Badiou, Zizek, and Political Transformations: The Cadence of Change

Adrian Johnston
Northwestern University Press (2009)

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
Change We Can’T Believe In: Adrian Johnston on Badiou, Žižek, & Political Transformation.


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