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Ethical experience and the idea of politics in Karl Jaspers

Abstract

One of the most direct spheres of application of Karl Jaspers' philosophy lies in politics. However, nothing resembling a systematic political philosophy can be found in his work. This article traces the key components of Jaspers' proposition in this sphere, particularly the concepts of freedom and authority, which sketch a clear anthropological dialectic in relation to Transcendence. Finally, we approach the Jaspersian conception of the idea of Europe as a political destiny, where the fundamental dialectic that traverses human finitude is expressed again and, consequently, led to the contradiction and the relativity of its "existential orientation".