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# Badiou, Žižek, and Political Transformations: The Cadence of Change

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Northwestern University Press (2009)

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## Abstract

Alain Badiou and Slavoj Žižek together have emerged as two of Europe's most significant living philosophers. In a shared spirit of resistance to global capitalism, both are committed to bringing philosophical reflection to bear upon present-day political circumstances. These thinkers are especially interested in asking what consequences the supposed twentieth-century demise of communism entails for leftist political theory in the early twenty-first century. *Badiou, Žižek, and Political Transformations* examines Badiouian and Žižekian depictions of change, particularly as deployed at the intersection of philosophy and politics. The book details the origins of Badiou's concept of the event and Žižek's concept of the act as related theoretical visions of revolutionary happenings, delineating a number of difficulties arising from these similar concepts. Johnston finds that Badiou and Žižek tend to favor models of transformation that risk discouraging in advance precisely the efforts at changing the world of today that these uncompromising leftists so ardently desire. *Badiou, Žižek, and Political Transformations* will surely join Johnston's *Žižek's Ontology* as an instant classic in its field.

## Keywords

[Political science](#) [Philosophy](#)

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## Call number

JA71.J585 2009

## ISBN(s)

9780810125698 9780810125704

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