

## 20190925 **Retrogression and Progression** Viktor Nonong Medrano

Retrogression of civilization is quite possible, if not probable. It would come with technological retrogression. The fall of the Roman Empire led to the Dark Ages in Europe. In Olaf Stapledon's book *Last and First Men*, 18 consecutive human species go through a two-billion-year rollercoaster ride of evolution. Stapledon was a real historian. In Edgar Pangborn's *Davy*, a post-apocalyptic medieval-like world exists in the East Coast of North America. In Ursula K. Le Guin's *Always Coming Home*, people in the future Northern California live as the Native Indians did.

There *are* sci-fi authors that write about centuries of continued future progress. In Arthur C. Clarke's *Imperial Earth*, the Makenzie family of recursive clones get rich by mining natural resources on Saturn's moon Titan. In Samuel R. Delany's *Triton*, human colonies exist on the planets and moons of the Solar System; he expounds on the sexuality of colonists on Neptune's moon Triton.

As of the present, the future is really unpredictable. Religion does play a part in one's perspective. For example, a Fundamentalist Christian with his or her linear beliefs might find the winter of this world alluring. To Buddhists and Hindus with their spiralling thinking, this world is still in spring. (I do live in the Northern Hemisphere.)