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**‘Realism Tamed or Liberalism Betrayed: The Dystopic Liberal Imagination  
in Political Thought’**

**The Author**

Nicholas Rengger is Professor of Political Theory and International Relations at the University of St Andrews. He is also a Carnegie Council Global Ethics Fellow at the Carnegie Council for Ethics and International Affairs in New York. Before taking up his post at St Andrews, Professor Rengger taught at Bristol University, the University of Wales at Aberystwyth, and the University of Strathclyde. He has also held visiting positions at the LSE, the University of Southern California, and the Centre for Theology and Ethics at the University of Nottingham. Professor Rengger’s work is unusually wide-ranging: he has written on topics in the history of political thought, political theory, international relations, and critical theory. Among his many books and articles are *International Relations, Political Theory and the Problem of Order: Beyond International Relations Theory* (2000) and *Just War and International Order: The Uncivil Condition in World Politics* (forthcoming from Cambridge University Press in 2013).

**The Paper**

Liberal thought over the past hundred years has been understood in a variety of ways, as 'classical', as welfarist and, increasingly in contemporary times, as 'cosmopolitan'. This paper examines a very different way of seeing liberal politics: a dystopic liberalism that finds powerful expression in the work of writers like Raymond Aron and Judith Shklar. In this paper, I examine the influences on this 'dystopic' liberalism, outline its major themes and assess both its influence and its coherence.