

PHILIPP BLOM

Historian and philosopher: What can we learn from the past about today's times of crisis?

- Historian and author of bestselling books on history, politics, and philosophy
- Also works a radio presenter, documentary film maker and as a public lecturer
- Next to his work in history, fiction, philosophy and art, Philipp presents the program „Punkt 1“ on the Austrian radio station Ö1
- He wrote and presented a TV documentary, and curated exhibitions for, among others, the Wien Museum and the Getty Research Institute in Los Angeles
- Lecture tours and festivals take Philipp throughout Europe as well as to the USA, Canada, and South America
- Philipp Blom's books combine historical research, philosophical enquiry and an essayistic, literary approach
- Among his best-selling works are The Vertigo Years and Fracture, dealing with the cultural history of the early twentieth century, Nature's Mutiny an investigation into history and climate change in

the seventeenth century and, more recently, The Subjugation, dealing with the idea that humans can control nature

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Philipp Blom (1970) is a historian and author of several books on history, politics, and philosophy. He also works a radio presenter, documentary film maker and as a public lecturer.

Philipp was born in Hamburg and grew up in Detmold, in northern Germany. After studying history, philosophy and Jewish studies in Vienna and Oxford, he gained a D.Phil. on nationalism. During this period, he also worked in journalism, taught at a high school, and wrote a novel. Like many of his subsequent books it was written in English and translated into German by himself.

From 1997 to 2001 Blom and his wife, the writer Veronica Buckley, lived in London, where Philipp initially worked as an editor in a publishing house and as a foreign correspondent for German, Swiss and British newspapers and magazines (Guardian, Independent, the TLS, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Süddeutsche Zeitung, Neue Züricher Zeitung) and for radio stations (BBC, ORF, Deutschlandfunk). 2001 the couple moved to Paris to concentrate on their books. Since 2007 they live in Vienna.

Next to his work in history, fiction, philosophy and art, Philipp presents the program „Punkt 1“ on the Austrian radio station Ö1. He wrote and presented a TV documentary, and curated exhibitions for, among others, the Wien Museum and the Getty Research Institute in Los Angeles, where Philipp invited in 2010 to work for one year. Lecture tours and festivals take Philipp throughout Europe as well as to the USA, Canada, and South America. Philipp is also artistic director of the Dachstein Dialoge, a festival for ideas and the arts.

Philipp Blom’s book combine historical research, philosophical enquiry and an essayistic, literary approach. Among his best-selling works are The Vertigo Years and Fracture, dealing with the cultural history of the early twentieth century, A Wicked Company, about the radical Enlightenment, Nature’s Mutiny an investigation into history and climate change

in the seventeenth century and, more recently, What is at Stake, dealing with climate change, digitization, and democracy.

Philipp's wide-ranging work and research interests have received numerous accolades. He won several international prizes (Premis Terenci Moix, Barcelona, Groene Waterman Prijs, Antwerpen, NDR Kultur Buchpreis, Wolfenbüttel), and his books are translated into sixteen languages. From 2009-2010, 2011 scholar at the Getty Research Institute in Los Angeles. He was also Fellow of the IFK, 2017 Visiting Fellow at the IWM, both in Vienna. 2018 he opened the prestigious Salzburg Festspiele with a widely-discussed speech on the future of the Enlightenment in a time of climate change. He also holds a honorary doctorate from the University of Groningen in the Netherlands.

Having wanted to become a violinist early in life, Philipp also continues to make music and presents a series of concerts at the Vienna Konzerthaus.

TEMAS

Philipp tailors each presentation to the needs of his audience and is not limited to the topics listed below. Please ask us about any subject that interests you:

- Climate change
- Democracy
- Enlightenment
- History
- Ai. Ethical dilemmas
- Globalisation
- Geopolitics
- Labor & digitalization

PROGRAMAS

Subjugation

Rise and Fall of Human Dominion over Nature

Subjugation traces the biography of an idea: the strange thought that human beings can subdue nature and rule over it, that humans are outside and above nature. Born in Mesopotamia at the dawn of civilisation, the idea of subjugating the earth was included in the bible, reached Europe through Christianisation, and the entire world through colonialism. The Enlightenment gave a scientific appearance to the ambition of controlling nature, but did not change the ambition itself.

But every birth presages a death. Only with the climate crisis does it become apparent that the subjugation of nature must be a self-defeating ambition, because it alters and deregulates natural systems which humans depend on for their survival, precisely because they are part of nature. Subjugation is an idea that is dying around us.

The polycrisis threatening to engulf humanity is inextricably linked to how humans see themselves and their relationship with nature. Based on developments in the natural sciences, new understanding of this relationship looks not at individual phenomena, but at systems, connections and entanglements between humans and other manifestations of nature.

Is it possible to build a new understanding of humanity in nature by turning the traditional vision of free, rational individuals on its head and seeing humans as fascinating, irrational and system-dependent beings within the vast system of nature?

