

Hannah Arendt és a történelem

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Abstract: Her intellectual profile was fashioned in German liberal circles, but Hannah Arendt had to witness the emergence of a totalitarian society. Educated in the spirit of enlightened self-discipline, she had to embrace constant criticism. When she was a student, she fell in love with Martin Heidegger, but the author of the famous work **Being and Time** (1927) was sliding towards national-socialism. Her mother tongue was German, but she would be rejected by her homeland. Hannah Arendt was faithful to the "truths of the mind", but she realized the import of the "truths of history". She came very close to the intellectual formulas of the militant left, but she stood by her initial liberal education. She chose to become a mouthpiece, speaking on behalf of the afflicted Jews and pleading with the representatives of different nations to condemn war criminals. She focused on the factual data provided by experience, but she accepted the idea that theoretical hypotheses "probe" deeper into the ocean of reality. She most keenly noticed that civil passiveness fosters ill-fated policies, but she had to agree that democracy is fragile in the absence of a dialogue with oneself.

Hannah Arendt's most representative writings, in chronological order, are: her correspondence with Martin Heidegger; her doctoral dissertation **Love and Saint Augustine** (1929); the volume **Rahel Varnhagen. The Life of a German Jewish Woman in the Romantic Age** (1933); the works **The Origins of Totalitarianism** (1951); **The Human Condition** (1958); **Between Past and Future** (1961); **Eichmann in Jerusalem: a Report on the Banality of Evil** (1963); **On Revolution** (1963); **Men in Dark Times** (1968); **The Life of the Spirit** (1978). They are the outcome of Hannah Arendt's efforts to find solutions to the crises of her age. Her endeavor resulted in philosophical initiative that transcended her time. In the present paper, I would like to evoke the challenges of modernity that Hannah Arendt was confronted with and, most of all, to make a brief sketch of her lasting achievements in the field of philosophy.