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Krasner_R_1983

Review of Chrzanowski, G., The Work of Erich Fromm: Summing and Evaluation

Ronald Krasner

Source: *Psychoanalytic Quarterly*, Vol. 52, p. 653.

Chrzanowski presents a brief biographical sketch of Fromm and then discusses his basic tenets. According to the author, Fromm believed that individual personality is molded by relationships to others and by the prevailing socioeconomic structure. People become ill when they are overcome by preoccupations with mechanization, retention, and death. Human motivations spring from the search for relatedness and identity, not from instinctual forces. The affirmation of living matter and the overcoming of separateness and aloneness are the human being's highest achievements. If society could support such goals, there would

be no criminals or exploitative aggressors.

The fostering of individuations, self-respect, independence, love, reason, and creativity in people comprises the guidelines of this therapeutic approach. In summary, Chrzanowski states, "In the final analysis Fromm was a social philosopher with an admirable belief in virtue. As a clinician and contributor to analytic work, Fromm had his limitations mainly in the direction of moralism, dogmatism, and lack of concern for clinical details."