

ABSTRACT

In a comparison of the two philosophies, Buddhadasa's thought and Levinas' thought, this thesis requires exploration of both ideas from the social perspective. The research presents society with the problems by dividing the thesis into 6 chapters. The objective or the reason for this topic is found in the "Introduction", and then the researcher exposes "the Vision of Buddhadasa and Levinas about the State", "the Vision of Buddhadasa and Levinas about Society and Mankind", "the Vision of Buddhadasa and Levinas about Economic and Social Development", and "Buddhadasa's and Levinas' Concepts of Social Thought Impacting Society in the Age of Globalization", and a conclusion.

Buddhadasa tries to create welfare for the populations by prompting the revolution of society to a higher community (full of morality). Dhammaraja is the appropriate person for accelerating the improvement of the trouble-some society into a dhammic society. He mentions that a troubled society emerges from the attachment to technological materialism with no concern for spirituality. Levinas tries to stimulate people to have relationships with the others, to have concern for others, and even to forget himself. It is an excellent concept to create welfare for the citizens and finally to develop a prosperous society.

There are various possible approaches to governing society, not only a fixed political theory like democracy. The political thought of Buddhadasa and Levinas aims at civilizing the community, not deteriorating the existing society. Their good will is optimistic in trying to bring welfare equally to society and avoiding exploitation of the citizens.