May 68
Also by Julian Jackson

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May 68
Rethinking France’s Last Revolution

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### Acronyms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AGEL</td>
<td>General Association of Students (Lyons)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAL</td>
<td>Comités d'action lycéens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CATE</td>
<td>Comités d'action travailleurs-étudiants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDR</td>
<td>Comité de défense de la République</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CFDT</td>
<td>Confédération française démocratique du travail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CFTC</td>
<td>Confédération générale des travailleurs chrétiens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CGT</td>
<td>Confédération générale de travail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLOTIF</td>
<td>Comité de liaison des organisations des travailleurs immigrés en France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CNJA</td>
<td>Confédération Nationale des Jeunes Agriculteurs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CNSTP</td>
<td>Confédération nationale des syndicats de travailleurs paysans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOM-TOM</td>
<td>Départements d’outre-mer – Territoires d’outre-mer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FDSEA</td>
<td>Fédération départementale des syndicats d’exploitants agricoles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEN</td>
<td>Fédération de l’Éducation nationale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FGDS</td>
<td>Fédération de la gauche démocratique et socialiste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FHAR</td>
<td>Front homosexuel d’action révolutionnaire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FLN</td>
<td>Front de libération nationale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FNSEA</td>
<td>Fédération nationale des syndicats d’exploitants agricoles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FNSP</td>
<td>Fédération nationale des syndicats paysans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FTP-MOI</td>
<td>Francs-tireurs et partisans – main d’œuvre immigrée</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GP</td>
<td>Gauche prolétarienne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRECE</td>
<td>Groupe de recherche et d’études pour la civilisation européenne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GTU</td>
<td>Groupes de travail universitaires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAC</td>
<td>Jeunesse Agricole Catholique</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JCR</td>
<td>Jeunesse révolutionnaire communiste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOC</td>
<td>Jeunesse ouvrière chrétienne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LCR</td>
<td>Ligue communiste révolutionnaire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MFPF</td>
<td>Mouvement français pour le planning familial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MLF</td>
<td>Mouvement de libération des Femmes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MODEF</td>
<td>Mouvement de Défense des Exploitants Familiaux</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acronym</td>
<td>Full Form</td>
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<tr>
<td>---------</td>
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<tr>
<td>MRAP</td>
<td>Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l’amitié entre les peuples</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRJC</td>
<td>Mouvement Rural de la Jeunesse Chrétienne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSLP</td>
<td>Mouvement de soutien aux luttes du peuple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTA</td>
<td>Mouvement des Travailleurs Arabes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRP</td>
<td>New Peoples’ Resistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OAS</td>
<td>Organisation armée secrète</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCFml</td>
<td>Organisation communiste de France marxiste-léniniste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORTF</td>
<td>Office de radiodiffusion et télévision française</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCF</td>
<td>Parti communiste français</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCMLF</td>
<td>Parti communiste marxiste-léniniste de France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCRml</td>
<td>Part communiste révolutionnaire marxiste-léniniste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSU</td>
<td>Parti socialiste unifié</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAC</td>
<td>Service d’action civique</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT</td>
<td>Services d’assistance technique</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SFIO</td>
<td>Section française de l’internationale ouvrière</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNESup</td>
<td>Syndicat national de l’enseignement supérieur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TNP</td>
<td>Théâtre national populaire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCFml</td>
<td>Union des communistes de France marxistes-léninistes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UEC</td>
<td>Union des étudiants communistes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UJC(ml)</td>
<td>Union de la jeunesse communiste (marxiste-léniniste)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNEF</td>
<td>Union nationale des étudiants français</td>
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Preface

From 16 to 18 May 2008 an international conference was held at the University of London Institute in Paris (ULIP) to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of the events of May 1968. Organized by ourselves as members of the University of London consortium comprising ULIP, Royal Holloway and Queen Mary, the conference, entitled ‘May 68: Forty Years On’, aimed to present the results of the latest research on May 68 being undertaken both within and outside France. The stately premises of ULIP in Paris’s grand 7th arrondissement might have seemed a rather curious venue to discuss the semi-revolutionary events of 1968, but in partnership with Canal 93, a performance space and training centre in the socially deprived city of Bobigny in the inner Parisian suburbs, we sought to bring together innovative scholarly work and exciting projects being pursued in local secondary schools, culminating in a free-jazz exploration of the ‘1968 years’. Pupils drawn from sixth-form history classes were invited to participate in a series of radio programmes combining archive material and their own commentary on the images and sounds of the period. These programmes were coordinated by a production team from the national radio station, France Culture, and broadcast on France Culture.

A selection of papers delivered at the 2008 conference forms the basis of May 68, which also comprises a number of new and specially commissioned chapters. In the last 20 years a vast amount of important new work has been carried out in France on the subject of May 68, but very little of it has been available in English. A central aim of this unique and wide-ranging volume is to introduce some of the best of this scholarship to a non-French-speaking readership, and, as with the conference, juxtapose it with the work of both young and established researchers from Britain, Canada and the United States working in the fields of history, political and social science, art, film and drama. Also featured are extracts from the remarkable memoir on 1968 and its legacy by Virginie Linhart entitled Le jour où mon père s’est tu, published in France in 2008 to great acclaim.
May 68 is arranged in three parts: ‘Rethinking the Events’, ‘Decentring the Events’ and ‘Performing the Events’. Each is introduced by a chapter that foregrounds and contextualizes historically and theoretically important common themes. Running throughout the volume are a range of illustrations, including many rarely seen images supplied by the photographic archives of the Communist newspaper, L’Humanité. Some of these images are drawn from the collection of photographs contributed to the newspaper by amateur ‘correspondants’ a form of reader involvement in a major national newspaper that is quite unique to L’Humanité and reflects the very tight relationship fostered between the Communist Party, its daily newspaper and its members and sympathizers. The Communist Party was itself highly contested during the events of May and after, and these photos often reveal situations and associations that remained marginal to the mainstream reporting of the events.

Finally, the translations of the French contributions are our own.

We would like to thank the following people and institutions in particular for their help and support during the various stages of this project: Mark Gore and Emmanuelle Segura, Canal 93; Professor Andrew Hussey, ULIP; School of European Languages, Literatures and Cultures, Royal Holloway; School of History, Queen Mary, University of London; Albertine Fox; Catherine Thorin; Sylvie Zaidman and Maxime Courban, Archives départementales Seine-Saint-Denis; Alexandre Courban, Association Mémories d’Humanité; Roland Michel Tartakowsky; Ruth Ireland and Michael Strang at Palgrave Macmillan.
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