

## PROFESSOR TAR REPLIES:

Jay presents himself as the innocent victim of *ressentiment* persecuted by Zoltán Tar who “has availed himself of every opportunity to vent his spleen against me.” Where and when he fails to mention, since this is the only review I wrote about him since his ominous attack on me in *Central European History* (CEH) in 1979. He also fails to mention that after my refuting his distortions, he was dropped from the editorial board of CEH, a position he abused.

Here, the Budapest/Lukács School and its relation to totality/totalitarianism seem to be the centerpiece of “Jay’s Complaint.” He identifies Heller, Fehér, the two Márkuses, Vajda and Hegadüs [*sic*] as members of the so-called Budapest/Lukács School, relying on two obscure authors. More authoritative voices are of different opinion. In his autobiographical interview with his student István Eörsi, Lukács states: “Márkus is no pupil of mine. Márkus came back from Moscow seventy-five per cent of his ideas fully formed . . . Vajda was really Ágnes Heller’s pupil” (Georg Lukács, *Record of a Life* [London: Verso, 1983], p. 140). No word about the two Márkuses or Hegedüs. Jay can neither count nor spell the names of his heroes.

In response to the second issue, Jay should read the authoritative words of Ágnes Heller: “I was a good Communist because I totally identified with the system which suffered only for improper execution” (*Telos*, no. 38 [Winter 1978–1979], p. 155). As for Hegedüs and totalitarianism, Jay should consult any standard work on postwar Hungarian history. So much for the facts, although Jay may think “um so schlimmer für die Tatsachen.”