

## **Philosophy And World Problems**

# **WHAT IS GOOD? WHAT IS BAD? - THE VALUE OF ALL VALUES THROUGH TIME, PLACE AND THEORIES**

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(Note: This is a comprehensive sequence of essays in which each takes the form of a chapter)

## Summary

Values, what is of worth or not, and why, define the human species across differences, domains and ways of life. They construct the meaning of life. The world crisis of life support systems which humanity now faces is explained as a predictable consequence of the long failure of theory and policy to ground in values which enable human life and life conditions - even as the air, soil and water degrade, climates and oceans destabilize, a rising half of the world is destitute, public sectors and services are privatized for profit, and species become extinct at a spasm rate. This analysis step-by-step excavates the core defining principles of the major theories of value across philosophical traditions, and explains why their answers to the questions “what is good, what is bad?” fail to provide any coherently adequate ground of worth. In contrast to known values and value-systems, an underlying “value of all values” is systematically explained and reconnected to lived values and life support systems as the lost life-ground of all human values through place and time.

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## Biographical Sketch

**John McMurtry** is a Professor of Philosophy and University Professor Emeritus at the University of Guelph, and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. He earned his B.A. and M.A. at the University of Toronto, and his PhD at the University of London. His books and articles have been widely published internationally, and are concerned with unexamined and ultimately regulating principles of reality and value.