

HUMANITARIAN REASON

A MORAL HISTORY OF THE PRESENT

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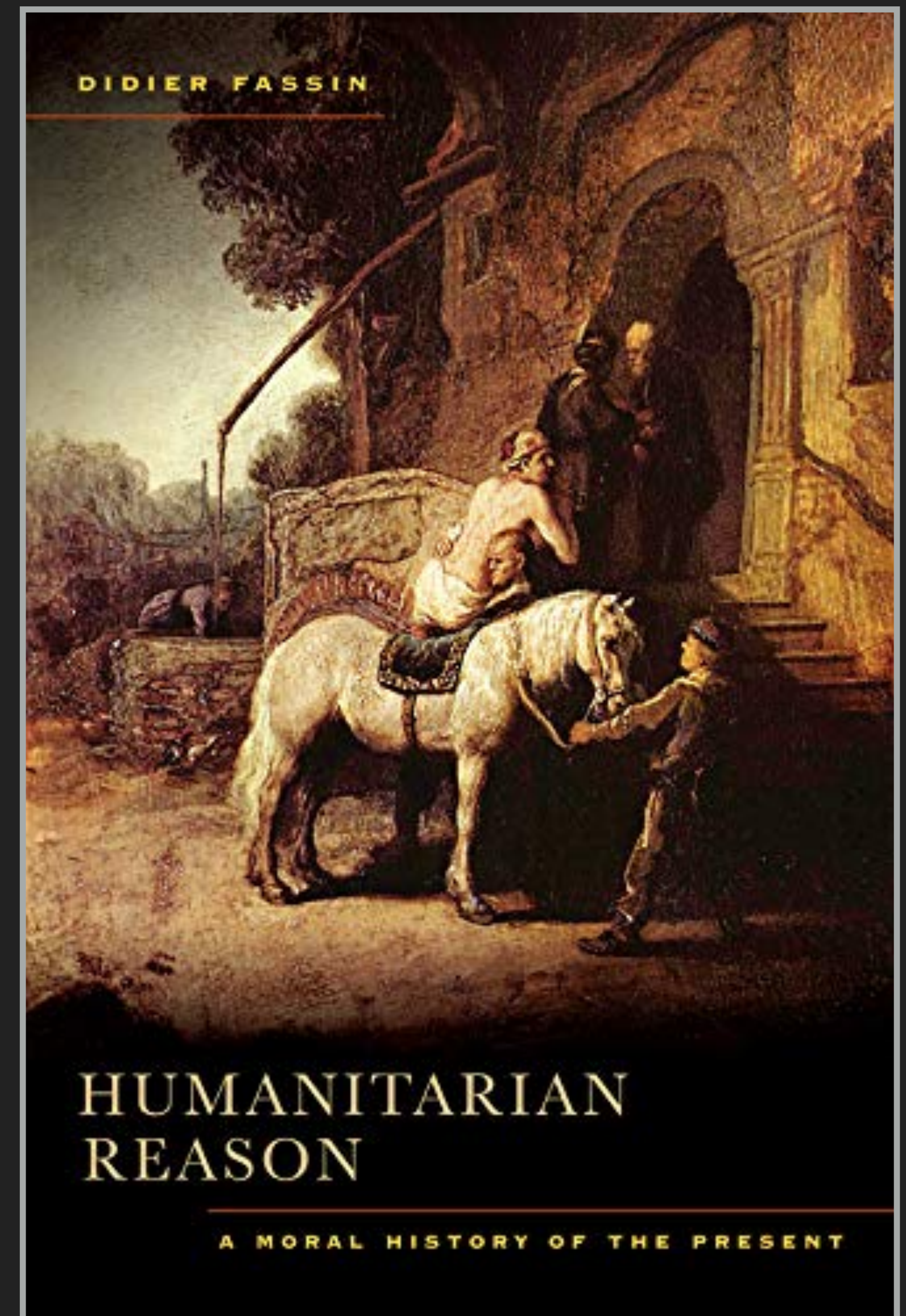
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TODAY'S PATHWAY

- ▶ *INTRODUCTION*
- ▶ What is the Author's *ARGUMENT*?
- ▶ Which *QUOTES* support His thesis?
- ▶ What are the *CRITICAL QUESTIONS* the Author uses to sustain His *argument*?
- ▶ Are there any *CONNECTIONS* between what the Author states and the ideas of other scholars?
- ▶ *IMPLICATIONS*: what if the Author's post of view is distorted?
- ▶ *CONCLUSION*



ARGUMENT

Humanitarian reason corresponds to the ultimate theological- political recess at the “point of weakness”, where “the tragedy of the modern condition” can no longer be eluded.

p.252

QUOTES

- ▶ “Humanitarianism is [...] politics” p.224
- ▶ “I attempt to identify the features of an ontological inequality that contravenes the principle of common humanity defended by humanitarianism by producing implicit hierarchies.” p. 227

CRITICAL QUESTIONS

- ▶ What kind of life is at stake, explicitly or implicitly, in humanitarian intervention? (p. 226)
- ▶ Ethic in action: is the life that is saved (victim) or the live that is risked (aid worker) to be more important? Should NGOs protect their employee at all cost or give priority to the victims they are suppose to support? (p.231)

CONNECTIONS

- ▶ *Michel Foucault's* take on *biopolitics* (the regulation of populations) is used by Fassin to define Humanitarian actions, which uses techniques of management of population in any nations taken to succeed in an humanitarian mission. (in "Society Must Be Defended" 1975)
- ▶ *Plato's "Allegory of the cave"* in *The Republic, Book VII*: "The social function of critics is to bring men the light of truth" → Fassin explains how we are suppose to go beyond what seems good about humanitarians, emerge form the cave and see for ourselves the realty of it.

IMPLICATIONS

- ▶ *What if*, instead of been driven by theological- political recess, humanitarian reasons are actually the resultant of a thirst for omnipotence that lies in the western morality?
- ▶ *What if*, we feel the need to assert ourselves at all costs and we are willing to puppet the rest of the world in order to be in charge?
- ▶ *What if*, humanitarian actions are just a tool to dominance, nothing more than the mere fruit of hypocrisy?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- ▶ FASSIN, D. (Translated by R. Gomme) "Humanitarian Reason: A Moral History of the Present", University of California Press, 2012.
- ▶ R. Adams, "Michel Foucault: Biopolitics and Biopower", CRITICAL LEGAL THINKING, 2017
- ▶ Plato: The Republic, Book VII: The Allegory of the Cave, 375 BC c.a.