SUMMARIES

JAN PATOČKA - REMINISCENCES AND CRITICAL APPROACHES
Bedřich Loewenstein

From the perspective of a younger contemporary, the present article deals with Czech philosopher Jan Patočka as a person and an intellectual. At the outset, the author visualizes Patočka the university teacher and his fate in the 1950s, a second approach is devoted to Patočka's rather surprising support for the reform Marxists of the 1960s, in particular to his interpretation of the 1968 experiment as a global historical opportunity, and to the final years of Patočka's life. In a third approach, some aspects of Patočka's outlook on history are examined, which have maintained their topicality: his concept of what constitutes a nation, his understanding of Europe, and his criticism of modern technology-mindedness as a break with the tradition of the “cura animae.” A critical light is cast in this study in particular on Patočka's understanding of the modern era as decadent and of death as upsetting and therefore, liberating, for those witnessing it.

PATOČKA'S PRACTICAL PHILOSOPHY AS AN ANALYSIS OF THE MODERN ERA
Ilja Srubar

Jan Patočka, a pupil of Husserl's and Heidegger's, was on a par with Masaryk, the two of them being the most important Czech philosophers of the 20th century. The present articles sketches Patočka's understanding of a practical philosophy and its critical, dynamizing and stabilizing properties on a historical scale, which he interprets as one of the driving forces behind the modernization process throughout Europe. A philosophy thus interpreted has always political aspects as well, being apt to motivate societal change or to stabilize a political order not yet fully established. These effects are illustrated with regard to liberalism and socialism, which Patočka considers the two most momentous projects of the modern era.