

From the onset of civilization, thinkers have questioned whether moving towards complex societies has cost us the primordial bliss that comes from living in harmony with nature. The anarcho-primitivist John Zerzan argues for the dismantling of civilization, as its myth of progress has shrouded the evermore alienated reality of individual existence. Philosopher Helmuth Plessner, on the other hand, sees this alienation as fundamental to the human condition, stating that man is constitutively homeless. This thesis attempts to synthesize these clashing viewpoints, arguing that parts of human nature thrive in civilization, whilst other parts wither under its social and technological determinants.