Søren Kierkegaard’s radical protestant philosophy of the individual – in which a person’s leap of faith is favoured over general ethics – has become a model for many contemporary political theorists. Thinkers such as Slavoj Žižek and Alain Badiou have drawn on its revolutionary spirit to position truth above the constraints of political systems. In Kierkegaard and Political Theory, contributors from a wide range of disciplines – including theology, sociology, philosophy and aesthetics – examine just how crucial Kierkegaard’s anti-institutional thinking has been to such efforts and to modernity as a whole.

The contributors convincingly position Kierkegaard’s radical philosophy as a starting point for contemporary political theories. They show how he pioneered a modernity defined as an argument – an experience – of the impossibility of rationally comprehending a system of thinking. They show how religious and aesthetic experiences function as a response to this impossibility, how their coherence in politics must always be questioned, especially in history’s extreme example: totalitarianism. Engaging this and many other subjects, they provide a compelling new line in Kierkegaard studies that illuminates new contours of our political thought.

ARMEN AVANESSIAN, Free University Berlin, and recently visiting professor at the Academy of Fine Arts Nuremberg as well as the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, is a comparatist and philosopher.

SOPHIE WENNERSCHEID is professor of Scandinavian studies at Ghent University, Belgium.