

formed the political map of the planet, had inevitably set in motion a process of formation of ideologies including adaptations, restructuring and re-interpretations of ideologies existing from before. This definitely created an impression of confusion and, to an extent, of a disorientation in politics. New complexities, new international relations and an uncertainty on how to modify strategies must have influenced the politics. “/.../ each politics, worth of its name, builds on representations that people make for themselves about their life and their rights” (Badiou, 1993: p. 12). This transparent “rule” explains a lot.

Although, for example, the European governments are committed to democracy, international cooperation, and a whole set of values of multi-culturalism declared by the Council of Europe, they respond to the fears and uncertainties of their electorates. In the face of the global trends that increasingly make people economically and culturally dependant on the international communication, there is, for some years now, a visible counter-trend towards the emphasis of ethnic or national identities. Apparently, the ruling democratic parties in Western Europe try to accommodate their electorate, but this then causes troubles within the European Union, and especially with the newly democratic neighbourhood. Without any clear pragmatic way out of this contradiction, the European Union balances between the politics of compromises between the member states themselves aimed at securing a degree of sovereignty of each member state, and between the politics of controlling the outside borders and postponing the time for admittance of prospective new members. Simultaneously, within the European states new legislation concerning emigration and the citizenship of immigrants is being severely tightened. On the other side of the former iron curtain, what once has been idealised as freedom loving and human rights-craving civil society increasingly becomes obsessed with “problems of identity”. The state of affairs, therefore, turns into a clash of identities, what creates new soil for a rise of extreme ideologies. As this happens, it is not too difficult to observe a liaison between ideologies of admittedly moderate ruling parties and the extremist elaborations of the same ideologies. “Moreover, the explanations and justifications offered in operative ideology contain all the structural components of fundamental ideology. Operative deviates from or corresponds with fundamental ideology according to whether or not the specific contents (and the emphases of structural components) in one dimension are congruent with those found in the other” (Seliger, 1976: p. 175). Considering this scheme, the extremism