Ilija Trojanow

THE SUPERFLUOUS HUMAN

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An essay on human dignity in late capitalism.

Someone who neither consumes nor produces is redundant - according to the cutthroat logics of late capitalism. International elites claim that overpopulation is our greatest problem. If the population needs to be reduced, who will have to disappear asks Trojanow in his humanist essay that argues against the redundancy of humankind. In his forceful analysis he covers points such as devastation caused by climate change, ruthless neo-liberal politics on the labor market and the apocalypses presented in mass media that we, the seeming winners, fervently consume. One thing we have failed to realize is that these issues also concern us. They concern everyone and everything.

ILIJA TROJANOW

born in Sofia in 1965, fled with his family via Yugoslavia and Italy to Germany in 1971, where they were granted political asylum. In 1972, the family moved on to Kenya. From 1984 to 1989, Trojanow studied law and ethnology in Munich. In 1998 Trojanow moved to Mumbai, in 2003 to Cape Town, and today he lives in Vienna when he is not travelling. His novels such as "Der Weltensammler" and "Macht und Widerstand" are celebrated bestsellers and have been honoured with numerous awards. Residenz Verlag published "Der überflüssige Mensch" (2013) in the Unruhe bewahren series and "Ein Glas voller Zeit" (2025).

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