

# Mean Arrangements of Man

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A major theme of the *“Notes From the Social Clinic”*<sup>1-5</sup> ([www.notesfromthesocialclinic.org](http://www.notesfromthesocialclinic.org)) is the need to replace “Mean Arrangements of Man”<sup>6</sup> with kind arrangements.<sup>7-10</sup> By “mean arrangements” we are referring to unkind social, economic, and political arrangements that benefit the wealthy but harm Humanity and the Earth itself. Examples will follow (not necessarily in order of the magnitude of their meanness).

The *“Notes From the Social Clinic”* explain that current prevailing social, economic and political arrangements are based on deeply flawed social understandings,<sup>11-14</sup> particularly regarding Human Nature, that have led to harmful social results.<sup>15-19</sup> The *“Notes”* present alternative social understandings and alternative social and economic arrangements for consideration and discussion<sup>8, 9, 20</sup> It is proposed that “Mean Arrangements of Man” be replaced with new, kind arrangements that could lead to widespread Social Beauty<sup>7, 8</sup> that all could enjoy.

## What is meant by “Mean Arrangements of Man?” What are examples of such arrangements?

The phrase “Mean Arrangements of Man” appears in Victor Hugo’s 1862 novel, *“Les Misérables.”* Specifically, it appears in a poetic passage about “Nature’s Garden,”<sup>6</sup> which is an ode to the social beauty and genius of Nature, which Hugo suggests we should try to emulate. Hugo probably coined this phrase. I have not seen it written or heard it uttered by anyone else.

Here is an excerpt from that poetic passage:

*“Nature, who disavows the Mean Arrangements of Man, always gives her whole self where she gives herself at all, as well in the ant as in the eagle.*

*Nothing is really small; whoever is open to the deep penetration of nature knows this. All works for all.*

*A flesh-worm is of account; the small is great, the great is small; all is in equilibrium in necessity; fearful vision for the mind. There are marvelous relations between beings and things; in this inexhaustible whole, from sun to grub, there is no scorn; all need each other.”*

Several examples of “Mean Arrangements” may be found within the American health care system alone. It is a “Mean Arrangement” that health insurance companies and pharmaceutical companies are enabled and allowed to make huge profits off of people’s health needs. It is “mean” (a better word would be “cruel”) that if you develop a life-threatening illness and you either do not have health insurance or your health insurance does not adequately “cover” the

life-saving treatment you need, you either incur enormous debt or may not be able to continue living. It is “mean” that wealthy people can obtain better, more comprehensive, and more prompt health care than less wealthy people who cannot afford adequate health insurance or may have an annual income that slightly exceeds eligibility requirements for Medicaid and other government insurance programs. It is “mean” that even government health insurance programs (e.g., the Affordable Care Act) do not adequately cover many important health needs.

Health care is a human right and should be comprehensive and promptly accessible to all. It is “mean” for health care arrangements to be such that people must worry about being able to afford health care or that certain aspects of their care will not be “covered” by their health insurance. People should not have to delay or forego health care out of concern that it will cost too much.

It is also a “mean arrangement” that corporate health care institutions have been empowered and allowed to impose excessive workloads and excessive revenue generation expectations on physicians and to punish physicians if they fail to meet revenue generation expectations (with physicians often being told that they are “spending too much time” with their patients). Physicians and their patients deserve an arrangement that allows ample time for the physician to carefully study, treat, and emotionally support patients. Arrangements that do not allow such care are “mean.” When I began my medical career more than 50 years ago, I was referred to as a “physician” who was taking care of “patients.” Then, as health care became increasingly corporatized, I became a “provider” who was serving “clients;” then a “revenue generator” who served the corporate institution.

Current prevailing arrangements enjoyed by the Pharmaceutical sector of the health care industry are particularly “mean.” Pharmaceutical companies have been enabled and allowed to make enormous profits. As we have seen during the COVID pandemic (please see articles in the “**Notes on COVID-19**” section of the **Notes From the Social Clinic** website), the pharmaceutical companies (Pfizer and Moderna, e.g.) have been allowed to manipulate data, hide data, make false claims, mislead the public regarding safety, efficacy, and necessity of their COVID vaccines, and (with the help of the government) shame and coerce people (without an adequate informed consent process) into accepting a dangerous injection that is causing enormous harm at both an individual and population level---far greater harm than if the COVID pandemic had never been treated with a mass vaccination campaign. (Again, see “**Notes on COVID-19**” for explanation and justification for the above statements.) Current prevailing arrangements between the government, FDA, CDC, WHO, hospitals, medical schools, and the pharmaceutical industry have involved gross conflict of interest, corruption, censorship, and abandonment of the most fundamental and important principles of science, medicine, ethics, and democracy. (Again, please see the numerous articles posted in the “**Notes on COVID-19**” section of the

*Notes From the Social Clinic* website.) These “mean” social and economic arrangements have financially benefitted health care entrepreneurs but have had devastating effects on patients.

How can the above arrangements not be viewed as “mean,” heartless, even cruel?

An example of a kind social and economic arrangement, in health care, would be an arrangement that provides a network of public children’s hospitals that are appropriately staffed by excellent, altruistic physicians, nurses, technicians, and other hospital workers who are appropriately salaried, have appropriate workloads, and provide excellent, free, comprehensive, un-rushed, state-of-the-art care to all who need medical help.<sup>8,9</sup> Public children’s hospitals routinely and spectacularly provided this kind of care before they became corporatized---i.e., during the “altruistic era” that preceded the “corporate era.” Pediatricians have already proven that the social and economic arrangements promoted by the Children’s Hospital Public Economy Model (the model practiced prior to corporatization) can be marvelously successful. They have also experienced how “mean” and heartless social and economic arrangements (corporate arrangements) can damage efforts to optimally care for children.