Told through historical episodes, individual life stories, works of art, and scientific discoveries, Subjugation tells the story of rise and fall of an idea and weaves a rich tapestry that is as surprising as it is enriching.

Nature's Mutiny
How the Little Ice Age of the Long Seventeenth Century Transformed the West and Shaped the Present

An illuminating work of environmental history that chronicles the great climate crisis of the 1600s, which transformed the social and political fabric of Europe.

Although hints of a crisis appeared as early as the 1570s, the temperature by the end of the

sixteenth century plummeted so drastically that Mediterranean harbors were covered with ice, birds literally dropped out of the sky, and “frost fairs” were erected on a frozen Thames—with kiosks, taverns, and even brothels that become a semi-permanent part of the city.

Recounting the deep legacy and far-ranging consequences of this “Little Ice Age,” acclaimed historian Philipp Blom reveals how the European landscape had suddenly, but ineradicably, changed by the mid-seventeenth century. While apocalyptic weather patterns destroyed entire harvests and incited mass migrations, they gave rise to the growth of European cities, the emergence of early capitalism, and the vigorous stirrings of the Enlightenment. A timely examination of how a society responds to profound and unexpected change, Nature’s Mutiny will transform the way we think about climate change in the twenty-first century and beyond.

The Great Global Theatre

About the power of imagination in times of upheaval

Where is the great theater of the world headed? We can have the feeling that the many advances of humanity –technological, political, social, health…– have led us to a time in which living conditions are better than in any previous historical period. But is it really so? Or is the ocean liner of the world headed towards collapse? Have the ideals of the Enlightenment been exhausted? Has sustained growth brought us to a point of no return? Dark clouds throw us warning signs that we are not on the right track: climate crisis, economic crisis, rise of populism, pandemics, wars…

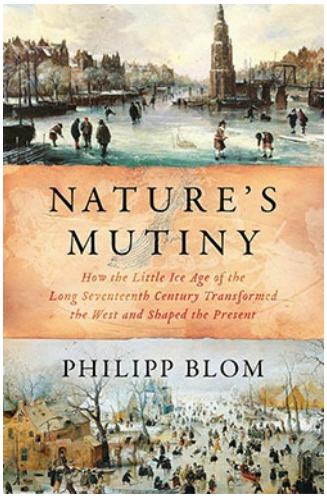
At the beginning of the third millennium, we may have to rethink everything. This is what Philipp Blom does in this agile, erudite and astute journey through Europe’s past and present to try to understand how we got to the current situation and what we must do to correct a system of values that will end up leading us to disaster if We don’t act anymore.

The author uses Calderón and Asterix, evokes the Little Ice Age and its consequences, the persecution of witches, the emergence of the Enlightenment… Echoes of the past to understand the present. Because the time has come to search for new paradigms, new stories, new myths, new mental structures, new cultural identities. The time has come to

reinvent ourselves as human beings and as a society.

PUBLICACIONES

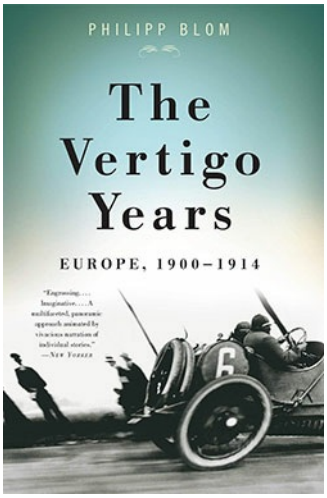
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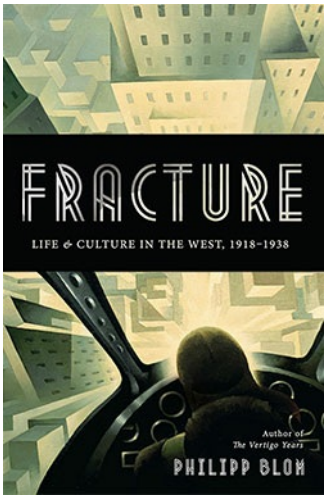
NATURE'S MUTINY



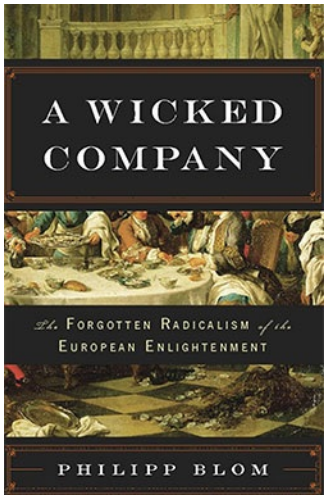
EL GRAN TEATRO DEL MUNDO



THE VERTIGO YEARS



FRACTURE



A WICKED COMPANY

CONDICIONES

- **Travels from:** Austria
- **Fee Range:** Please Inquire