

Topics of Western Philosophy as Accident Elements of the Identities of the Central European Nations

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Abstract

Some topics of the history of philosophy have become the elements of our national identities accidentally. These topics have special roles in the Central European national cultural canons, (prima facie not in the national historiography of philosophy). For instance, Hegelianism has played different roles in Slovak and Hungarian national identities in the same historical period. Slovakian Hegelianism can be interpreted as a rebel of a generation of the Slovak intellectuals against their Kantian (ethnically German and Hungarian) schoolmasters in a highly sensitive moment of the Slovakian nation-building. The Hungarian trial on Hegel at the same time had a central position in the contemporary Hungarian intellectual discourse without any connection with the Slovakian Hegelianism. My paper offers an analysis of the problem of the use of philosophical elements in the building of national identities in general, not only applied for this Slovakian-Hungarian example.