

On Indispensability

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Pace Hillary Clinton, there is no indispensable nation, way of life, civilization or chosen people that is the model of excellence for all human kind and that should rule the world. And great, indeed overriding, military power as the USA has does not yield indispensability, just dominance, though that probably was what Hillary Clinton had in mind.

Nothing provides the model for all humans to be. Where we get a passable common human kernel we get something that is banal. In all human cultures there is a language, a sense of kindship, in many combative war like propensities. Sometimes very brutal ones. That was or is true of the Incas, the Aztecs, the Nepalese, the Comanche, the Romans, the Turks, the Tasmanians and of many people from the United States. But the common kernels that they and all cultures may have will not specify for them what across the board constitutes the good life or what early Marx called a truly human life or a human flourishing. Do we have anything that is constitutive of a good life? If we will look at things cross-culturally we will find nothing except banalities. Does this negate such talk as conceptualization?