The series *Staatsverständnisse* presents political thinkers of state theory and political philosophy of the past and the present to amplify our own contemporary understanding of the state.

Badiou’s philosophy of the event stands at the centre of his influential theory of revolutionary politics. It has received much acclaim for the way it rigorously and systematically unfolds as well as heavy criticism because of the philosopher’s theoretical and personal radicalism as an outspoken critic of modern western democracies. Does Badiou’s oeuvre not undermine the value of political representation via the state? What is left of the state in Badiou’s thinking if political and universal “events” by definition bear validity through their illegitimacy, while the state only represents legality? The essays presented in the volume “Badiou and the State,” written by internationally outstanding scholars in the field of contemporary political philosophy, are dedicated to these questions, which Badiou’s unique philosophy provokes.

The state cannot prevent the existence of universal ethical claims that are included in its regime but not represented in it. Alain Badiou’s philosophy is devoted to these claims and defends them as forms of political truth striving for validity and representation.

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