

THE SOCIAL FABRIC

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Summary

THE SOCIAL FABRIC is an essay discussing our international culture, especially the societies that are in developed countries, that follow ideals in democracy, equality, and freedom and are under attack from various groups. This Social Fabric is not something set in stone, but a living, breathing entity that is constantly changing. Some changes are smooth, and some changes are difficult and can include violence. People like Donald Trump are causing destructive rips in this Social Fabric. Others like ISIS and Al-Qaeda want to wipe our social system off the face of the earth, completely destroy it, and start with a clean slate. They must be stopped.

Something is happening all over the world that is tearing apart our Social Fabric. For a society to succeed there needs to be a social structure that everyone agrees to follow. In countries like Japan or Germany the rules are over impressed and the societies work like clockwork. This, of course, has pluses and minuses, but the overall society succeeds in functioning and moving forward because all the people agree to follow the rules whether they are written down or only understood, like taking your shoes off before entering a house in Japan. Then there are other societies that don't function so smoothly but have rules, nonetheless. Places like Egypt and Mexico where people tend not to follow the rules written down, yet there are still unwritten rules that people agree to follow, so the society still functions although more haphazardly.

If there are *no rules* at all, it is like a jungle controlled by brute animals who use power and a loud voice to try and control things. The voices of ISIS and Al-Qaeda are trying to undermine and tear into our different societies, our Social Fabric, with the intention of destroying our societies as we know them today. They could succeed if there are enough disgruntled, angry young men and women who feel this is their best option in life.

There will always be the isolated individual who doesn't fit in or feels left out, and retaliates in a dramatic style like a massive group attack, a suicide attack, a lashing out with weapons or words. But, that should only be a rare occasion, someone who slips through the cracks of society. Usually we scoop up these troubled people and help them with love or counseling or, nowadays sometimes medication. Or we incarcerate them to maintain harmony in our society.

The problem is, ISIS and their rival groups are telling these individuals it is not only

okay, but it is necessary for them to create havoc in society, to break society, so we can have something better.

They are calling for petty criminals on the edge of society, unemployed teenagers sitting at home with nothing to do, and tormented souls not sure how to proceed on a spiritual path; they are calling on everyone to cause havoc and bring down society so ISIS can step in and take over.

This is as old as power to control others has been a part of human relationships. Any dictator's story will usually show the same symptoms as ISIS and Al-Qaeda. In the land of creative fantasy stories currently viewed in movies, TV, and books and sometimes the INTERNET, it's an old standard plot. It's an old movie plot often used by Hollywood where someone wants to recreate society in their own terms or rules. In most of these stories they want to be dictators controlling all the rules. It is fortunate that the hero usually quells the attack and society is preserved.

Recently the INTERNET has created a wonderful communication vehicle that allows anyone with a smartphone, tablet, or computer to contact thousands or even millions of people. On YouTube you can play a song for everyone, show a home video, or even a professional video. It's a powerful tool to express yourself. Unfortunately this tool can be used not only for teaching or helping people and expressing yourself, it can also be a tool for spreading fear, terror, and intimidation.

The biggest danger in today's world is that these groups like ISIS can communicate to everyone so easily using this INTERNET. Before the INTERNET the same kinds of people existed, but they could only contact others through flyers, cult meetings, word of mouth, the written word, ... all slow and cumbersome. Now, one video with one beheading of one individual, and they can show millions on YouTube or other INTERNET venues the philosophy of their kind of nihilistic attack on our society. They can teach millions what they want to offer the world. They want to infest the world with a barbaric disease, create anarchy, and then fill in the vacuum with their own perverted view of an extreme, Islamic, jihadist dictatorship/oligarchy through a Theocratic Caliphate.

It took Hitler years to get to a point where he was powerful enough to spread his ideas using speeches and the written word. ISIS took 1 or 2 years to consolidate and prepare their P.R. style. For a few dollars they can make a video that can reach millions and recruit thousands.

If you travel back through world history, there have been other such groups that made life miserable for the common people - Christianity had the Spanish Inquisition. Mayan, Aztec, Egyptian and other ancient cultures used Religion to oppress and control the people. Most of the world has outgrown these forms of society to blossom into a Social Fabric of Equality, Freedom and Democracy.

Now our Social Fabric is not stagnant, solidified or concrete. It's a living, breathing thing that is constantly ever-changing. Even a hundred years ago there wasn't the same Social Fabric smoothly offering freedom and equality to women and minorities, well maybe not that smoothly. That part of the Fabric isn't

finished developing and improving in those areas.

The advancement of Video/Audio cameras all over the place with smartphones included, can almost instantly put things on the INTERNET and touch our lives in ways that didn't exist before. We are being forced to realize in the USA that in our Social Fabric, not everyone is being treated equally yet. We are seeing Police shooting minorities, people shooting Police, and people still being judged differently because of race, gender, religion, ethnicity or disability. This is a healthy change, but it could be violent at times in the transition to a new awareness.

And then there is Donald Trump. Donald Trump, a Master of TV and Media promotion, has introduced a particularly dangerous rip in America's Social Fabric. Declaring that he is honest and direct, he has pushed a politically incorrect, fashionably insensitive form of speaking that gets him on the news every single night. All that free advertising of the "Trump" brand is great for him, but bad for us.

He is using an insinuating style of talking that opens up suggestions for violence and undermines our Social Fabric by indirect or unsaid ideas. Giving his followers the idea that the election for the US president is "rigged" if he loses and okay if he wins, could encourage many people to believe that American elections are not valid. He also said that people who like the 2nd Amendment(the right to own guns) might know what to do about Hillary Clinton. Most media people and most people believed he meant assassination, but, of course, Trump said he meant - to vote for him and not vote for her. Whether it is unsaid, indirect, or a joke, it's a very dangerous thing to encourage assassination.

He is holding the scissors that could cut US society into pieces by not explicitly, clearly saying things, but only using suggestions or indirect statements that could incite unstable people. He can also claim later that it was a joke or had a different intentional meaning. If anything bad happens, if anyone follows through on his ideas, he can claim innocence.

These are all tugging and pulling at our Social Fabric, but ISIS and Al-Qaeda and all the other jihadists are not interested in minor adjustments. They want to burn the house down, destroy the world, destroy all the structure we enjoy in our cultures and replace it with a barbaric oligarchy style from centuries past. We don't want to go backwards. We want to go forward. And we have to work harder together to stop ISIS from knocking us down the hill into a chaotic abyss that we've already experienced in past history.

This requires a worldwide effort to group together the People of Peace, who are of many Religions not just Moslem or Christian, the Keepers of the INTERNET, the leaders of Democratic Republics, and anyone else who would prefer not to live in the Middle Ages again.

We can always improve our Social Fabric and move forward, but going backwards just doesn't make any sense. Repeating any of the world's bad history is certainly not something I want to do.