

JAN PATOČKA'S POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY.
SOME OBSERVATIONS WITH A VIEW TOWARDS
HANNAH ARENDT AND CARL SCHMITT

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This contribution attempts at identifying, in the context of Jan Patočka's multifarious writings, some fundamental characteristics of his reflections on politics, which have never been explicitly written down, but rather make up a kind of sub-text in many of his works. The first observation is that Patočka coined the notion of an existential "truth," and the present contribution maintains that this notion can be applied to the field of politics as well. The author then offers a comparative outlook on the political theories of Hannah Arendt and Carl Schmitt, theories that compose a background against which Patočka's plea for politics having to be open-minded acquires more distinct contours.