

SUMMARIES

JAN PATOČKA – REMINISCENCES AND CRITICAL APPROACHES

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From the perspective of a younger contemporary, the present article deals with Czech philosopher Jan Patočka as a person and an intellectual. At the outset, the author visualizes Patočka the university teacher and his fate in the 1950s, a second approach is devoted to Patočka's rather surprising support for the reform Marxists of the 1960s, in particular to his interpretation of the 1968 experiment as a global historical opportunity, and to the final years of Patočka's life. In a third approach, some aspects of Patočka's outlook on history are examined, which have maintained their topicality: his concept of what constitutes a nation, his understanding of Europe, and his criticism of modern technology-mindedness as a break with the tradition of the "cura animae." A critical light is cast in this study in particular on Patočka's understanding of the modern era as decadent and of death as upsetting and therefore, liberating, for those witnessing it.