

# Ethics and Time in the Philosophy of History

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# Ethics and Time in the Philosophy of History

*A Cross-Cultural Approach*

Edited by  
Natan Elgabsi and Bennett Gilbert

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# Acknowledgments

The rudimentary ideas for a joint project at the intersection of ethics and the philosophy of history sparked to life for us during a conference at the Centre for Philosophical Studies of History at the University of Oulu in 2017. Having presented at the same panel on ethics, we decided to elaborate these, in our view, underdeveloped concerns under the concept of an existential philosophy of history, derived from our own separate works in philosophical hermeneutics and personalism. In early 2020—feeling the ever so strong absence of the value of ethical life in philosophical discourse—we decided to try to initiate a volume consisting of a variety of existential perspectives that most strongly speak to the concerns that we esteem. This is the brief story of this book.

AQ: Please confirm that the text reads fine as given.

The present initiative to show the richness and depth of an existential approach in various areas of the philosophy of culture and history could not have been possible without all our colleagues and friends here who support and contribute to this work. Indeed we must recognize right at the start the extraordinary efforts of our contributors, as well as the efforts of those many scholars whom we have had the fortune to be in contact with during the course of this project. They all have had to persevere through illness, hospitalization, job insecurity, actual job loss, childbirth, home teaching, moving house, and family crises, as well as through the Covid-19 pandemic. The papers in this book have their own inner histories; they do not spring to life without human labor and struggle. This must be said, for it is often one of those things that are left unsaid. We are immensely grateful to these scholars for their perseverance and cooperation in making this collection of their papers. Despite their being absorbed by numerous other tasks and concerns, they have patiently responded to our sometimes stubborn demands. In addition, they all have shown a love of this field of inquiry and collegial openness to writing papers to the highest standard.

AQ: In line with house style, can we change 'papers' to 'chapters' in all such instances?

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Georgina Tuari Stewart's chapter includes words in Māori that are not italicized out of respect for the cultural political status of the Māori in Aotearoa (New Zealand). Ruth Behar's essay was presented at the Aboagora symposium, Turku, Finland, on August 18, 2011, and published as "The Death of the Angel: Reflections on the Relationship between Enlightenment and Enchantment in the Twenty-first Century," in *Temenos: Nordic Journal of Comparative Religion*, vol. 47, no. 1 (2011), 77–96. It is here reused by Behar with permission of The Finnish Society for the Study of Religion.