SUMMARIES

T.G. MASARYK, THE UNPOLITICAL POLITICIAN

Bedřich Loewenstein

In contrast to the national-political interpretation of Masaryk, this essay seeks to get to the meta-political core of his personality and his career. Time and again, even after the 1890s, Masaryk advocated the primacy of the ethical and the cultural over the problems of day-to-day politics, and he accepted the Imperial and Royal monarchy as a natural framework. His eventual decision against Austria derived from the wartime constellation, and then his moralism turned into a militant rejection of the other side and an exaggerated optimism as to what a new order would bring. Masaryk viewed the purpose of Czech statehood as a moral responsibility, but his concept of national policy as subordinated to higher-ranking principles was seldom taken seriously and disappeared altogether in the current of the fateful developments after his death.

CENTRAL EUROPE.
ABOUT THE CONCEPTUAL CAREER
OF A CULTURAL-POLITICAL TERM

Steffen Höhne

Topic of this contribution is the present usage of the catchword “Central Europe” in East Central European transformation societies. The author attempts, from a linguistic-historic and pragmatic perspective, to deduce the different meanings ascribed to “Central Europe” from the historical usage of this term, and from the extent of its exploitation in the name of ideology. Today’s notion of Central Europe refers to Germanic (not necessarily Pan-Germanic) historico-political conceptions of the 19th and early 20th century, conceptions related to the decline and eventual destruction of the Habsburg monarchy, and lastly to the dissident debates of the 80s. The aim is to prove that present (post-1989) usage of “Central Europe” is determined by semantic content of all those three conceptions, thus illustrating the principal semantic vagueness of the term.