

PAPER PRESENTATION

HEGEL ON THE THERAPEUTIC DIMENSIONS OF STATE AND PHILOSOPHY

by

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In addition to Axel Honneth's thesis on the therapeutic function of the concept of ethical life (*Sittlichkeit*) in Hegel's philosophy, I wish to give attention to the two moments which, to my mind, show more clearly Hegel's views on the therapeutic dimension of both philosophy and the sovereign state against the 'pathology of civil society'.

In this context, philosophy performs a corrective function by fostering the individual's virtue conceived as the ethical duty of care both for oneself and for others. The corruption of the individual which is possible within their 'civil' status is thus remedied by ethical work performed towards a self-improvement, which is the domain of moral philosophy. One of the main problems for the moral development of individuals consists in their propensity to perceive the good in particularist and selfish terms: in this context events such as natural disasters or wars can be seen as performing a 'therapeutic' function by teaching the individuals to view the good in more principled and general terms.

Biography

Rastko Jovanov received his PhD at the University of Vienna in 2011. He is the author of two books on Hegel's philosophy (in Serbian and in German), and has also published various articles in peer-reviewed journals on Kant, Fichte, Heidegger, and C. Schmitt. In 2012 he spent his postdoc studies at the Hegel-Archive/Research Centre for Classic German Philosophy of Ruhr-University Bochum. Since 2011 he has been Research Associate at the Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory of the University of Belgrade.