

# A Declaration of the Rights of Human Beings

On the Sovereignty of Life as Surpassing the Rights of Man, Second Edition

## Raoul Vaneigem

"A declaration of rights is indispensable in order to halt the ravages of despotism." So wrote the revolutionary Antoine Barnave in support of the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen (1789). Over two centuries after the Great French Revolution, Raoul Vaneigem writes that today, "in a situation comparable to the condition of France on the eve of its Revolution," we cannot limit ourselves to demanding liberties—the so-called bourgeois freedoms—that came into being with free trade, for now the free exchange of capital is the totalitarian form of a system which reduces human beings and the earth itself to merchandise. The time has come to give priority to the real individual rather than to Man in the abstract, the citizen answerable to the State and to the sole dictates of God's successor, the Economy.

Sometimes playful or poetic, always provocative, Raoul Vaneigem reviews the history of bills of rights before offering his own call, with commentary, for fifty-seven rights yet to be won in a world where the "freedoms accorded to Man" are no longer merely "the freedoms accorded by man to the economy."

Every human being has the right, for example: to become human and to be treated as such; to dispose freely of his or her time; to comfort and luxury; to free modes of transport set up by and for the collectivity; to permanent control over scientific experimentation; to association by affinity; to reconciliation with his or her animal nature; to bend toward life what was turned toward death; to the flux of passions and the freedoms of love; to a natural life and a natural death; to stray, to get lost and find him or herself; to hold nothing sacred; to excess and to moderation; to desire what seems beyond the realm of the possible.

Readers of Vaneigem's now-classic work *The Revolution of Everyday Life*, which as one of the main contributions of the Situationist International was a harbinger of May 1968 in France, will find much to savor in these pages written in the highest idiom of subversive utopianism.

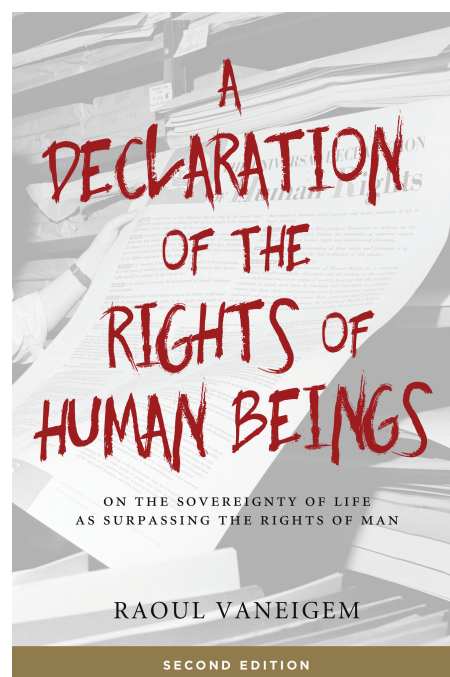
## ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

Born in 1934, **Raoul Vaneigem** is a writer and a former member of the Situationist International and is a key theorist in the worldwide Occupy movement. His works include *The Book of Pleasures*, *A Cavalier History of Surrealism*, *Contributions to the Revolutionary Struggle*, and the globally influential text *The Revolution of Everyday Life*.

**Liz Heron** is a Scottish writer and translator living in London. Her many other translations include *Artemisia: A Novel* by Alexandra Lapierre; *Infancy and History* by Giorgio Agamben; and *The Unseen* by Nanni Balestrini. She has anthologized women's fiction on cities in *Streets of Desire* (1993); published her own short stories as *Red River* (1996); and her latest novel is *The Hourglass* (2018).

## ACCOLADES

"All opponents of globalization should carry it in their luggage."  
—Le Monde



## SUBJECT CATEGORY

Political Theory/Human Rights

## PRICE

\$20.00

## ISBN

978-1-62963-155-4

## PAGE COUNT

144

## SIZE

9x6

## FORMAT

Paperback

## PUBLICATION DATE

12/18

## DISTRIBUTED BY

Independent Publishers Group  
(312) 337-0747  
www.ipgbook.com

## DISTRIBUTED IN THE UK/EUROPE BY

Turnaround Publisher Services Ltd  
t: 020 8829 3000  
orders@turnaround-uk.com

## ◆ PM PRESS ◆

P.O. Box 23912 • Oakland, CA 94623  
www.pmpress.org  
info@pmpress.org  
(510) 658-3906

# PM

PM Press was founded in 2007 as an independent publisher with a veteran staff boasting a wealth of experience in print and online publishing. We seek to create radical and stimulating fiction and nonfiction books, pamphlets, T-shirts, and visual and audio materials to entertain, educate, and inspire you.