

## SUMMARY

### ***AMONG THE PHILOSOPHERS***

*Among the Philosophers* by Marek J. Siemek has been published for the first time in 1984, by Czytelnik. Texts published in this book have been marked with dates from 1964 to 1979, but some of them had been written even before. Most of them are reviews or circumlocutions of philosophical books, summaries and radio lectures. Siemek stands here as popularizer of philosophy. This role is an uneasy one. He tries to bring us closer to the classical (though not always widely known) thought and, even more, to the newest philosophical publications from all around the world. He points out and describes actual tendencies and problems of the past and present thinkers. And he constantly turns again towards Marxism and its most important metamorphoses in twentieth century.

In Part One – *Traditions and Sources* – the author outlines genealogy of his own thought. The most important inspirations for Siemek, from the beginning on, during all his lifetime, were Kant as founder of transcendentalism and Hegel as thinker reflecting on the relations between reason and history were. Moreover, he perceived controversy between positivism and so called philosophy of life as an obsolete contest.

Part Two – *Pretexts and Confrontations* – contains various reviews and short circumlocutions of philosophical books published in Polish, Czech, English, French and Russian. Socrates, Kołakowski, Sobotka, Walicki, *négritude* movement, Kierkegaard, Durkheim, Kuhn, Carnap, Sartre, Fromm... – all of them present not only portrait of philosophical market of Siemek's time, but also map of Siemek's personal interests.

The most important landmark for him always – next to German idealism – was Marxism. In Part Three – *Presence of Marxism* – we have rare opportunity to read almost complete history of Marxist thought, from Engels, through Kautsky, Lukács, to Polish Marxist in 1970s, in short, popular, but also critical and sometimes polemical form.

Thanks to clear thought, expressed in excellent style, Siemek addresses his book *Among the Philosophers* also to non-professional (i.e. non-philosophical) public.

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