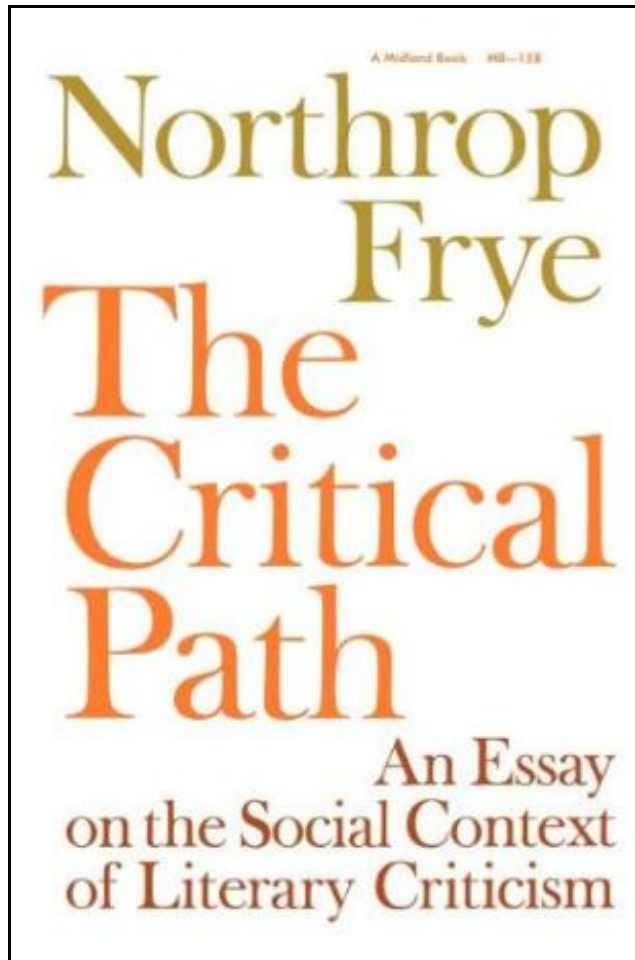


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Indiana University Press, United States, 1971. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 202 x 132 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.This philosophic inquiry into fundamental problems of literature and society is an immensely important addition to the canon of one of America's most original and distinguished critics. What is the function of poetry? Of criticism? In what sense does the poet know? What is the relationship between a society and its art? Northrop Frye conducts us on an illuminating survey of these and other broad philosophic issues and offers many incidental insights into specific cultural phenomena as well. Such matters as Marxist aesthetics, Renaissance humanism, the relation of poetry to religion, the idea of progress, and the challenge of our contemporary youth culture are among the dozen interesting topics that engage his attention along the way. Mr. Frye identifies two predominating ideologies in Western culture which he designates as the myth of concern and the myth of freedom. A fully developed myth of concern, he writes, compromises everything that it most concerns a society to know. Its purpose is to hold society together, hence its deeply conservative character. The myth of freedom, on the other hand, embodies the liberal attitudes of objectivity and respect for the individual. The author traces the relative importance of these two myths from Homeric Greece to the present, relating them to the types of art and government they foster, the roles of the poet and critic, and many other topics. The final thesis of the two myths: To maintain a free and mature society we have to become aware of the tension between concern and freedom, and the necessity of preserving them both. In relating literature to this dialect, Mr. Frye ranges through the entire history of Western philosophy...



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