

Abstract

This thesis studies the topic of the relationship between man and technique through the lens of reflection on this relationship by selected thinkers of the last century who discussed this topic in some of their works (O. Spengler, J. Ortega y Gasset, A. Gehlen). One line of enquiry will trace the nuances of whether and how man constitutes technique, or whether and how technique shapes man. This work will not resolve this interdependence of man and technique once and for all, but it will outline perspectives from which this almost self-evident relationship can be problematized and brought into the questioning even for today. Technique has in fact been considered one of man's essential definitions since modern times. Man is conceived as a practical, acting and, above all, creative being – he transforms nature, that is, he creates a new, humanized second-order nature, which is technique. The second line of inquiry will highlight how technique appears as something that not only makes man human to some extent, but as that which threatens man's being as such. The two lines converge in the question of how much we are threatened by that what shapes us, or how much we are shaped by that what threatens us.