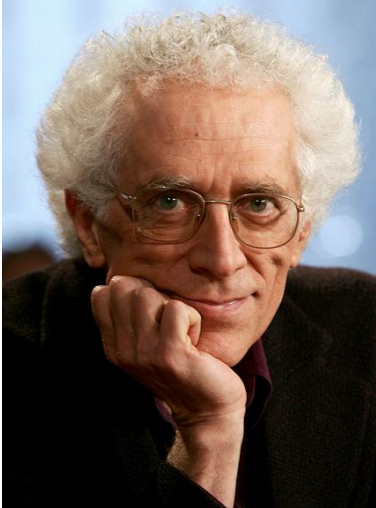


Tzvetan TODOROV

BIOGRAPHY



Tzvetan Todorov is born in Sofia, Bulgaria, in 1939, where he graduated from the Sofia university; he moved to Paris in 1963. He has published more than thirty books, translated in as many languages; all of his books were written in French.

He started working at the Centre national de la recherche scientifique in Paris in 1968, and remained there until his retirement in 2005. During the early years of his career (1965-1981), his centre of interest was literary and linguistic theory.

After 1982, he turned to historical and social issues. At first he brought his attention to the encounter of different cultures, writing about it either case studies (*The Conquest of America*, 1982; *The Fear of Barbarians*, 2008) or studies in intellectual history (*On Human Diversity*, 1989). Later, turning to issues in moral and political philosophy, he wrote about the confrontation of twentieth-century political regimes, totalitarianism and democracy (*Facing the Extreme*, 1991; *Hope and Memory*, 2000).

Still others of his books deal with history of ideas, in philosophy or in the humanities (*Life in Common*, 1995; *Imperfect Garden*, *The Legacy of Humanism*, 1998), or in art and literature (*Eloge de l'individu*, 2000; *Les Aventuriers de l'absolu*, 2006; *Goya à l'ombre des Lumières*, 2011). Certain political events, such as the Irak war in 2003, elicited his immediate reaction (*The New World Disorder*, 2003).

Todorov has lectured in many universities around the world, including, in the United States, Yale, New York University, University of California at Berkeley, Columbia and Harvard. In 2008, he was awarded the Prince of the Asturias Prize in Social Sciences.