

# Do People Care Anymore?

As subjective and vague as this question may sound, I think that the answer today is a resounding *YES!* It might surprise many to hear that answer, but the year 2016 was a monumental year in revealing this truth. 2016 was a year of Tragedy, Trajectory, and Triumph. Before 2016, it would have been very easy to make the claim that people stopped caring about anything, but these three aspects of the past year will convince you that if people were not awake before, they are awake now.

**Tragedy:** Terror swept across Europe, America and the Middle East. Terrorists wanted the world to see their power and in doing so exposed the weakness of the Western world. This weakness could easily be defined as *naïveté*. The Western world wanted to believe that all people of all beliefs could live in harmony with one another so long as the culture was guided by a secular government. This was proven wrong. The most profound example of this took place in an Orlando, Florida gay nightclub where an Islamic terrorist opened fire and killed about 50 people. This is not a statement that Islam is wrong and that homosexuality is right; rather, that the two practices, when carried out to their most logical ends cannot co-exist in a society where both are permitted to do as they please.

**Trajectory:** With the growing sense of insecurity throughout the world, people had to ask a vital question, “Are we heading in the right direction?” Poll after poll indicated that people agreed that their respective governments were not taking them in the right direction. People knew that something had to be done and that it could not entail staying on the path they were already travelling. Drastic action had to be taken.

**Triumph:** The world spoke up against the establishment in their countries. A lot of work is yet to be done in this regard, but the United Kingdom and the United States finally got fed up and left their ruling classes in the dust. The people of the United Kingdom successfully voted to leave the European Union and the people of the United States elected the non-politician, Donald Trump, as their President. This did not indicate that people fully understood why the establishment had been undermining their security, but the move to lash out against the establishment by going against their wishes was an indication that they were finally aware that something was not right in their societies.

Prior to this uprising against the establishment, it seemed like people were only concerned with their own comfort and gain. Today, although people might not entirely understand what is happening in the world they at least seem attentive to the reality that their decisions impact other people whether they like it or not. It was realized that their eyes and ears had been closed too long, in favor of allowing others to do the mental work necessary for taking care of others, and they had effectively allowed the inmates to take over the asylum.

For the time being, it seems like people are beginning to care again. The challenge now is that both sides are awake. The opposing side to those who are waking up are dead set on putting them back to sleep through violence and unrest. Riots are now breaking out against people who want to see positive change in the world. These riots have struck many as a kind of surprise. But as the Japanese learned after they bombed Pearl Harbor, it is unwise to awaken a sleeping giant.