

***Philosophy in the Present* by Alan Badiou and Slavoj Žižek.
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*"Philosophers have only interpreted the world in various ways, the point is to change it."
(Karl Marx, 1845)*

For Marx, the above statement marked an exit from philosophy and a declaration that philosophy's endless problems and contradictions could only be resolved by a kind of radical political activity that he would call revolutionary socialism.

Ever since then philosophy and radical politics have been engaged in a relationship of simultaneous rivalry and dependence. On the one hand revolutionaries have been deeply suspicious of philosophy, seeing it as a sophisticated mask and justification for the existing political order. But on the other hand, revolutionaries cannot simply ignore philosophy. Radical political practice is inseparable from radical political thought and theory. These theories in turn are both influenced by philosophy and are obliged to hold their own in the court of philosophy. In recent years these complexities have reemerged into the centre ground of intellectual debate (c.f. Ekstrand & Wallmon, 2008). The ruling class has attempted to impose neoliberalism on the world. This, combined with the new drive to imperialist war has sparked mass resistance.

A resistance on the ground has been accompanied and paralleled by a new strain of radical and explicitly political philosophers, such as Alain Badiou and Slavoj Žižek.

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