

The Amazing Žižek: *Living in the End Times* (London, New York: Verso, revised, updated edition 2011)

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The Sublime Object of Ideology (1989); *Enjoy Your Symptom!* (1982); *Everything You Wanted to Know about Lacan and You Were Afraid to Ask Hitchcock* (1992); *The Metastases of Enjoyment* (1994); *Did Somebody Say Totalitarianism?* (2001); *Organs without Bodies* (2003); *The Universal Exception* (2006); *The Parallax View* (2006); *In Defence of Lost Causes* (2008); *First as Tragedy, Then as Farce* (2009); *Living the End Times* (2010); *God in Pain: Inversions of Apocalypse* (2012). Slavoj Žižek: philosopher; psychoanalyst; cultural theorist; film critic; exegete of Hegel and Lacan; university professor and senior researcher; political activist. More than 50 books and still counting. His highly influential work, perplexing ideas and idiosyncratic style were compared – for solid reasons – with those of Derrida, Deleuze, Foucault. Holding doctorates in both philosophy (University of Ljubljana) and psychoanalysis (University of Paris VIII), Žižek insists that his oeuvre – covering three substantial dimensions: Hegelian dialectics, Lacanian psychoanalysis and contemporary criticism of ideology – should be understood as a Lacanian intervention in political philosophy and social theory. No wonder Wikipedia registers him as "celebrity philosopher" or "Elvis of cultural theory", but also "the most dangerous philosopher in the West".

One of Žižek's recent books, *Living in the End Times*, stirs controversy by stating a simple premise: the global capitalism is approaching an apocalyptic zero-point. The major threats – or its "four riders of the apocalypse" are the ecological crisis, the consequences of the biogenetic revolution, the imbalances of the system itself (with various manifestations, from intellectual property to struggles with water, food, raw materials etc.) and the exponential growth of social divisions or exclusions.

The book is structured in 5 ample sequences (all with provocative titles: 1. *Denial: The Liberal Utopia*; 2. *Anger: The Actuality of the Theologico-Political*; 3. *Bargaining: The Return of the Critique of Political Economy*; 4. *Depression: The Neuronal Trauma, or, the Rise the Proletarian Cogito*; 5. *Acceptance: The Cause Regained*), brilliantly intertwined with 4 interludes on antisemitism, superpower politics, Hollywood blockbusters, New Age, architecture, subjective pathology and things like that.

All in all, what is Žižek trying to say? In the logic of *quand dire, c'est faire*, we should engage in a struggle against "global order and the ideological mystifications which sustain it", than to hedonistically vegetate in an eventless survival. We cannot avoid the worst by renouncing all positive projects. This a valuable lesson.