

An Outline of an Alternative Viewpoint to Current Ideologies that are Resulting in the Degrading of Human Relationships

By Melinda Spruce

Attempting to hold a meaningful discussion on the merits and demerits of an ideology that is specifically designed to attack the questioner instead of analyzing the questions is fruitless. So a more productive approach involves offering an alternative solution that resonates in an individual psyche and elicits a cascade of “what ifs” in a positive direction. Obviously some will be so vested in the ideology that they will not have “ears to hear”; however, seeds will be planted in those not so steeped in dogma, if the alternative is lifegiving, clearly stated, and based on universal truths.

1. Each individual is sovereign.
 - a. Each individual has innate worth that is inviolate.
 - b. Recognizing one’s own sovereignty, powerfulness, and responsibility means to in like manner recognize the same in others (and vice versa).
2. Each person individually is powerful.
 - a. Because each is powerful, each has the ability to change oneself and the surrounding environment.
 - b. One has the ability to create one’s own reality to the positive or to the negative; thus, changing / influencing external circumstances.
3. Each individual is responsible for / to themselves.
 - a. Each individual decides to act powerfully or not.
 - b. Each individual decides to change circumstances or to acquiesce to circumstances.
 - c. The status quo is only the status quo because each individual chooses it.
4. Each individual is part of universal humanity.
 - a. Each individual is born into a universal human existence / experience.
 - b. Each individual is connected to the whole, because each individual’s actions (positive or negative) impact the human experience.
5. Community / culture exists and consists of ideas, thinking ways, literature, organizations, etc... created by and adhered to by individuals by choice. If individuals hold to the concepts of individual sovereignty and universal humanity as outlined above then society can function in the following ways:
 - a. Principle of non-aggression - no harm or infringement to an individual’s body or an individual’s property by either individual or group force or laws or governing bodies. (Note: Fraud would be a violation of the principle of non-aggression).
 - b. Principle of free association - freedom to associate with anyone that an individual chooses to and freedom to not associate with anyone that an individual chooses to.
 - c. Principle of free (mutually beneficial) exchange (goods, services, ideas, etc...) - freedom to engage in trade / exchange with whomever an individual chooses and in the method and at the rate both parties agree upon. Freedom of speech and expression can be classified as free exchange of ideas.
 - d. Rule of law and any type of consequent governance is simply to uphold the above principles.

A society based on the above principles will be the most free, most innovative, most peaceful society possible. However, this type of society is dependent on personal responsibility which entails self-education, self-motivation, and by definition a multiplicity of outcomes. Each individual's talents, abilities, motivations, etc... have a significant impact on the outcome of his/her life and consequent impact on his/her family. Because humanity is by design altruistic, a community "safety-net" is not something that must be enforced or managed by some governmental body. Community "safety-nets" will develop naturally through the individual motivations of community members. Governance could be extremely limited and local to protect individuals from those in society whose motivation is to take from others for personal gain.

No community or society functions "perfectly". However, the most logical and altruistic way to organize community is within a framework of freedom. When individual liberties are suppressed and a minority of individuals seek to dominate and dictate to the community at large, peaceful interactions crumble. Forced adherence to a set of principles dictated by an external force eliminates innovation and motivation. Society stagnates, declines, and slides into turmoil where violence becomes the dominating force until enough individuals seek a better way.

In my opinion, the greatest threat to a free and peaceful community is when the freedom and peace that it creates leads to a complacency which allows that very freedom and peace to be eroded. Individuals forget the basic underpinnings of freedom and peace and allow disruptive ideologies to shift community principles in such a way that governance and the role of governance becomes skewed. What may initially seem to be harmless, over time transforms into a repressive, monolithic entity that becomes a self-sustaining parasite on the community that allowed it to develop. Once this happens, a move back to individual responsibility and freedom becomes extremely difficult. So difficult in fact that history seems to show it only occurring when the "parasite" wounds the host to the point of total collapse. At that point, re-organization can happen, but what direction will it take? I believe the United States of America is at that point of collapse. What direction will we take? I personally believe education regarding individual sovereignty and universal humanity are the keys. When we see ourselves as powerful to change ourselves and our world, we will find innovative and non-violent ways to initiate massive societal transformation. But it must start somewhere with someone. Why not with us?

Statement of bias: My personal bias and the above musings are heavily influenced by (1) my strong faith in the ultimate universal Love and our unity with that Love
(2) my classical liberal ideology that is today championed by individuals such as Dr. Ron Paul and the Mises Institute
(3) my sincere desire for every individual on the planet to know and manifest their true identity and rise up to their true potential without infringement