

On Social Order

Society is like the Matrix, where binary code dictates social order...meaning that nothing happens by coincidence. Everything is ordered from the movements of people to media reporting. This organization is what keeps us functioning as a society, yet our citizenry isn't aware of it because we have been disassociated through distractive means. In essence, the Hand can program the binary code if people are preoccupied with Starbucks, reality television, and fear of a terrorist attack.

Emile Durkheim is a classical Sociologist. He lived during the mid to late 1800's when Sociology was not a full academic discipline yet. He lived in France and his parents were part-time bee keepers. Emile, at a young age, watched the bee movements with his naked eye and started categorizing the hive organization. He observed worker bees, drones, and the queen. He noticed that each bee has a distinct job. Furthermore, the bees communicated through a 'dance' as to what they were doing and where the nectar the hive needed was located. Each bee worked for the continuation of the hive. The amazing aspect of this observation is that bees had not been observed and categorized via science yet. Emile likened society to the bee hive; each person holds a distinct niche that furthers its continuation. He was one of the first Sociologists.

Durkheim's analysis became known as the 'division of labor'. Each bee, or person, has a specific job. Each job is functional and furthers the continuation of society. There is no person or job that is not functional. The Hand understands this and makes use of every niche when determining social agenda.

It is difficult for people to accept this because there is such a horrible gap between the classes. Money is what truly separates people, yet the Hand understands it is much

easier to divide people through visible characteristics. This keeps people distracted and thus distant from discovering the truth.

For example, blue-collar workers are distracted because they fear out-sourcing. The Hand can create a simple distraction by out-sourcing the manufacturing base of a locality, thus disabling the local economy. This story will be carried by the media and the qualitative accounts of despair will be greatly discussed as injustice. The Hand must out-source the manufacturing to a foreign country where the people physically look different. People require scapegoats in economic stressful times.

The sum of this equation is xenophobia of an innocent foreign population. The Hand, harnessing this base emotion coupled with fear, can then put forth politicians that promise to cure the social ill. People will vote for this politician, due to fresh economic wounds, while ignoring the bundle of other policies that truly are the agenda of the Hand who funds the politician.

The Hand also may employ the mirror technique. This is a technique that calls for people to blame themselves when the Hand has created the problem. The best example of this is the service sector economy.

Workers in the service sector have less stability than the blue-collar worker because they are employed less than full time and are not provided health care benefits. The blue-collar worker fears out-sourcing and service sector workers fear poor sales.

The Hand has ultimate control regarding how much money is flushed into the economy because the Hand controls the banks and interest rates. The Hand simply may raise or lower interest rates to control how much expendable income people have. However, people must sign a contract to incur the debt (thus putting money in their

pockets), yet when the Hand raises interest rates, monthly payments increase and this has the effect of taking expendable income out of the economy. Less expendable income equates to people consuming less and the need for service sector employees plummets; service sector employers lay workers off to account for decreased sales.

The fulcrum in the mirror technique is for people to sign the contract and incur loan debt. People will inevitably default on loan debt, but only when the Hand decides. The Hand points to the contract that the person signed. The debtors may then recover the property subject to the loan. The person, having lost property, blames themselves for not following the contract terms. The Hand, in the shadows, may then provide a politician who promises hope. This politician will be widely popular. However, the Hand funds the politician. The Hand may then enact an agenda through the politician that is invisible to people....who are intoxicated with the promises of hope.

The mirror technique is one of the most useful techniques of distraction. People who lose property, income, and employment are reduced to survival mode. People in survival mode seek to eat and not criticize social and political policies; all they pay attention to is the politician who promises hope. Lack of a society with a watchful conscious provides the Hand a blank check to implement ulterior agendas, as long as the Hand keeps the attention on the politician who promises hope.

How can we convince the down-trodden and service-sector workers that their jobs are needed as an important function in society when they barely earn a living wage?

The disparity between the rich and poor is growing and has been, drastically, since the 1980's. Our middle-class is disappearing. This is due to numerous legislative initiatives that continue to tax-burden the middle classes and below yet give large breaks

to corporations and the upper-classes. Further, the cost of housing doubled during the 'housing bubble' and the cost of health care is responsible for nearly half of all bankruptcies.

The economic theory behind providing tax breaks to the upper classes is that the wealthy will create more jobs if they have more money. That is what capitalism is based on- reinvestment of profits to create jobs and thus more economy. However, despite the fact that many corporations have created jobs, the jobs are low-paying and not full-time [thus negating health benefits and placing the burden of insurance on the already low-paid worker]. Lastly, numerous corporations are out-sourcing jobs to third-world countries where labor is vastly cheaper...and corporations are leaving the United States to incorporate in off-shore countries [thus evading U.S. taxes- Halliburton did this]. This creates an economy where corporations are being rewarded for under-cutting the U.S. government in taxes and the average worker attempting to earn a living wage.

The job market for recent college graduates is horrible. I have numerous students who are finishing up their degrees and are having a very difficult time finding jobs that fit their education and work experience. Most of them will wind up in jobs they are over-qualified for while they look for suitable employment post-graduation. Job searching is not easy and is a lengthy process...but there has to exist an economy to support and employ the recent graduates in order to serve as a 'carrot and stick' for attending college.

We blame ourselves for not finding suitable employment. That is partially true, but there are also other social factors that exert pressure on the employment market and those entering it [outlined above, out-sourcing the foreign countries]. The U.S. has shifted from being a manufacturing outlet to a service-sector economy. Where does this

leave citizens looking for jobs? The service-sector jobs employ at less than full-time in order to avoid paying health care benefits. The service-sector now accounts for more than half of our jobs [I have read that 80% is the actual number]. Oddly, we are all dependent on that hamburger-flipper and cashier at Target...they make the country function on a micro-level.

