Psychoanalyst and Philosopher
Erich Fromm Dies

By J. Y. Smith
Washington Post Staff Writer

Erich Fromm, a psychoanalyst and philosopher who sought to apply the lessons of psychology to the social and political problems of the 20th century, died of a heart attack Tuesday at his home in Murten, Switzerland.

Among the most widely read social theorists of the 20th century, Dr. Fromm was among the most prolific and eclectic writers on the nature of man and his relationship to the environment. His topics ranged from the problems of economic, political, and social change, to psychoanalysis and Christianity, to the nature of love, and to broader understanding between the United States and the Soviet Union.

Dr. Fromm was the author of over 20 books, among them "The Art of Loving," which proclaimed that "love is the only sane and satisfactory answer to the problem of human existence." The love of which he speaks is not based upon superficial considerations such as beauty or sex appeal, but is a mutually satisfying relationship "under the conditions of preserving men's integrity."

The book has an enormous vogue on campuses during the 1960s and Dr. Fromm became something of a cult figure among large numbers of students at that time.

His most influential work may have been "Escape from Freedom," published in 1941. It is still in print. Dr. Fromm traces social development from the Middle Ages to modern industrial society. Having gained a substantial measure of personal freedom through the struggles of earlier generations, man finds himself faced with the disconcerting demands of the present. He is no longer using the techniques of psychoanalysis to discover and to change the emotions that man tends to seek protection from, but is using them to enrich his own personality or to act as counterweights to Moscow and Washington.

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Dr. Fromm continued to write until shortly before his death. He published another book, "Sane Power," last year and had undertaken a new study of popula

psychoanalyst at the Psychosomatic Institute in Berlin, becoming one of the relatively few persons to enter the profession without a degree in medicine.

The outbreak of World War I in 1914 was one of the profound experiences of Dr. Fromm's life. "I don't know if the First World War was the beginning of the process of 'de-idealization' that continues to this day," he said in an interview in 1962.

When he was 18, Dr. Fromm, although descended from a long line of rabbis and the product of a devout Jewish upbringing, abandoned Judaism. "I gave up my religious convictions and practices because I just didn't want to participate in any division of the human race, whether religious or political," he said in the same interview.

Dr. Fromm was a lecturer on psychoanalysis at the University of Frankfurt from 1920 and 1923. He was in Geneva, Switzerland, when Hitler came to power in Germany. He visited Chicago in 1933 and the following year decided to emigrate to the United States.

For the next three decades, he was on the faculties of a number of American universities, including Columbia, Yale and Bennington College. He joined the faculty of the University of Mexico in 1951 and held a teaching post at New York University at the same time. From 1958 to 1962, he was professor of psychology at M.I.T. State University. He was a founder of the William Alanson White Institute in 1942.

Dr. Fromm was born in Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany, on March 23, 1900. His parents were Nachum and Frides Fromm, a wine merchant, and Rosa Krause Fromm. He earned a doctorate in philosophy from the University of Heidelberg in 1922 and took further training in psychoanalysis at the University of Munich.

He completed his training as a psychoanalyst at the Psychosomatic Institute in Berlin, becoming one of the relatively few persons to enter the profession without a degree in medicine.

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