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Literary censorship in Iran: The unbearable burden of being of authors and publishers

Iran. Literary censorship. Islamic norms. Prose fiction in translation.

The article discusses the restrictions of literary publishing in the Islamic Republic of Iran from 1979 onwards.

It lists the regulations passed by the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution and administered by

the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance. Among the many different aspects of literary censorship,

it focuses mainly on the inspection of values considered incompatible with Islamic norms, such as

the so-called “promotion of moral decadence”. The restrictions on freedom of expression in Iran

are demonstrated on the example of the translation of Milan Kundera’s novel *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*

(1985) into Persian. The article shows the impact of control over book publishing activities on readers,

authors and publishers.