

Aliens in America
Lawler

Lawler staggers under the weight of ideas too heavy to carry. Most of them originated with philosophers and political scientists whom he takes seriously enough to devote chapters to refuting. They all deal in the most sweeping of generalizations. Speaking of Americans and Europeans as if any political universals could be applied to either, or as if either population adhered to any stated philosophy. He deals endlessly with Hegel's "end of history" notion, borrowed by Fukayama and others. As a mere mortal mentality understands this abstruse concept, the end of history arrives when man's animal desires are so fully satisfied that we can revert to being animals. History has been the process of fighting against our finite nature and lack of control. We can relax now, America is in charge; history is over (??).

Lawler is valuable for the reviews he gives of other modern philosophers, among them Richard Rorty, and Walker Percy, This work is as much as anything else a collection of related book reviews.