

CRISES OF THE POLITICAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS

**Critical perspectives
on the Common World**

Silvério da Rocha-Cunha

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Cover art: SAL Studio
Page setting: Margarida Baldaia

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Edições Húmus, Lda.
Apartado 7081
4764-908 Ribeirão – V. N. Famalicão
Tel. 926 375 305
humus@humus.com.pt
www.edicoeshumus.pt

Printing: Papelmunde – V. N. Famalicão
ISBN: 978-989-755-892-4
1st edition: June 2023
Legal Deposit: 515416/23

This study was conducted at the Research Center in Political Science (UID/00758/2020), University of Évora and supported by the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT) and the Portuguese Ministry of Education and Science through national funds.

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The EU Human Rights paradigm: Re(politicizing) European Integration

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Evanthia Balla

Introduction

The world nowadays faces a plethora of challenges that question how we consider human rights. The complexity of global perils such as climate change, terrorism and the pandemic require a new approach regarding cooperation and response towards a more ‘people of Europe’- centric paradigm rather than a mere state-centric paradigm of European integration.

At the European level, the financial turmoil, the refugee crises, as well as the pandemic crisis have brought human rights at the heart of the political discussion on the EU’s current relevance and future political path. The capacity of the European project to defend its own values in an ‘age of crises’ has also been questioned, mainly based on concerns in terms of democratic legitimacy. These concerns have been manipulated into the hands of far-right parties who rely on polarisation for political success, having seized the crises as an opportunity to gain more power by claiming to defend people’s rights and values. Yet, placing those same values and the Union itself at an even higher risk. This reality has sparked a wave of public debate and development of academic studies on the nature, origins and relevance of values and human rights in



ISBN 978-989-715-972-4



9 789897 155892 >



Research Center
in Political Science



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