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## **The Myth De Gaulle in Speeches and Press Conferences**

(Summary)

How is possible that if on 18 July 1940, when De Gaulle firstly appeals to the French, his is a relatively unknown general, and not more than 2 years later – in 1942, Frenchmen and foreigners claim that he is the embodiment of France? How is it possible that today it is certain that he is the only general called The General? The Gaullistic mythology has its foundations is during the World War II. This are omnipurpose myths that has every mythology of a hero – Saviour, Unifier, mission, Messiah, Judge. To become a Unifier of France at first he has to become a Unifier of The French Resistance. The myth at an early stage of the mythology is a conglomerate of the myths “Struggle to the Last”, “The Lonely Hero Burden with the French Honour”, “The 18th of July” and the group of myths from the Contramythology – “The Armistice”, “Montoire” and The Betrayal“. The General’s personality is clarified in his speeches, addresses to the nation, his articles and etc. Typical of him is that he writes the texts all by himself. He is highly educated, has an own style that fascinates the audience. De Gaulle is a real master of psychological games. But the most important about him, that is hidden behind the emotional pronouncements, is his absolute political realism. His speeches are distinctive with an outstanding subject and high self-esteem. Key words in his speeches are De Gaulle (starting with “I” and reaching the royal “us” for personal pronoun), “honour”, “duty”, “independence”, “liberty”, “glory”. The General cleverly uses melody and rhythm in his speeches to influence the audience, according to the situation his is dressed either in uniform or formal suit. The political scene literally a stage for De Gaulle. The press conferences are a

means of forming the myth De Gaulle. After 1958 they are called “Holy Masses”. Every role is carefully allocated and they become a ritual. The impact and the might of his speeches depends on their strict preparation and carefully considered atmosphere. Not only does he write his speeches but he learns them by heart in front of the mirror including the gestures. In spite of his age and illnesses, he is still capable of leading 90 minutes long press conferences and one hour long speeches, without checking his notes and with no changes from the originally written text. De Gaulle successfully feels the desires and the tendency amongst the members of the audience during those press conferences and speeches. It is remarkable that even his opponents ask “What are we going to do without De Gaulle?” when in 1969 he finally retires.