

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-today 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.