

**Vital Reality of the Social
dis | Order**
An Existentialist Reading

Guided by Ivana Trkulja

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Ph.D Thesis Manuscript:
Vital Reality of the Social dis | Order:
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Ph.D Thesis Abstract



thesis manuscript *Vital Reality of Social dis|Order* is an outcome of research that has started as an enquiry into the substance and nature of governance. The research investigated the concept of sovereignty as conceived through the contractarian notion of well-ordered society that finds its embodiment in the form of contemporary nation state. The interest towards the origins and operational logic of governance under the framework of well-ordered society nevertheless prompted number of unanswerable questions, or perhaps rather unsubstantial answers. The open-ended questions were related to the mastering of social order and social dis-order by the state machinery, tackling the very roots and justification behind of the existence of contemporary nation state. The raising doubts demanded further reshaping and expanding the governance discussion. The contention point was identified in contemporary liberal understanding of the sovereignty that has emerged out of the social contract ending a medieval debate on divine and earthly nature of governance by proclaiming the secularity of sovereignty. These medieval contradictions are not directly discussed here, yet the proclaimed worldly conviction of secularising the nature of sovereignty is disputed and as such remains present throughout the manuscript.

It is understood that social contract was an urging necessity of reformation required by social realities of the given time. This necessity towards reformation of social reality has persisted until the present day becoming a self-perpetuated obligation embedded into the political system. It is sustained here that the secularisation of sovereignty was a rational decision concluded under the social contract actually never to have taken place. The consequentially emerged conception of well-ordered society has institutionalised nation state elevation mechanisms protecting the society from the state of social dis-order while securing the social order. This rational intention subsumed in the securing of social order remains an unachievable social condition regardless persisting demand for validation of new innovative concepts and practices in the context of political system. The isolated trust in the ability of political system to yield understanding of **vital social reality** through the modern understanding of sovereignty, bypassing its medieval legacy, has proved to be an unattainable objective. The enquiry into sovereign governance

innovation presented further, reveals a responsive and visionary mechanism towards demands of contemporary political realities nevertheless remaining distant to the understanding of vital social reality. It becomes apparent that in order to reach this understanding, first we are to move away from the contemporary sovereignty and its innovative models, rescaling discussion to the level of constitutive elements **social order and social dis-order**. Second, in order to sustain this endeavour it is necessary to maintain the deliberative framework of reason operational yet also move away from it discovering different conceptualisation of an intrinsic social reality as performed within the existentialist philosophy. The nature of this framework possess a credential to elevate an understanding of social beyond the momentum that has introduced the division into the nature of sovereignty, allowing us to perceive contemporary social events, acts and facts in a holistic manner unifying reason and authenticity as a state of absolute freedom into the one whole.

Due to the difficult grounding of existentialism as elaborated by Søren Kierkegaard, the discussion is placed in the context of physical space and dynamics of quotidian veracity. The research has been conducted during the stay in Denmark, where the city of Copenhagen as the very exponent of well-ordered society, through its dynamics illustrates vital social reality of order and dis-order then discussed using the framework of existentialist philosophy. The skeleton of the work is divided into Thesis Abstract, Introduction, Three Parts, Conclusion, Postface, Works cited and further reading, Index and related Photo documentation. The three main discussion Parts are compiled under the *Danish Trilogy: Stories of terra firma, urbis, violentia and the spiritus*.

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