

SARKOZY'S FRANCE

A Year On

You are cordially invited to this two-day conference which, held at the French Institute in London, will coincide with the first anniversary of the last French presidential elections.

We hope you can join a group of French experts who will, together with British academics, policy makers and journalists, share their findings, and propound evidence-based analyses of the Sarkozy administration.

Speakers include:

Professor Pascal Perrineau (Director, CEVIPOF, Paris)
Dr Gérard Grunberg (Deputy Director, Sciences Po, Paris)
Marc-Olivier Padis (Editor-in-Chief, *Esprit*)
Professor Marie-Anne Cohendet (Law Faculty, Sorbonne)
Professor Yves Surel (Sciences Po, Grenoble)
Dr Kalypso Nicolaïdis (Director, European Studies Centre, Oxford)
Jérôme Fourquet (Deputy Director, Public Opinion Dept., IFOP)
Dr François Purseigle (Sociologist, ENSA, Toulouse)
Dr Catherine Fieschi (Director, DEMOS)

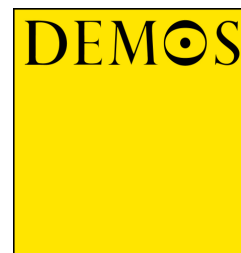
Ever since his resounding success in the 2007 French presidential elections, Nicolas Sarkozy has in turn enthused, irritated, fascinated, or incensed many, both within and outside his country.

Yet observers and scholars of contemporary France are still at pains to pinpoint the exact nature of the new administration. Seemingly intent on challenging conventional political demarcations, Nicolas Sarkozy has championed a "*rupture*", a break with the country's political traditions, deemed essential for France to meet pressing domestic and global challenges.

Presented with an incessant barrage of policy summits, proposals, speeches, and P.R. stunts, commentators have been struggling to keep up with a hyperactive leader whose style undeniably contrasts with that of his predecessors. Stunned by his aggressive political positioning and impaired by their inability to regroup after a stinging defeat, opposition parties have so far failed to offer a credible alternative. In response to the President's perceived omnipresence, polemicists have flourished, but all too often at the expense of level-headed analysis.

What does the election of Nicolas Sarkozy tell us about the evolution of French society and political culture? Does his election signal the long-overdue demise of French populism? Has the French left all but abdicated before the Presidential political machine? Has the "*rupture*" advocated by the President paved the way for radical changes in the governance of the country or does it merely amount to a cunning political operation? Does Nicolas Sarkozy have what it takes to reform France in the face of a fierce globalized economic competition? With the French presidency of the European Union now looming large, how does Nicolas Sarkozy envisage the future of the continent and the role of France within an enlarged E.U.?

UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM



invitation

Monday 5 May
Tuesday 6 May
2008

Venue
Institut Français
17 Queensberry Place
London SW7 2DT

Registration - £20
Free for students

For further information,
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