writers have captivated the world with their unique perspectives and ideas. However, there seems to be a prevailing myth surrounding the new French thought that suggests a deep-rooted subconsciousness and hidden agendas behind their intellectual discourse. In this article, we will explore this myth and shed light on the reality behind the unconscious new French thought.

## The French Intellectual Tradition

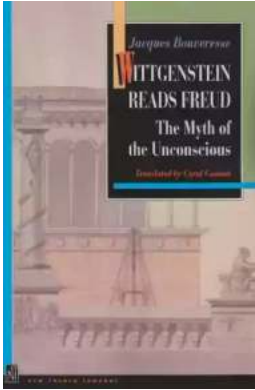
France has a long intellectual tradition that dates back centuries. Thinkers like René Descartes, Jean-Paul Sartre, and Simone de Beauvoir have shaped the world of philosophy and existentialism. French literature, from authors such as Victor Hugo and Albert Camus, has made profound contributions to the literary canon. It is undeniable that France has been at the forefront of intellectual discourse throughout history.

However, with the rise of postmodernism and deconstruction in the late 20th century, a new wave of French thinkers emerged. Michel Foucault, Jacques Derrida, and Gilles Deleuze, among others, challenged traditional modes of thinking and introduced new ideas into various fields. This new French thought gained momentum and achieved global recognition.

## Wittgenstein Reads Freud: The Myth of the Unconscious (New French Thought)

by Jacques Bouveresse (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5



## The Myth of the Unconscious

While the intellectual contributions of these new French thinkers are undeniable, there has been a tendency to attribute hidden meanings to their work. Critics suggest that behind their discourse lies a deep-rooted subconsciousness, hidden agendas, and political biases.

The myth of the unconscious new French thought often revolves around the notion that these intellectuals intentionally obfuscate their true intentions. Some argue that they use language as a tool to manipulate and deceive, creating a pseudo-intellectual discourse that is impenetrable for the average reader. This belief leads to the perception that their work is a smoke screen for ulterior motives.

Additionally, the myth suggests that these thinkers are perpetuating a specific political agenda. It is claimed that their ideas are inseparable from leftist or Marxist ideologies, and any deviation from this narrative is dismissed as a smokescreen. This notion reduces their intellectual contributions to mere propaganda, negating their unique insights and thoughtful analysis.

## The Reality Behind the Myth

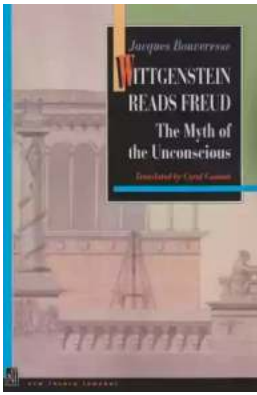
Contrary to this myth, new French thought does not have an unconscious agenda or hidden motives. While it is true that their work is often complex and requires careful reading and interpretation, this complexity does not imply intentional deception.

These thinkers embrace ambiguity and multiplicity of meanings, embracing the postmodern philosophy that questions fixed truths. Their aim is to challenge preconceived notions and offer alternative perspectives on various aspects of human experience. While their ideas might be challenging to grasp, they are not intentionally convoluted to deceive.

Furthermore, characterizing their work as mere political propaganda is a simplistic way of dismissing their complex intellectual contributions. The ideas put forth by these French intellectuals encompass a wide range of topics, including philosophy, literature, aesthetics, and social theory. They engage with diverse subjects that go beyond mere political ideology.

It is crucial to recognize that the myth of the unconscious new French thought stems from a misunderstanding and oversimplification of their work. By reducing their contributions to hidden motives and political propaganda, we miss the opportunity to engage with their unique insights and explore new ideas.

The myth of the unconscious new French thought is an oversimplification that fails to recognize the complexity and diversity of their intellectual contributions. French thinkers have played a significant role in shaping philosophy, literature, and various other fields. It is essential to move beyond this myth and engage with their work with an open mind, allowing for a deeper understanding and appreciation of their unique perspectives.



## Wittgenstein Reads Freud: The Myth of the Unconscious (New French Thought)

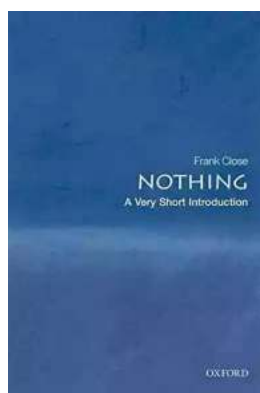
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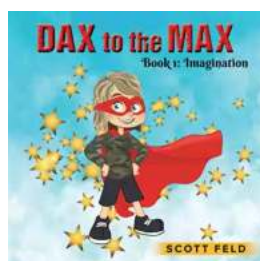
Did Freud present a scientific hypothesis about the unconscious, as he always maintained and as many of his disciples keep repeating? This question has long prompted debates concerning the legitimacy and usefulness of psychoanalysis, and it is of utmost importance to Lacanian analysts, whose main project has been to stress Freud's scientific grounding. Here Jacques Bouveresse, a noted authority on Ludwig Wittgenstein, contributes to the debate by turning to this Austrian-born philosopher and contemporary of Freud for a candid assessment of the early issues surrounding psychoanalysis. Wittgenstein, who himself had delivered a devastating critique of traditional philosophy, sympathetically pondered Freud's claim to have produced a scientific theory in proposing a new model of the human psyche. What Wittgenstein recognized--and what Bouveresse so eloquently stresses for today's reader--is that psychoanalysis does not aim to produce a change limited to the intellect but rather seeks to provoke an authentic change of human attitudes. The beauty behind the theory of the unconscious for Wittgenstein is that it breaks away from scientific, causal explanations to offer new forms of thinking and speaking, or rather, a new mythology.

Offering a critical view of all the texts in which Wittgenstein mentions Freud, Bouveresse immerses us in the intellectual climate of Vienna in the early part of the twentieth century. Although we come to see why Wittgenstein did not view psychoanalysis as a science proper, we are nonetheless made to feel the philosopher's sense of wonder and respect for the cultural task Freud took on as he found new ways meaningfully to discuss human concerns. Intertwined in this story of Wittgenstein's grappling with the theory of the unconscious is the story of how he came to question the authority of science and of philosophy itself. While aiming primarily at the clarification of Wittgenstein's opinion of Freud, Bouveresse's book can be read as a challenge to the French psychoanalytic school of Lacan and as a provocative commentary on cultural authority.



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