Are we going to break? At what point does our citizenry recognize this trend and demand more of our government to either regulate corporate activity [out-sourcing and incorporating off-shore]? The government will not regulate corporations because the basis of our economy is 'the free hand of the market'. This is an adopted model of Social-Darwinism, where the strong and most-adapted earn money and those that do not catch 'the drift' are sloughed off to the margins. The problem is that the way our economy has come to be set up since 2000...those sloughed off to the margins are the majority of workers, thus meaning the middle-classes [and below] that are stuck in the service/manufacturing sectors of the economy.

Why do we tolerate this outlined employment abuse, as a citizenry? The answer is simple- we have credit and toys to play with. When the market tanked in 2000 directly before the 9/11 attacks [and further dumped post 9/11], the government had to pacify workers. The Bush Administration worked with the Federal Reserve to drop annual percentage rates...houses were being financed at the lowest rates in history and anyone could get a car at about 0% interest. This is great for people- home-ownership is the American dream and we love our cars. Furthermore, credit ratings were changed so that anyone could obtain credit. Historically, people with low credit ratings were considered a risk and couldn't get credit...people with credit scores of 500 or below were on their

own. Not anymore- scores didn't matter. However, this concept of pacifying our citizenry was required so that the people wouldn't revolt. As long as our daily lives are not changed, we are not going to call into question the legislative initiatives that further make the rich wealthier and poor poorer.

So, this is what the result is...people are finding that they are making less now than they did years ago. The average income for a family of four in the U.S. in 2000 was 52,000 dollars...in 2004, it was 47,000 dollars [and has declined since]. Considering that inflation is around 3% (yet stagnating recently), the average family of four has lost a tremendous amount of purchasing power. What is available to shore up this difference? Credit that is at the lowest interest rates in history [to pacify us, remember?]. We are now, as a society, wholly in debt more than anytime in history. People easily take the credit and buy the toys that they want without regard as to what will happen when interest rates go back up. Moreover, citizens took out loans that were 'variable' in interest rate, meaning that they enjoyed low rates when the loans were floated yet experienced increases in monthly payments when the interest rates are raised by the Federal Reserve Bank.

The average person in our society is on the brink of tipping over financially with each paycheck they earn. If interest rates raise and their monthly loan payments for, say a mortgage, raised by 200 dollars, this may send the worker into both further debt and not having the available income to continue the mortgage [this is all in light of earning less money thus having less purchasing power-see the argument above]. This is why our country is seeing foreclosures of mortgages at record rates...people simply can no longer afford their house. In fact, they could never afford it, they were given credit irresponsibly

with the lenders knowing the risk of the venture. The worker was responsible because they signed the contract and were driven by emotion instead of practicality. This outline of mortgage foreclosure is a model to be applied to all credit. Now, mortgage companies are being investigated for their past lending actions to those that were considered a credit risk.

Where does the blame lie? Arguably, our economy trusts the actions of free men and women...but does that mean our economy trusts that people have educated themselves as to the risk they are undertaking financially? The information as to investing and mortgage lending is available to anyone who exerts the effort to learn the basics. Or are people simply hungry pigs that are going to eat anything that is thrown into their trough? In such a case, is it the responsibility of the lenders to shield the individual from their ignorance. The answer, according our customary economic policy, is to trust the actions of people. Let the strong and educated survive and the ignorant fall prey.

Where does this leave us? Would Emile Durkheim have anticipated this? Would he view our current state as a function of the larger picture? Do the workers that float credit irresponsibly serve a function? We have to be doing something right as country because we are surviving. I would argue that it all serves a purpose. Our country is about to undergo a massive economic correction. What comes out of the ashes is up to the actions of free men and women, yet we are wholly ignorant as what should happen.

Ironically, the people in our country are highly suspicious of government activity...the same government that sets policies that affect them. Take the 2004 election, for example. The entire mid-west voted for Bush and the cultural/educational

epicenters [New England and California] voted for Kerry. People with a college degree were four times more likely to vote for Kerry than Bush. However, Bush's economic policies favor the rich corporations and harm the average worker...yet the 'Nascar Dad' [average worker], voted for Bush. What the hell are we doing? They voted against their interests...all because of the fear-factor that the Bush Administration brilliantly orchestrated. We are hurting ourselves and voting to widen the gap between the rich and the poor. If that is what we want, then those that voted for Bush have no reason to complain about their niche in life.

We are ignorant as to the news and issues that affect us. Fox News is the most-watched news network, and it is nothing more than the White House press plugging Bush policies. There are 'Fox News Alerts' that keep us on our toes...completely tabloid reporting. The commentators and news casters aren't intelligent themselves, but pundits pushing an agenda. We don't read as a country or research the issues involved. How can people that don't research the issues that affect them [foreign policy, the Iraq War, mortgages and credit] be trusted to vote for the future of our country? They have no right to be skeptical due to their lack of ignorance. Then again, the average worker is too busy trying to make 'ends meet' and with their families...they are not going to come home from a work day and research what may affect them...which is why they have blind obedience and trust the President....that works against their interests. This is the irony of our times. We can't question the President during wartime [in public]. This gives the government a blank check by chilling speech.

But we have Hollywood and toys and credit. The Romans gave their people 'bread and circus' when war and economic times were bad. This is a tenet of governing

people...distract them from the true issues and pacify them with fattening their bellies.

Let us continue our division of labor, as Durkheim put it, with the concept of furthering our society. We may have a rude awakening someday in the future that could be too late.