

Title: The Early Kadare: A Case of Socialist Realist Sabotage?
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In his memoirs, the renowned Albanian writer Ismael Kadare ruefully admits that some of his work was of inferior quality due to the political pressures under which he wrote it. This presentation will explore exactly which of Kadare's works correspond to the Hoxha government's definition of socialist realism (including, but not limited to, *The Wedding*, *November in the Capital*, *The Great Winter*, and the short stories of *La Ville du Sud et douze autres nouvelles*). Next we examine Kadare's various commentaries, and the changes in them over time, regarding the origins and interpretations of the works. Lastly ensues a discussion of the common ground uniting nearly all of Kadare's fiction, the presence of which can arguably lead to the view that even Kadare's socialist realism was to some real degree transgressive.

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