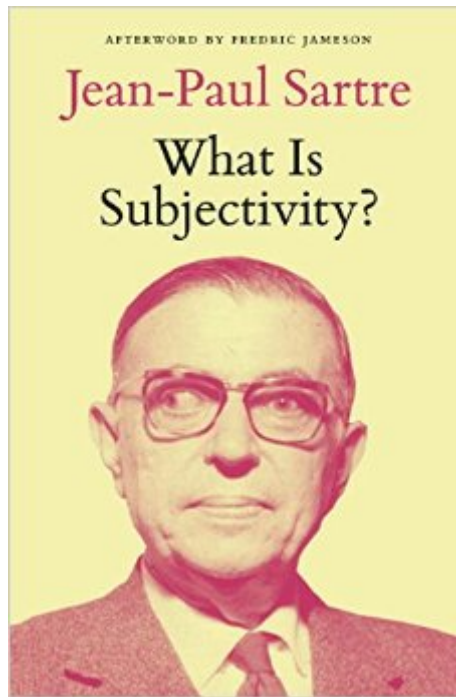


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# What Is Subjectivity?



## Synopsis

Jean-Paul Sartre, at the height of his powers, debates with Italy's leading intellectuals. In 1961, the prolific French intellectual Jean-Paul Sartre was invited to give a talk at the Gramsci Institute in Rome. In attendance were some of Italy's leading Marxist thinkers, such as Enzo Paci, Cesare Luporini, and Galvano Della Volpe, whose contributions to the long and remarkable discussion that followed are collected in this volume, along with the lecture itself. Sartre posed the question "What is subjectivity?" a question of renewed importance today to contemporary debates concerning the subject in critical theory. This work includes a preface by Michel Kail and Raoul Kirchmayr and an afterword by Fredric Jameson, who makes a rousing case for the continued importance of Sartre's philosophy.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

What Is Subjectivity? is the transcript of a talk Jean-Paul Sartre gave in 1961. Also included are the transcripts of discussions which took place at the same conference and an afterword by Fredric Jameson which might be of particular interest to those wondering if Sartre still has any relevance today. The idea of the subject and subjectivity seems to always be open to some kind of debate, particularly when used between disciplines. The questions in 1961 are still of interest today even though dominant thought has shifted considerably. Understanding Sartre's idea of subjectivity (as compared to some translations as subjective, which misses the point) can, I think, be of particular interest to students of literary theory. I think this is a valuable addition for anyone interested in

philosophy (particularly "continental" and existentialism) literary theory and cultural theory. Though I wouldn't recommend it as an introduction to Sartre I do believe it would be beneficial as an early read. It would also be accessible to those well-versed in literary theory as well. Reviewed from an ARC made available by the publisher via NetGalley.

What is Subjectivity? by Jean-Paul Sartre is a free NetGalley ebook that I read in late March, mostly due to an interest in philosophic reasoning and the fact that I felt that Sartre's wall-eye was following me with disapproval each time I passed him by in my book list to read something else. This book is a critique/philosophical unpacking of concepts that was originally written in French in 2013, then translated to English in 2016. It begins with an introduction (about what was going on in Sartre's world during that time, the origin of this speech's transcript), then the speech that Sartre gave on subjectivity in Rome on December 12, 1961 (which is about self-reflection, the withheld, praxis, the bourgeois, and the working class), and, finally, a transcription of discussions that took place between Sartre and some of his cohorts that day and a couple days later about the finer points of the speech.

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