

THE HUMANITY IDEAL AS IDEOLOGY:
A CONTRIBUTION TO THE INTERPRETATION
OF MASARYK'S PHILOSOPHY

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Ideas which made possible an „ideological alienation“ from Masaryk's *Weltanschauung* by his supporters — particularly at the time of the „First Republic“ — can be found in his own philosophy of history (which posed the question of the meaning of Czech and world history), his sociology, not far removed from psychology (the decay of religious belief as the cause of the modern crisis of society), his ontology (Masaryk's concept of „critical realism“), his noetics (causality, teleology and the concept of „synergy), and his ethics (the humanity ideal as a modern concretization of the moral commandments). In his attempt to formulate a Czech „national program“ in harmony with the humanity ideal, Masaryk himself succumbed to a tendency to ideological thinking. Where Masaryk assumes ideological positions, the question of the social functionality of his views offers a good standard for a critical examination.