

Acknowledgements vii
Introduction 1

Havel, a Philosopher? 3
Havel, a Liberal? 9

1 Themes in Havel's Thought 14

The Concept of Being 15
The Political Focus of Havel 18
The Critique of Technology 23
Living in Truth 32
The Political Significance of Art 34

2 The Influence of Jan Patočka 40

Patočka, Havel and Arendt 44
Patočka, Havel and History 53
Patočka, Plato & Havel 57
Patočka's Critique of Ideology and the Influence of that Critique on Havel 63
Conclusion 67

3 Further Patočkean Ideas in Havel's Thought 69

Asubjective Phenomenology 69
Patočka and Language 72
Patočka's Thoughts on Plato and Logos 77
Havel's Appropriation of the Greek Element of Patočka's
Thought 84
Conclusion 90

4 Living in Truth as an Existential Concept 91

The Existential Nature of a Life in Truth 92
Comparison of Havel's Thoughts on Language to "Bad Faith" 96
Facticity and Responsibility in "Audience" 103
Conclusion 106

5 Havel's Concern for Meaningful Political Discourse no

Havel's Writings and Thoughts Regarding Language 110
The Garden Party 112
The Memorandum 118
The Increased Difficulty of Concentration 119
Language and Discourse in "Letters to Olga" & "Open Letters" 121
Charter 77 and Meaningful Political Discourse 124
Conclusion 129

6 Vaclav Havel's Political thought as a Liberal Philosophy 130

Havel's Liberalism 131
Is Havel a Perfectionist? 135
Havel's Brand of Liberalism 144
Sources of Havel's Liberalism 145
Conclusion 148

7 Havel's Liberal Agonism 150

What is Liberal Agonism? 150
Liberal Agonism Further Explored 154
Havel's Responsibility and the Liberal Conception of the Self 162
Havel's Post-Nationalism 166
Conclusion 169
Conclusion: Havel and the Neoliberal State 171

Bibliography 179
Index 188