Dear Edward Thompson, Why I am not very happy about this public correspondence is because your letter deals as much (at least) with personal attitudes as with ideas. However I have no personal accounts to settle either with Communist ideology or with the year 1956; this was settled long ago. But if you insist, let us begin and carry up this corpse Singing together. . . . In a review of the last issue of Socialist Register by Raymond Williams, I read that your letter is one of the best pieces of Left writings in the last decade, which implies directly that all or nearly all the rest was worse. He knows better and I take his word. I should be proud to having occasioned, to a certain degree, this text, even if I happen to be its target. And so, my first reaction is one of gratitude.
My Correct Views on Everything—a collection of essays, letters and interview responses by the Polish philosopher Leszek Kołakowski is best appreciated—in the context of the life, politics and earlier work of its author. Born in 1927 in a small town in Poland, Leszek Kołakowski lived through Nazi occupation and then through the communist years of the Polish People's Republic.