

Chapter Four Excerpts

Chapter Four: Understanding the System

... Beyond Injustice, Consider Survival

Organic systems have a natural progression. Human lives progress from embryos, infancy, childhood, adolescence, adulthood and on to a decline ending in demise. Next generations have some of the same characteristics, but evolution provides changes. Societal systems as organic entities have similar progressions, but have the capability of reinventing themselves, and can provide progeny...

... Political-Economies are Not-Immune Entities: The Danger is Real

Political-economies strive for immunity from demise, but consider the long history of loss of sovereignty and the accelerated pace of change. How has the life-span of sovereign nations shortened? What are some signs of the cancers that destroyed societies from within as well as from external forces, in the sense of regional or global societies?...

... The common thread is information and energy driving action generated by power and various forms of plunder. In antiquity the system focused on looting and tribute. In the Middle Ages it used integration in controlled territories. The next era specialized in colonies, but it had the seeds of the greatest reform [page 44] in the start of the Enlightenment; possibly with Spinoza's quest for the right to think independently and express the thoughts along with the other radicals that were critical to the Enlightenment and the American Revolution. More is discussed in an appendix consisting of presentation notes on the first book of the Jonathan I. Israel trilogy on enlightenment, *Radical Enlightenment: Philosophy and the Making of Modernity 1650-1750*...

... Our Inner World. Dr. John Khosh, a colleague of mine at ASPEC, commented on an early draft of this chapter, then in the form of an essay (referring to the section immediately following the introduction), as follows:

The Organic Structure of Society

I believe that you are comparing the inner world of a human being with its outer world. I also believe that they share the same process - It is a great approach; the same laws of nature are applied. This is also my approach. It is a superb way of making people understand how the human body functions and what societal cancer is? ... [email of July 10, 2014]...

... Examples of the information and energy process of the immune system that hinder homeostasis relate to information not used and restraint not exercised resulting in stressing the immune system. Sometimes that stress reaches the point of excessive vulnerability to cancer and a threat to the self-corrective abilities of homeostasis. A few simple examples are (1) smoking cigarettes; (2) long exposure to the sun without sunblock; and (3) some medications for one problem that have unwanted side effects (sometimes unknown). ...

...Our Outer World. In our outer world, communities, nations, and global economies, people have the same challenges. The outer world to humans may be viewed as a series of networks of humans that may include a wide variety of communities ranging from informal associations to political [page 45] parties and religious affiliations (formal and informal). The nations and unions of nations include not

only sovereign states, but also clusters such as the European Union, Putin's attempt at a Euro Asian counterpart, and the ongoing Islamic battle for hegemony in the Mideast.

Our focus is what we are doing internally in the organic system known as America. In doing so, we really have to deal with the quality of information used in creating knowledge and the perceptions humans have in accepting and integrating it into decision making... The following is an excerpt from an essay of mine published as an insert in News from ASI, "[Spring 2003](#) – *“Roots of Modern Disciplines”*,” as a pivotal point in the development of contemporary disciplines...: ... Roots of Modern Disciplines by Maury Seldin.

An important transition was made by Kant in 1781 with his Critique of Pure Reason....[The following is] a variation of a combination of the opening sentences of the first two paragraphs of Kant's, Critique of Pure Reason: "That all our knowledge begins with experience there can be no doubt...But although all our knowledge begins with experience, it does not follow that it arises from experience." [Also] Consider what Bryan Magee says in his book, Confessions of a Philosopher: A Personal Journey Through Western Philosophy from Plato to Popper, in the chapter on The Discovery of Kant "The attempt leads him [Kant] into the most radical reconstruction of the theory of knowledge that anyone has ever carried out. At the end of it he pronounces that the whole nature of the world as we experience it is dependent on the nature of our apparatus for experiencing, with the inevitable consequence that things as they appear to us are not the same as the thing as they are in themselves." [p. 143]

A contemporary statement is in a book by Michael Lewis that made the NY Times Bestseller list, Moneyball. The quote referring broadly to psychology and economics (really behavioral science) but particularly in the case of the baseball draft decisions, as follows:

There was, for starters, the tendency of everyone who actually played the game to generalize widely from his own experience. People always thought that their own experience was typical when it wasn't. There was also the tendency to be overly influenced by a guy's most recent experience: what he did last was not necessarily what he would do next. Thirdly – but not lastly – there was the bias toward what people saw with their own eyes, or thought that they had seen.

That context was that the illusions of some provided an opportunity for others with a better understanding of reality to build a better baseball team for less money. The context for our dealing with the same fundamentals of behavioral science is to build a society closer to the ideals espoused in the 46 Declaration of Independence. In order to do that, we turn to discussing a few aspects of injustice in the American political economy preceded by some comments on premises and perspectives.

Premises and Perspectives

Any attempt to enhance our societal structure so as to generate conditions closer to the ideals espoused in the Declaration of Independence calls for an analytical structure. Most people are likely to take a political posture based on perspectives that are closer to the genre used by the scouting staff in the Michael Lewis book Moneyball rather than that by the relatively few people with at least a nodding acquaintance with some philosophical foundations and nascent disciplines; but even then there will be a bias based on the premises underlying the analytics.

The premises underlying the analytics vary with the individual, but are heavily clustered according genes and memes with deviations occurring as the individuals develop their balancing capability, especially in the context of pluralism. [Add endnote to explain pluralism in the context of balance and diversity.] In the case at hand, the development of balancing capability in the analytics calls for an understanding of the generation of intervention of a type and at a pace symbiotic with homeostasis; in other words making progress without killing the patient, although sometimes disruptive of the current condition. Doing so requires learning about the system which although it might be in the form of scientific rigor, could be as simple as just getting enough from an analogy or myth to move in a direction that is likely to lead to a more successful pattern than would otherwise be selected. Heuristics can work, but some heuristics come closer to reality than others. Additionally, the process of change in the structure is an emergent process going through one or more layers of networks. That process entails uncertainty, but contains patterns, the selection of which may be guided by an understanding of the system...

... There are two main threads to where this is going. One is to enhance the strength of the voting public in order to improve their decisions, especially as it relates to their participation based on their rights to equality in determining government structure and policy. The other is to foster a design of structural modifications in the political process to achieve a better balance in the democratic system. The first focuses on the enhancement of information and energy for the voting public to be better able to exercise the rights to improve the societal structure. The second is to foster the development of knowledge through the sciences, established and nascent, in order to better understand the system envisioned in the Declaration and develop and apply translational science [insert endnote] essential to fostering the activities of the first.

The second book of the trilogy focuses on "to enhance the strength of the voting public in order to improve their decisions." The focus of this book, as just noted, " is to foster a design of structural modifications in the political process to achieve a better balance in the democratic system. The first book is simply designed to raise the level of consciousness. They can be read in any sequence.

Part III: Making Progress
Chapter Five: Building a New Paradigm

[The third booklet, *GREAT DANGER EMERGES*, has an appendix that has excerpts from the fifth chapter. It Is Appendix D.]