

THE PRESENT-DAY RELEVANCY
OF EMANUEL RÁDL'S PHILOSOPHY

Shimona Löwenstein

When raising the question of the present-day relevancy of Rádl's philosophy, one has to differentiate between its meaning in the framework of the thinking of its time, and its importance for today. Of definite topicality in today's philosophy are certain ideas of his which have a bearing on earlier philosophical approaches or even predate others. Among these are Rádl's heuristic subjectivism with its biological foundations, his historical-philosophical criticism of the sciences, and the resultant teleological, normative outlook on the world. Rádl's interpretation of several contemporary developments and of Western civilisation as a whole seems problematic from today's point of view. His appraisal of the dangers threatening civilisation, however, is apt to uncover aspects in the history of ideas which could be instructive with respect to the actual situation and the cultural conflicts still unsolved.