

T. G. MASARYK AND PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACY

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This essay does not claim to be an analysis of Masaryk's political thought as such. It only aims at demonstrating that there were certain ideas in Masaryk's political theory which contradicted fundamental liberal and democratic principles. This is why the intellectual heritage of Masaryk — the most significant modern Czech political philosopher — contributed to some political and spiritual failures in Czechoslovakia after 1945. Masaryk himself certainly opposed any signs of so-called „people's democratic“ distortions of parliamentary, liberal and democratic practices; yet, his dogmatic and unrealistic theoretical concept of democracy proved to be closer to ideals of a social utopia than to the flexibility of the open democratic societies as developed in Western Europe.