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7th hr.

Perfect Should Not Be the Enemy of Good

Cormac McCarthy seems to say that it is pointless to study history because the cause of an event cannot be proven and violence and greed cannot be prevented any way. Such negativity must be dispelled. Many ideas scientists presented as facts were later disproven, like the Earth being the center of the universe or stomach ulcers being caused by anxiety, despite the supposedly perfect scientific methods. Mr. McCarthy doesn't propose that all scientific research stop. Scientists have hypotheses, present evidence, and discuss the validity of both. Why not historians? If greed and violence are part of human nature, the study of history could reveal the best way to handle occurrences; policies, economic systems, government systems that seemed to mitigate the effects of greedy and violent tendencies could be hypothesized, evidence examined, and the ideas discussed. Racism has not disappeared, and probably never will, but slavery is gone. How did it start? What methods were used to end it? Racism has decreased. What methods did Martin Luther King use? Has non-violent resistance been used in other situations historically? Was it successful? Was it more or less successful than violent methods? The answers to these questions lie in studying history. It is frightening to think Hitler gained power by studying history while others did not.