In comparison with the past, the Europeanoid present is remarkable for the absence of realistic counter-imaginaries to the currently instituted social order. Until quite recently socialism held wide appeal as counter-imaginary to the liberal nation state. Before that, liberalism itself was operational as a counter-imaginary to absolutist monarchy. Even in the middle ages, biblically inspired millenarianism provided a counter-point to feudal rule. In search for the reasons behind the disappearance of realistic counter-imaginaries, this paper looks at the historical role that transcendent absolutes such as God, essences, and natural law have played in the generation and adoption of political counter-imaginaries.”