

The Human Condition 2020 Valentin Leonard Matcas, 2020 53 pages Valentin Matcas

The Human Condition displays an easel placed inside a room and in front of a window. The easel holds an unframed painting of a landscape that seems in every detail contiguous with the landscape seen outside the window. At first, one automatically assumes that the painting on the easel depicts the portion of the landscape outside the window that it hides from view. The Human Condition, first published in 1958, is Hannah Arendt's account of how "human activities" should be and have been understood throughout Western history. Arendt is interested in the *vita activa* (active life) as contrasted with the *vita contemplativa* (contemplative life) and concerned that the debate over the relative status of the two has blinded us to important insights about the *vita activa* and the way in which it has changed since ancient times. She distinguishes three sorts of activity. The human condition comprehends more than the conditions under which life has been given to man. Men are conditioned beings because everything they come in contact with turns immediately into a condition of their existence. The world in which the *vita activa* spends itself consists of things produced by human activities; but the things that owe their existence exclusively to men nevertheless constantly condition their human makers. The most radical change in the human condition we can imagine would be an emigration of men from the earth to some other planet. Such an event, no longer totally impossible, would imply that man would have to live under man-made conditions, radically different from those the earth offers him. The Human Condition by Hannah Arendt is a magnificent book. I really enjoy Hannah Arendt's work. I highly recommend this book. Read more. 3 people found this helpful. Helpful. Report abuse. This book was not interesting at all. If you open your eyes, you would be surprised what you already KNOW about "The Human Condition". Read more. 3 people found this helpful. Helpful. Report abuse. C. Shara. 4.0 out of 5 stars Not quite what I expected but a classic nonetheless.