



Paul de Man (Routledge Revivals)

Professor Christopher Norris



Paul de Man - literary critic, literary philosopher, American deconstructionist - changed the landscape of criticism through his rigorous theories and writings. Upon its original publication in 1988, Christopher Norris book was the first full-length introduction to de Man, a reading that offers a much-needed corrective to the pattern of extreme antithetical response which marked the initial reception to de Mans writings. Norris addresses de Mans relationship to philosophical thinking in the post-Kantian tradition, his concern with aesthetic ideology as a potent force of mystification within and beyond that tradition, and the vexed issue of de Mans politics. Norris brings out the marked shift of allegiance in de Mans thinking, from the thinly veiled conservative implications of the early essays to the engagement with Marx and Foucault on matters of language and politics in the late, posthumous writing. At each stage, Norris raises these questions through a detailed close reading of individual texts which will be welcomed by those who lack any specialised knowledge of de Mans work.

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