

COSMOPOLIS MEETING OCTOBER 17TH, 2018

Foundations ++: Deep analysis of positional decisions

Foundations? So you fall in love (a foundational change) and your whole world changes. What has happened? Or using the primary categories of the functional specialty of foundations: can we understand their respective positions based on what can be determined from their foundational stance? What follows is meant to be suggestive only, hinting at how the analysis of a person or groups foundations give clues to how they place themselves in society, what they considered to be dysfunctional, the diagnosis of root causes, and estimates what can or can't be done.

BASE FRAMEWORK

CONVERSION (RADICAL CHANGE IN SELF)			DIFFERENTIATED MIND		PATTERNS OF EXPERIENCE	
<i>Intellectual</i> (honesty)	<i>Moral</i> (courage)	<i>Religious</i> (charity)	<i>Common Sense</i> (relates to you)	<i>Theoretical</i> (relates things to things)	<i>Biological</i> (animal)	<i>Aesthetic</i> (feelings)
			<i>Interiority</i> (coming to know)	<i>Transcendent</i> (beyond human)	<i>Intellectual</i> (rational)	<i>Dramatic</i> (stories)

Foundations are hard to get your mind around, as it refers not to the opinions you have but the very self that has chosen these opinions and positions. The core lies within various types of conversion, which—like St. Francis or St. Augustine—puts a person's life on a completely different plane of existence. Falling in love with God (religious conversion) is, like any "falling in love" event, a complete reorientation of the individual. Having the courage to do the right thing, even in the face of severe personal consequences, depends on a belief in something greater than oneself, a value that transcends personal interests. Intellectual conversion requires a shift away from naive realism to critical realism (Lonergan's approach), at least an awareness that evidence is required before an insight is judged to be true or misleading. Differentiation of mind adds depth to intellectual conversion while common sense patterns of experience give a distinct human quality to both conversion and differentiated minds. After all, we act based on emotional responses not on pure intellect (hence formation).

PRAGER'S FRAMEWORK?

CONVERSION (RADICAL CHANGE IN SELF)			DIFFERENTIATED MIND		PATTERNS OF EXPERIENCE	
<i>Intellectual</i> (honesty)	<i>Moral</i> (courage)	<i>Religious</i> (charity)	<i>Common Sense</i> (relates to you)	<i>Theoretical</i> (relates things to things)	<i>Biological</i> (animal)	<i>Aesthetic</i> (feelings)
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Prager's foundational stance seems to be well-grounded in a affective commitment to the transcendental realm, given expression through his work within Judaism. From this stems a moral courage expressed in the image of the storming of the beach at Normandy and an intellectual honesty whereby he has an instinctive hatred of lies. All this has to be confirmed or modified through the analysis of the data gather in seeking bits of foundational data from the transcript of his video. But knowing this helps to understand how he thinks.

THE "RESISTANCE" FRAMEWORK?

CONVERSION (RADICAL CHANGE IN SELF)			DIFFERENTIATED MIND		PATTERNS OF EXPERIENCE	
<i>Intellectual</i> (honesty)	<i>Moral</i> (courage)	<i>Religious</i> (charity)	<i>Common Sense</i> (relates to you)	<i>Theoretical</i> (relates things to things)	<i>Biological</i> (animal)	<i>Aesthetic</i> (feelings)
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Roughly sketching out the "resistance" to Trump suggests the possibility of the above foundational stance, in which there is no evidence of any intellectual, moral, and religious conversion; no truly differentiated mind (common sense only, naive realism); and a predominance of feelings and drama, augmented by an overemphasis on sex. True or not, the analytical method shows great progress in coming to understanding the orientation of individuals and groups, their respective evaluation of the situation at hand, uncovering the root causes of the perceived problems, and finally whatever strategies that are proposed for remedial action. (No truth, only competing agendas.)

PRO-TRUMP FRAMEWORK?

CONVERSION (RADICAL CHANGE IN SELF)			DIFFERENTIATED MIND		PATTERNS OF EXPERIENCE	
<i>Intellectual</i> (honesty)	<i>Moral</i> (courage)	<i>Religious</i> (charity)	<i>Common Sense</i> (relates to you)	<i>Theoretical</i> (relates things to things)	<i>Biological</i> (animal)	<i>Aesthetic</i> (feelings)
			<i>Interiority</i> (coming to know)	<i>Transcendent</i> (beyond human)	<i>Intellectual</i> (rational)	<i>Dramatic</i> (stories)

A strange possibility? Let's suppose that God is very active in human affairs, doesn't like the Progressive endeavor to radically transform the United States, and throws his support behind a "long shot" Trump as the person He's been training to oversee America at a time when any president will be facing a number of challenges that would challenge any person. Trump as a most unlikely savior? Perhaps, within this foundational position. Again, this is only a suggestion as to how this approach to understanding foundations helps in coming to understanding history. And the necessity of objectifying one's own foundational stance through mutual self-mediation.