

## **The Nightmare of History: A Look at Time in the Novels of Eliade, DeLillo, and Mitchell**

Carl Olson<sup>1</sup>

Although separated by time and cultural background, Eliade, DeLillo, and Mitchell share an interest in the “terror of history” in their novels. This essay compares and contrasts the role that the horrors of historical time play in the novels of these three writers. This comparative exercise involves an examination of notions such as eternal repetition, abolition of time, historical time, search for the center, and liminality. *[Article copies available for a fee from The Transformative Studies Institute. E-mail address: journal@transformativestudies.org Website: http://www.transformativestudies.org ©2012 by The Transformative Studies Institute. All rights reserved.]*

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“History, Stephen said, is a nightmare from which I am trying to awake.” (James Joyce, *Ulysses*)

Joyce’s character refers to the horrors of history in the aftermath of World War I. The novel would exert tremendous literary influence and would be regarded by many critics as the most outstanding novel of the

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<sup>1</sup> **Professor Carl Olson** teaches at Allegheny College. Besides numerous essays in journals, books and encyclopedias, he has published 15 books on subjects such as Hinduism, Buddhism, comparative philosophy, and method and theory in the study of religion. Professor Olson has been appointed to following positions: Holder of the National Endowment for the Humanities Chair, 1991-1994; Holder of the Teacher-Scholar Chair in the Humanities, 2000-2003; Visiting Fellowship at Clare Hall, University of Cambridge, 2002; and elected Life Member of Clare Hall, University of Cambridge 2002. Address correspondence to: Carl Olson, Allegheny College, 520 N. Main St., Meadville, PA 16335 USA.