

# **André Gide and the Discourses of Power; A New Approach to the Process of Disillusionment with Communism in *Return from the U.S.S.R***

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## **Abstract**

After the victory of the October Revolution in 1917 and the establishment of the communist regime in the Soviet Union, this land became the utopia of many intellectuals. Among them was André Gide, who was invited by the Union of Soviet Writers in 1936 to visit the land of his dreams. However, what he witnessed and wrote in his return, entitled *Return from the U.S.S.R* (1936) and *Afterthoughts on the U.S.S.R.* (1937), expressed his despair and loss of hope for the realization of the great human aspirations of the twentieth century. This apparent disillusionment in Gide's text, however, is not simply achieved, and simultaneously conveys the effects and factors that, according to Michel Foucault, shape the discourse of power in a particular period and influence the individual and collective choices of the author. In this article, we try to figure out the interaction of central discourses of power and their relation to the possibility of communism disillusionment by Gide, using the historical research methodology and relying on new historicist theories.

**Keywords:** communism, New historicism, discourse of power, André Gide, Return from the U.S.S.R, Disillusionment

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