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The Redundant Man

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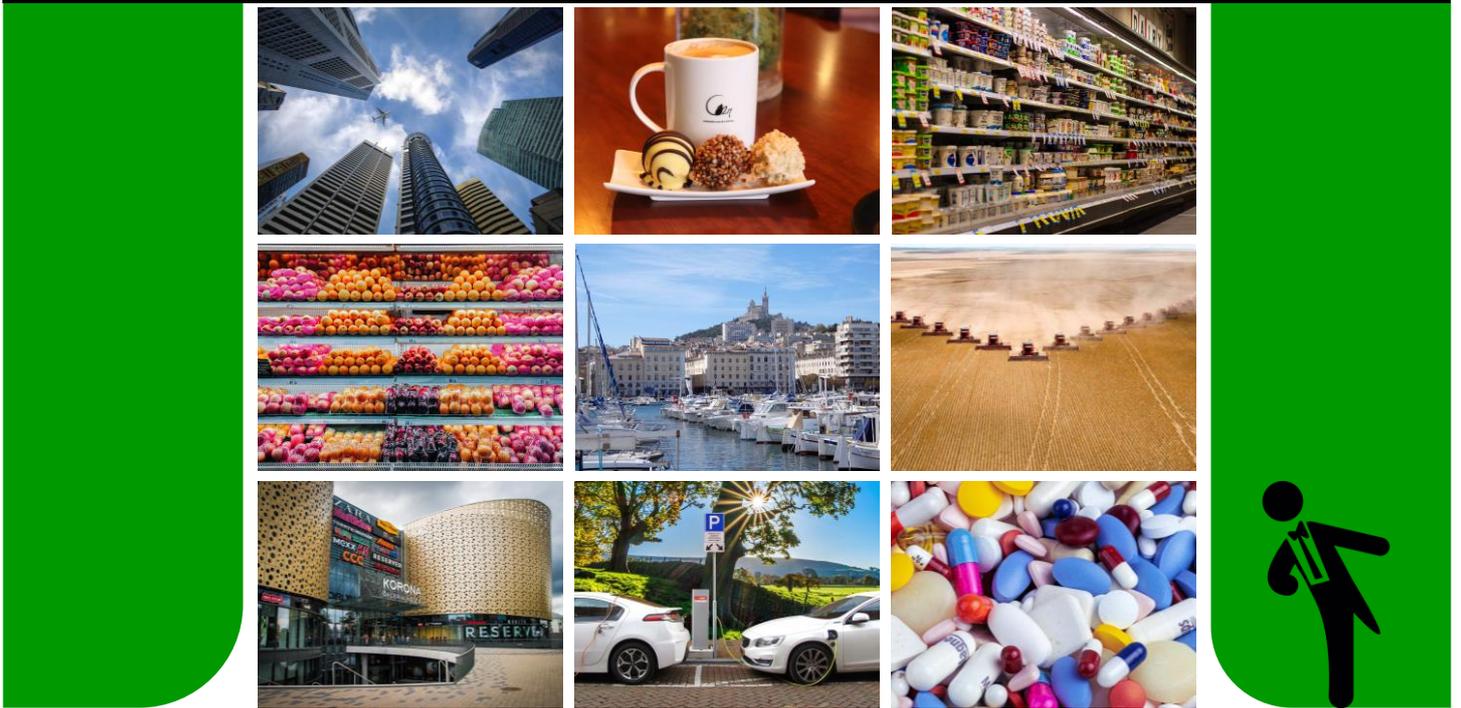


Global Timber Tracking Network View project



VLIR-KMFRI View project

Reality 1



Whose reality is redundant? ➤ see p. 2-3

REALITY 2



The redundant man



BRUTALITIES OF THE PAST

When the *Méduse* shipwrecked in 1816, **the mighty were saved, the weak were offered**. Commanders climbed the lifeboats, sailors and other workman were given a raft or immediately thrown overboard.



INDUSTRIALISATION, ITS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INTERDEPENDENCIES

Being is replaced by *consuming*. Subsistence farmers and smallholders are taken their land, the long-term unemployed and the ones with insecure jobs are pushed away. **As a resource they are worthless or replaceable at best.**



↓
The revolutionary explosive power of the proletariat

↓
The precariat, as reservists, hold back on massive protests as they hope for work



FAMINE AND EMIGRATION AS MAGIC MEDICINE DURING ECONOMIC CRISIS

The concept of *overpopulation* originated with industrialisation. Social catastrophes are seen as natural laws, not as system failures or externalities of the elite's priorities.



↓
Nearly everyone is dependent on money

Two realities:

1. The successful market
2. The disposable waste (incl. dumping products, 'dumping people', and people made redundant)





THOSE WHO LIVE AT THE MARGINS ARE NOT BEING SEEN

The redundant & the essential barely meet in our societies. In addition, **the material inequality leads to political inequality**. We speak of *the super-rich* as if our parliamentary democracy has gotten rid of oligarchic structures. Meanwhile, we discuss redistribution but not if concentration of wealth and democracy go together at all.

THE DARK SIDE OF ABUNDANCE IS THE REDUNDANT MAN

You can compare the world with a train in India.

1. A few lucky ones have a comfortable ride.
2. Other privileged ones are seated, although a bit crowded.
3. The majority of passengers is braving weather conditions, hanging on the outside of the train, or sitting on the roof. Regularly one falls off out of exhaustion. Sometimes one tries to jump back on the train, although mostly in vain.



Just because you have the privilege, not having to struggle to survive, you should certainly not retreat in your private sphere. The isolated man is the voluntary victim of the circumstances. Feeling desperate (concerning the massive problems, risks, and destructions) and feeling paralysed to act, isn't this a luxury of the wealthy?

Without empathy, the reality of the redundant man can't be fought for.

By *Nele Schmitz*

Adapted from: *Der Überflüssige Mensch* by Ilija Trojanow, 2013

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