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Erich Fromm, advocate of love, dies at 79

LOCARNO, Switzerland (AP) — Psychoanalyst Erich Fromm, author of "The Art of Loving," in which he said "love is the only sane and satisfactory answer to the problem of human existence," died Tuesday of a heart attack at his home in suburban Muralto, family sources said. He was five days away from his 80th birthday.

According to his wishes for a quiet funeral with only his family circle present, no funeral arrangements will be announced, said Dr. Ruth Liepman, his literary agent. Fromm is survived by his third wife, Annis Freeman Fromm, whom he married in 1955.

The German-born American became one of the world's most respected psychoanalytical thinkers.

His pioneering works included "Psychoanalysis and Religion" and "Healthy Society." Other works were: "The Forgotten Language," "Sigmund Freud's Mission," "The Dogma of Christ and Other Essays on Religion, Psychology and Culture," "Revolution of Hope," "Social Character in a Mexican Village," "The Anatomy of Human Destructiveness" and "To Have or To Be."

Fundamentally a religious person, Fromm challenged orthodox followers of the theories of

Sigmund Freud, the father of psychoanalysis who argued in favor of dropping all moral-religious barriers limiting pleasure.

He sympathized with humanitarian forms of religion as expressed in the teachings of Jesus and Buddha and in Jewish and Christian mystics, but opposed what he viewed as authoritarian forms of religion, citing Lutheran and Calvinist Protestantism.

Fromm advocated social change toward more humane, simpler lifestyles. At an early age, he warned that the world was headed toward psychological and ecological disaster and pleaded for a "being mode" based on love, pleasure of sharing, and meaningful and productive activity.

He felt people had developed a growing hopelessness, theorizing that the world was going through a second industrial revolution in which "man himself is being transformed into an art of the total machine, passive, unalive and with little feeling."

His key concern was how man could come to terms with his isolation, insignificance and doubt about the meaning of life.

In his best-selling book, "Escape From Freedom," he traced the development of man's self-

awareness from the Middle Ages to recent times.

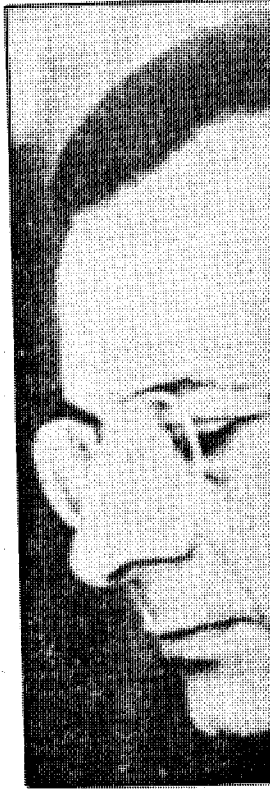
"The Sane Society," one of Fromm's most influential works, dealt with the alienation of man in a consumer-oriented society. The book's title and theme inspired the National Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy, which Fromm helped organize in 1957.

"May Man Prevail?" expressed his concern about the prospects of nuclear war. He contended that the hostility between the United States and the Soviet Union resulted from paranoid thinking based on misconceptions that the two powers held about each other's aims.

In "The Heart of Man," Fromm discussed the creative and destructive capacities of man.

In "The Anatomy of Human Destructiveness," he explored the causes of aggression. He said destructiveness results from "interaction of various social conditions with man's existential needs." He backed up his theses with case studies of Adolf Hitler.

In "Crisis of Psychoanalysis," he voiced the belief that the movement was stifled in conformism and bureaucracy and was unlikely to survive in a world that was in great danger.



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