

The Utopian Pact or There is no Alternative

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Abstract

In this paper the author advances the thesis that utopia has always been an indispensable horizon to philosophical thinking and political praxis and the lack of utopian imagination would render both philosophy and politics dead. This is what the author refers to as "utopian pact". The author traces genealogy of the utopian pact from Thomas More's *Utopia* and paying tribute to Theodor W. Adorno. For Adorno the "utopia of knowledge" embodies the desire to reach sensuality without resorting to a conceptual framework. For Fredric Jameson "dialectics of identity and difference" is the source of dynamics which eventually turns any given utopia into a "program" or "impulse" in three distinct areas - that of the body, time and community. And in Ernst Bloch's approach, utopia is cast as "the principle of hope" embracing all life domains to such an extent that "being" either becomes utopia or blends with it. Corroborating a claim that "there is no alternative to utopia" the author elucidates its true meaning. The promise of happiness and the expectation of a kingdom come though both unthinkable yet formally admissible are in fact compulsory; we must categorically request the utopia for it is not a Chimera but a kind of "protean investment" and "political practice".

Keywords: anti-utopias, heterotopia, philosophical imagination, real utopia, utopian pact.