



"A Memorial of Words for Eva," published in 1989 in Hebrew and Hungarian in Israel by Eva Izsak's sister, Maria Ziman.

Lakatos died in 1974 at age 51 of a heart attack, perhaps brought on by considerable weakness following his internment in the Recsk labor camp in the early 1950s. Little was known outside of Hungary about Lakatos' Hungarian past until the late 1980s.

Born Imre Lipsitz, Lakatos took on the Protestant-sounding Lakatos as a *nomme de guerre* during World War II. In the late 1980s, the memoir below, written originally in Hungarian and Hebrew and here translated into English, was published in Israel by the late Maria Ziman. The text recounts Lakatos' role in the forced suicide of Ziman's sister, Eva Izsak in the summer of 1944.

Lakatos and his first wife were demagogic leaders of a self-styled communist cell. In 1944 Izsak joined their group, but her connection was quickly considered risky to the others. Lakatos proposed the idea, according to Ziman and the police interviews attached, that Izsak kill herself in a nearby town, thus "eliminating" herself and diverting attention from the cell's true location.

The cell members voted unanimously for Lakatos' proposal. Some days later Eva Izsak, accompanied by Lakatos' future wife and another man, poisoned herself in the woods outside Debrecen. Her body was found by a child soon after. Ziman recounts the events and includes police interviews with two of the participants. These are stunning and remarkable documents.

My book *Imre Lakatos and the Guises of Reason* makes little of Lakatos' heinous past as far as Lakatos is personally concerned. But I do use Lakatos' compromises and betrayals in his life to understand his Janus-faced philosophy, and as an entry-point into the terrifying world of Stalinist Hungary in which Lakatos learned to survive.

For a detailed account of Lakatos' Hungarian past, see "Lakatos in Hungary" by Jancis Long, *Philosophy and the Social Sciences* 1998. The study includes what is known of Eva Izsak; Lakatos' further subversion of the Eotvos College; Lakatos' imprisonment and release in the 1950s; Lakatos' participation in the great Petofi debates preceding the Revolution; and Lakatos' escape to England after the failed 1956 Hungarian Revolution.