

Albert Camus and Jean-Paul Sartre first met in 1943, during the German occupation of France. Intellectual as well as political allies, they grew famous overnight after Paris was liberated. But East-West tensions began to strain their friendship as they evolved in opposing directions, disagreeing over philosophy, the responsibilities of intellectuals, and what sorts of political changes were necessary or possible. And while Sartre embraced violence as a path to change, Camus sharply opposed it, leading to a bitter and very public falling out in 1952, after which they never spoke again.

Aronson chronicles this riveting story while demonstrating how Camus and Sartre developed first in connection with and then against each other, each keeping the other in his sights long after their break. Combining biography and intellectual history, philosophical and political passion, *Camus and Sartre* will fascinate anyone interested in these great writers or the world-historical issues that tore them apart.

“With meticulous even-handedness, this internationally renowned Sartre expert has produced a remarkably non-partisan account which also reminds us that it is possible to combine the highest level of scholarship with a lively and readable style of writing.”

DAVID DRAKE, *Times Literary Supplement*

“Aronson’s literary acuity combined with an entertaining use of anecdotes on social and personal jealousies Sartre and Camus harbored make the book a useful biographical background to the major works of these authors and a most enjoyable tale of the turmoil of intellectual life in postwar France.”

Publishers Weekly

“In his new book, *Camus and Sartre*, Ronald Aronson . . . traces the nuances of their friendship, their mutual influences and hostilities, and the themes that still haunt contemporary debates.”

EDWARD ROTHSTEIN, *New York Times*

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