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The Necessity of Revolution? French Marxism after the Second World War and 1968 Events

For French Marxists, members of the French Communist Party or their leftist opposition, the events of 1968 were a real dilemma (in Mark Bevir's understanding of the term). The course of events did not conform to the schemes provided by the Marxist tradition and the most radical ideas were spread by groups other than the working class. Nevertheless, the question, whether a revolutionary process begins in France, was asked by everyone. The Marxist had to answer it as well as the other political actors.

The aim of the thesis is the reconstruction and analysis of revolutionary conceptions developed during the 1968 events by the French groups rooted in the Marxist tradition. This encompasses mainly French leftists, whose concepts are presented in the context of the post-war doctrine evolution of the French Communist Party. Leftists' as well as communists' conceptions have been shown within the broader Marxist tradition. Additionally their writings have been analyzed chronologically in order to grasp the theoretical changes brought upon by the 1968 events.

The thesis is situated within the intellectual history paradigm developed by the Cambridge School of Intellectual History.