Prolegomenon to the Humane Pursuit of Utopia

*David R. Harrington, Ph.D.*

*Independent Researcher*

*drh.email@yahoo.com*

*509-690-4699*

The liberal state, according to Emmanuel Levinas, pursues “a better justice,” justice tempered by charity; the “truly democratic state finds that is never democratic enough.” There is a utopian movement in such a state, a progressive movement toward what is better, what is ethical. In this time – a time characterized by the widespread attraction of narcissistic authoritarianism and its attendant cronyism, scapegoating, and unjust actions – it is important to learn what can be done to counter the inhumane, not just in everyday actions and plans, but through a thorough investigation of what can be done over the long-term.

A review of history demonstrates that there has been a concerted, thought-out, long-term process whereby the interests of moneyed and powerful persons and companies have been successfully pursued for a number of decades. Those involved in pursuing humane and progressive policies need to understand that history and – to some degree – emulate it, putting aside the tendency to rest on laurels each time a particular event tempts them to believe that the arc of history will bring forth a utopia. This paper will discuss a number of areas that need to be examined, charted, and decided upon in order to look to a long-term strategy to bring about a progressively just society.

BIO:

*David R. Harrington, now retired, was most recently Dean of Instruction at Front* *Range Community College in Longmont, Colorado. He also served as Professor and Dean of Academic Affairs at Sheldon Jackson College in Sitka, Alaska. He previously taught at the University of Alaska Southeast, Central Methodist College, and the College of Idaho. He received his Ph.D. from Penn State with a dissertation on Emmanuel Levinas and psychology. He is a graduate of Seattle University’s M.A. program in Existential-Phenomenological Therapeutic Psychology. He received his B.A. from Fairhaven College/Western Washington University. Additionally, he is a Registered Nurse with experience in emergency, critical care, psychiatric, and long-term care nursing.*