

Republican Perspective

19 June 2019

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Preserving Freedom in an Age of Monolithic Organizations

Greenpeace is a prime example of our major institutions being "hijacked" to serve purposes diametrically opposite to those for which they were founded. One of its co-founders has often said that the present management is totally misrepresenting the situation of wild life in a very dishonest way. The supposed friends of wild life have no complaint about the very large number of birds and bats that are killed by wind power and even solar boiler power plants. In another horrifying example, how can any group claiming to be "for women" not be constantly howling about FGM? That is too disgusting to spell out let alone describe, so anyone who needs to can look it up. It is certainly not a "right wing" fantasy as it appeared in a couple of episodes of the British TV series Call the Midwife, and it has been involved in legal actions in the Detroit area.

<https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2019/05/23/greenpeace-co-founder-patrick-moore-species-extinction-is-fake-news/>

Since the Stalinists are so very good and so dedicated to taking over what the old Soviets used to call, with unwitting imagery, the "organs of the State" or in our case a large range of organizations of a supposedly civil and not governmental nature, the defense seems to be to NOT have major or dominant or monopoly organizations. Diffusion of authority, multiple centers of activity, smaller and more manageable associations should make it much harder to take over. Our several states have greatly impeded the USA from becoming an almost impenetrable, centralized monolith as has happened in other countries where authority is overwhelmingly kept in the capitals. Feedback control is the essence of so many aspects of our world: The US Constitution has prevented any one "branch" of government let alone any one individual from assuming unchallengeable power. Large corporations, or a group of any type regardless of the legal definition or structure, must not control many let alone most of the information storage or distribution. There is very, very little "reporting" going on these days, with many sources sounding as if they had received the talking points and even the precise wording to be used that day via morning fax. If it is true that 80% of Internet searches occur in Google, then we are in clear and present danger of the situation Orwell's 1984: undesired facts can be simply stuffed into the "memory hole" or the encyclopedia can be recalled and "improved" as in the old USSR.

Back when Martin Gardener still ran Scientific American and it lived up to its name, there was an article about the very different approaches and experiences of the French and British to the Industrial Revolution. The former were very wealthy and very enamored of clocks, which they made very well. These were somewhat like pre-programmed devices that followed a predetermined plan and inevitably went off time. The British wanted to solve practical problems and made the spinning ball speed limiters on their steam engines that ran textile mills. If the machine ran too fast, the valves opened a little and let out the pressure until the speed came down. Simple. Cheap. Effective. The British became the world's richest and most powerful country, the French slipped back from the heights of their power. This is a perfect analogy to the problems with centralized planning and control. Many ludicrous or terrible examples can be found in the Socialist countries such as the USSR, Cuba, and now Venezuela. See : Midnight in Chernobyl.

My second child once asked if I believed in Diversity at all. I abhor Diversity with a capital D as a power grab and acid to dissolve social cohesion. Diversity with a lower case d is essential to the Universe in many aspects. Those who idolize Evolution are stubbornly opposed to its essence, namely that in the natural order all things will be tried and the most successful will survive. The Communist bosses hated Quantum Mechanics because they believed in determinism. Thus on the frontispiece of a Russian textbook written by Davydov it was necessary to pay lip service to Marxist-Leninism in order for the book to get published. So-called scientific Marxism is as scientific as the mid-19th Century world view of billiard ball mechanics.

Notable quotations from the many available from Lord Acton:

<https://www.quotetab.com/quotes/by-lord-acton>

- Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely.
- Great men are almost always bad men.
- Every thing secret degenerates, even the administration of justice;
- Nothing is safe that does not show how it can bear discussion and publicity.
- There is no error so monstrous that it fails to find defenders among the ablest men.