

Life & Power

How important is power in our world today? Just think what life would be like if you had the power to do or acquire whatever you wanted. We spend a great deal of our lives thinking about power . *getting it, keeping it, losing it, seeking it and wanting it.* But even though power is so important to so many, very few people really understand what power is, *how it works or know how much power is unknowingly being used against them every day.*

For most of the history of mankind, power was concentrated in the hands of the elite few that ruled tribes, kingdoms, empires or led religions. Power was exercised openly through face-to-face experiences. But, since 1776 in the West, power began shifting toward the masses as a result of the *rise of capitalism, American democracy and laws that enforced human rights.* *Capitalism, democracy and human rights* are forms of power and they changed the *natural state of mankind* which had existed for the last 10,000 years or more. Before the 1700s, the *natural state of mankind* had been *grinding poverty punctuated by horrific violence terminating with an early death.*¹

*Capitalism is unnatural. Democracy is unnatural. Human rights are unnatural.*² But for all intents and purposes, *human nature holds constant as the world changes around us.* This is a truth easily comprehended from literature. When we read about characters in the distant past or distant future, what makes them recognizable to us is that they are still us -- *human beings with all the normal joys, desires and fears we all experience.*

From the perspective of our genes, we weren't meant to live the way we do today, with wealth, rights, freedom and all their fruits . combined with social instincts and realities with tribal roots linked to the *natural state of mankind our ancestors came from.* And, as has been observed by economists and philosophers, *all humans are still programmed to understand the world in personal and tribal terms.*³ Tribal roots include the way power is exercised and sometimes who it is exercised against.

Big changes in history are blips on timelines. They often happen quickly and result from unintended consequences or unexpected outcomes. In 1953 when James Watson and Francis Crick introduced the first model of the DNA molecule they couldn't have in their

wildest dreamed imagined the discoveries made in the field of genetics that are common knowledge just half a century later. When smartphones were introduced in 2007, no one dreamed how they would change almost everything people do . *and give the masses access to so much power.* And the masses never imagined having a device that allowed unknown sources access directly to their brains so they could embed custom-made weaponized memes that hack human minds.

Another unexpected consequence of these powerful new technologies is their role in spreading identity politics. The outcome reflects what happened in Christianity when Luther created Protestantism. As it gained momentum, it inevitably subdivides, gives rise to ever-proliferating group identities that demand recognition. As conflicts between groups intensify, members feel threatened and retreat to tribal realities (*%Us-vs-Them+*) and increasingly hostile or violent responses. For a democracy based on a *%We the people” identity*, nothing is more dangerous to its survival than an epidemic outbreak of *%mutual exclusivity+* fueled by individuals elevating *%special interests identities+* above the *%inclusive American identity+* our constitution is based on.

*So what can we do to heal this epidemic? **We must find an inclusive identity that we can all share.*** We propose *one undeniable factual identity that applies to all humans* and it comes from science . ***We are all genetic memetic social creatures+*** . and that is a fact. Discovering *%what we all are+* is essential for understanding how we became *%who we are.*+ Creating a shared identity puts us on a common path and new opportunities to create inclusive mutually beneficial relationships. It also helps us create mental barriers that act like firewalls that protect our brains from hackers and algorithms using weaponized memes.

Inclusive social change requires lots of power! We created the TOV Center to empower individuals to co-create change that protect lives, preserve lives, make lives more functional and increase the quality of life. We do this by informing, teaching and networking people together to co-create a more inclusive, safer, healthier, prosperous and happier society.

¹ Suicide of the West; p. 10.

² Suicide of the West; p. 10.

³ Suicide of the West; p. 10.