

Liberalism

[A] major handicap for liberalism today is that for centuries it came to most of the world in the form of imperialism. Recall that John Stuart Mill's day job was in the East India Company and he thought that colonised peoples in their "nonage" were not ready for his refined liberties.

Western universalism was, in practice, anything but universal. Some of the worst horrors that human beings have inflicted on other human beings – violent conquest, torture, genocide, slavery – were justified by reference to the highest ideals of liberty, civilisation and enlightenment. ... The road to hell can be paved with liberal intentions.

**Timothy Garten Ash,
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