

EXPLORING HOW THE ACTIVITY OF THINKING CONDITIONS MEN AGAINST EVIL DOINGS THROUGH THE IDEA OF BANALITY OF EVIL

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ABSTRACT

Drawing on Hannah Arendt's concept of Banality of Evil, this paper explores ways in which the activity of thinking conditions men against evil doings. It argues that the activity of thinking is an important condition in preventing men from evil doings and discusses that human behaviours are not necessarily mirror images of their preferred actions unless the behaviours are shaped by the activity of thinking without the consideration of social norms. In a belief that no man who had engaged in thinking could participate in the commission of genocide, Arendt claimed that a nation could succumb to a change of its moral standards if its citizens do not think and judge what had taken place. Arendt's insights into the activity of thinking provide a lens to emphasize influences on and consequences of thinking. These insights are intended to provoke an aware that thinking enables individuals to reflect on themselves and the world, arriving at rational actions by the personal application of reason and self-consciousness.

Keywords: Banality of Evil, Activity of Thinking, Evil Doings.