

## ON THE PSYCHOLOGY OF SLOVAK POLITICAL REALISM

*Branislav Štefánek*

On the basis of the typology of C. G. Jung the author defines the older generation of Slovak „romantic nationalists“ affiliated with the writer S. H. Vajanský, and the younger group around the periodicals *Hlas* and *Prúdy*. From similar premises the author also compares the personalities of two prominent representatives of the realist political movement in Slovakia, Milan Hodža and Anton Štefánek.

Both groups, although of different generations, one being called „romantic nationalists“ and the other „political realists“, are characterized by „extrovert“ behavior, though it has been noted that Romanticism also includes introvert traits. The former of the two groups indeed preferred a more „emotional“ stance with regard to political questions, in contrast to the „thinking“ („denkend“) approach of the latter group. The author cautions, however, that individual differences in character among the members of both groups clearly limit any generalization. Anton Štefánek, for example, was an atypical personality: his extrovert, empirical orientation regarding most of the sociological and political views was different from the strongly introvert foundations of his *Weltanschauung*, particularly his ethics. Moreover, he was surprisingly independent of the dictates of public opinion and expressed rather somber views on the intrinsic values of any political career.

Milan Hodža was perhaps the most typical representative of Slovak political realism. In almost every political situation he retained an acute awareness of social realities and pragmatic solutions of existing problems. Although at least partially contradicting the typological system of C. G. Jung, the friendship between Štefánek and Hodža remains a valid example of what Jung called the „symbiotic relationship“ between contrasting types.