For over forty years now, the French ‘events’ of May/June 1968 have been the focus of much attention and discussion. The upheaval has unquestionably become a reference point as a key turning point in the development of contemporary French politics, culture and society. More recently, Nicolas Sarkozy’s infamous 2007 speech calling for the ‘liquidation’ of the spirit of ‘68 from French society provided added impetus to on-going debates concerning the legacy of these events. The future President’s attack guaranteed a bumper year in the now consolidated trend of decennial commemorations that have seen mai 68 undergo periodic scrutiny in 1978, 1988, 1998 and 2008. Whilst the anniversary industry has helped shape the dominant narrative it has also provided an outlet for studies aiming to see beyond conventional representations and shed light on areas so often airbrushed from the doxa.

Such articles demonstrate the need for continued debate on what remains one of the key events of post-war French history. The necessity of such discussions together with an indication of the widespread nature of the impact and legacy of the events of May/June 1968 is evident in the collection of other Modern & Contemporary France articles below.