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Make Aristotle Great Again: Measuring Fukuyama's 'End of History' and Nietzsche's 'Last Man' against a Neo-Aristotelian Framework

Francis Fukuyama's proclamation of the 'end of history' stands as a defining narrative of our contemporary era, characterized by technological advancement, the triumph of liberal democracy, and the globalization of markets. This paper critically examines the successes and shortcomings of this posthistorical paradigm, employing Patrick Deneen's neo-Aristotelian framework to argue that the current age's challenges are not failures of liberalism, but rather inherent consequences of its very triumph. This perspective is further elaborated by juxtaposing Fukuyama's thesis with the insights of thinkers like Chesterton, Arendt, Nisbet, Foucault, and Aristotle. The paper delves into the anthropological dimension of the post-historical age, critiquing Fukuyama's appropriation of Nietzsche's 'last man' concept. Instead, we advocate for a return to Aristotle's conception of the 'political animal' (ζῷον πολιτικόν) and a teleological framework of analysis. This reframing allows us to better understand the underlying tensions inherent in the post-historical condition and to identify potential pathways towards a more fulfilling and meaningful existence. In conclusion, this paper challenges the simplistic notion of a 'post-historical' era and proposes a more nuanced understanding of our contemporary circumstances. By adopting a neo-Aristotelian perspective, we can better appreciate the complexities and challenges of the present age and seek avenues for a more humane and flourishing future.