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After the Deluge: The French Communist Party after the End of Communism

Author: FRANK WILSON

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Although economic problems and political developments in the late 1970s and early 1980s had already started to sap its political import and erode its electoral support, since the fall of state socialism in 1989 the French Communist Party (PCF) has found itself in an even more severe identity crisis. Much of its decline can be traced to its inability to effectively define itself ideologically and its corresponding inability to formulate an attractive and relevant set of policy positions. This article presents an overview of the historical evolution of the PCF from its zenith of political relevance to its recent decline, paying special attention to the PCF's attempt in the face of political oblivion to delineate distinctive and effective political strategies and political programs.

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