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Fromm's views on the development of Freud's theories

FROMM, Erich. *The Crisis of Psychoanalysis*. 192p. index. Holt. 1970. \$4.95. ISBN 0-03-084518-1. LC 70-102142.

PSYCH

This important collection of Fromm's essays (his only collection on psychoanalytic theory) presents his views on the development of Freud's theories and the ineffective use of them by many psychoanalysts today. The major theme of these papers, which were written at various times between 1932 and 1969, is social psychology, the interdependence between the individual's psychology and his society. Even within orthodox psychoanalysis there is an inability to adapt the spirit of Freud's precepts to today's world, and he feels that the acceptance of the movement known as ego psychol-

ogy into orthodoxy was a retreat toward sterility and away from the vision of Freud. He lambastes Herbert Marcuse, among others, for misusing psychoanalytic theory in his own theories through not making the effort to understand it fully. The papers are lively and stimulating (the discussion of Bachofen's matriarchal views should delight women's liberationists) but the message is sad: not only is psychoanalysis in crisis and unlikely to survive, but the life of our world itself is in grave jeopardy with only a low probability of continuing for very much longer. Highly recommended to general as well as special collections.—*George Adelman, Neurosciences Research Program, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Brookline*