Extract from **Internationale Situationniste** at **Context XXI**

(http://contextxxi.org/freedom-to-read-but-to-read-what.html)

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Freedom to Read, but to read What?

n REUBEN KEEHAN (TRANSLATION) ■ SITUATIONISTISCHE INTERNATIONALE

The escapism of art and literature, the overestimation of the importance of these definite activities according to the old bourgeois perspective, appears in the European Workers' States where, in reaction against the police *détournements* of an attempt at real change in the world, disappointed intellectuals have come to demonstrate a naïve indulgence for the by-products and reissues of a decomposing Western culture. In a parallel illusion they have rediscovered the subject of the democratic parliamentary system. The young Polish writer Marek Hlasko, interviewed in *L'Express* (of 17 April 1958), justified his intention to return to Poland — where, according to the assured opinions he himself has expressed, life is unbearable and no improvement is possible — for this stupefying reason: "Poland is an extraordinary country for a writer, and the consequences of living there are worth suffering."

We have no regrets about the decline of Zhdanovism, despite the stupid interest in Czechoslovakia and Poland in the more miserable aspects of the end of Western culture: expressions which are no longer at the extreme of formal decomposition, but which have reached a pure *neutrality* — Sagan-Drouet, for example, or the artistic motivations of the journal *Phases.* We understand the necessity of asserting a total freedom of information and creation against the still powerful doctrine of socialist-realism. But this freedom should in no way be confused with allegiance to the "modern" culture that can currently be found in Western Europe. This culture is the historical opposite of creation, and it is necessary to seek superior constructions of life. In the Workers' States and here, real freedom is the same — and so are its enemies.

Situationist International: Situationistisch / Situationist: All das, was sich auf die Theorie oder auf die praktische Tätigkeit von Situationen bezieht. Derjenige, der sich damit beschäftigt, Situationen zu konstruieren. Mitglied der situationistischen Internationale.
Situationismus: Sinnloses Wort, missbräuchlich durch Ableitung des vorigen gebildet. Einen Situationismus gibt es nicht — was eine Doktrin zur Interpretation der vorhandenen Tatsachen bedeuten würde. Selbstverständlich haben sich die Anti-Situationisten den Begriff „Situationismus" ausgedacht.

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