

Frédéric Dumas

Stendhal University, English Department
Grenoble, France

WAR, IDLENESS AND HUMANITY IN SAUL BELLOW'S *DANGLING MAN*

Dangling Man is a diary written during the Second World War; Joseph is expecting his draft papers and has entered a critical period of idleness. This article starts by considering the close relationship between war and opportunism, which situates Joseph's alienation in a precise socio-historical context. It then draws a parallel between the hero's crisis and the rise of Sartre's existentialism before examining the question of the young man's approach to reality as a writer and a reader.

Keywords: *war, idleness, opportunism, choice, existentialism, writing, diary.*