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Power and Resistance

The current issue of Filozofski vestnik/Acta Philosophica centres on a re-thinking of the complex dialectic of power and resistance. The present constellation characterised by the victory of the alliance between market economy and liberal democracy throughout the world, seems to preclude the very idea of resistance, labelling it utopian. A drift away from the politics of emancipation and towards reflections on resistance - a major shift that has been taking place in contemporary thought over the past two decades - also bears witness to what we propose to call "the growing impasse of resistance".

In most of the articles gathered in this issue, a questioning of the impasse of resistance does not entail a celebration of the retreat of the political or the relinquishment of all resistance. On the contrary, by refusing to tie resistance to some already-existing and identifiable node, such as the proletariat, these contributors fully accept its radically contingent character and the impact this contingency has on the "way out" and on the constitution of the subject in the field of politics.

The aim of this issue is to provide a range of reflections on post-emancipationist thought in its attempts to deal with the impasse of resistance, as well as to articulate the main issues in the current debate centred around the power-resistance dialectic. These issues include: the radical discord between the effects of resistance and the institutions and mechanisms of power that provoke them; the ambiguity of resistance in its relation to the entity it allegedly subverts; the complicity of the powerlessness of thought with mastery; the task of thought; and the victimisation of the subject.