Which type of social and economic arrangement would you prefer in the health care sector? The “mean,” profiteering type, exemplified by health insurance companies and pharmaceutical corporations; or the “kind” arrangements exemplified by public Children’s hospitals during the “altruistic era” (prior to their corporatization)?

Regarding the economy as a whole, another “mean arrangement of man” is the economic arrangement whereby governments enable and allow corporate capitalists, people like Jeff Bezos and companies like BlackRock, to make obscene amounts of money and wield obscene amounts of power and control, while millions of valuably talented and hard-working people (teachers, nurses, and other working class people) struggle to support their families. Obscene income inequality is a predictable result of the “mean arrangements” associated with corporate capitalism.

That same economic model (corporate capitalism) promotes and rewards “mean” cut-throat competition, incessant manipulative advertising (with little regard for truth), and charging whatever prices the market will bear, including predatory interest rates and “late fees.” That economic model is based upon and promotes a negative, pessimistic, demeaning, dispiriting, inaccurate, incomplete, abusive understanding of human nature.<sup>11-13</sup> In fact, that model depends on acceptance of its negative view of human nature, and it gives practice to and rewards the worst capacities of our human nature while discouraging and disempowering our best capacities. Also, the understanding of “competition” that this model promotes is inaccurate and unhealthy.”<sup>14</sup>

Furthermore, currently prevailing social and economic arrangements are not democratic. Giant corporations certainly are not democratic. Owners and top executives make the decisions, without democratic input. On a global scale, it is billionaires and their associates who are currently making plans for Humanity, with little or no regard for the wishes, needs, or lives of ordinary people.<sup>18, 19</sup> In fact, the needs of horribly impoverished people, not to mention the root causes of their impoverishment, are cruelly ignored.

“Mean Arrangements of Man” include cooperative arrangements between corrupt/corrupted governments and large corporations---arrangements that promote and protect the financial interests of those corporations and financially benefit the corrupt “leaders” of the corrupted governments. Particularly cruel social and economic arrangements are those whereby governments (e.g., the US government) use covert operations to place corrupt US-friendly, corporation-friendly “leaders” in power in countries that have natural resources coveted by the US and its corporations. These hand-selected, groomed, financially rewarded corrupt “leaders” then protect the interests of the exploiting corporations and the US government---at the expense of their own people. Examples would be the exploitation of people and natural resources in the Congo, Rwanda, and many other countries of Africa. These imperialistic, colonial, racist arrangements are more than “mean.” They exemplify the heartless corporate capitalist strategy of continually seeking new opportunities to exploit “cheap labor.”

A kind social and economic model would be devoted to developing a general economy that kindly and justly meets democratically determined and requested needs, rather than being devoted to maximizing profits and autocratically manipulating and exploiting people.<sup>20</sup> A kind social and economic arrangement does not practice imperialism, colonialism, racism, and exploitation of “cheap labor.” A kind arrangement does not engage in usury and does not manipulate people into debt. A kind economic arrangement does not need to advertise, much less falsely, manipulatively, and incessantly advertise.

Racism represents one of the most obvious and heinous “Mean Arrangements of Man”---among the worst examples of racist arrangements being arrangements that have created and allowed slavery, segregation, lynching, apartheid, and genocide. In addition to these obvious examples of racist arrangements there is a more subtle, systemic, and widespread form of racism---one directed at the entire human race:<sup>15</sup> I refer to the arrangement by which the earlier-mentioned negative and incorrect understanding of human nature is repeatedly taught as gospel in schools and in general society. The prevailing social and economic narrative claims (and depends on uncritical acceptance of that claim) that human beings, by nature, are predominantly selfish and, therefore, any economic model (like the children’s hospital public economy model) that emphasizes the human capacity for altruism and promotes moral incentive<sup>21</sup> (rather than monetary incentive) is folly and doomed to failure. According to this erroneous, negative, and incomplete understanding of human nature, monetary incentive and a perverted form of competition are essential for a successful economic model, and corporate capitalism “is the only

realistic model” because “it takes human selfishness and the associated need for monetary incentive and a fierce form of competition into account.”<sup>22, 23</sup> These social understandings are demeaning, untrue, abusive, and have been shielded from scrutiny.

A society that arranges to systematically teach the above negative understanding of human nature and insists on the correctness of that understanding is a society that “gaslights” and abuses its citizens---for it is repeatedly telling them that human beings are inherently too selfish, not good enough, to make any economic model other than capitalism work.<sup>15</sup> This is tantamount to an insult directed against the entire human race---gaslighting of the entire human race. Is it not a form of systemic anti-human racism, directed against all human beings? Is it not “mean” and demeaning to continue arrangements whereby this perverted understanding of Human Nature is preached, imposed on Humanity, and protected from meaningful challenge?

Among the most tragic and reprehensible of the “Mean Arrangements of Man” have been governmental arrangements for unnecessary and morally unjustifiable wars, including arrangements for crippling economic blockades and regime change operations, in addition to economically motivated military campaigns. Since WWII, US military arrangements have killed approximately 20 million people in 37 different countries, and none of these military campaigns can be morally justified?<sup>24</sup> In 1967 Martin Luther King correctly pointed out, “the United States is the greatest purveyor of violence in the world.” (Shortly thereafter, he was assassinated.) Indeed, the USA has recently supplied Ukraine with approximately \$200 billion of military aid to continue a war that was provoked by and could have been prevented by the USA,<sup>25, 26</sup> and the USA continues to provide Israel with billions of dollars of military aid during its (Israel’s) genocidal attacks on Palestinians.

When speaking of “Mean Arrangements of Man” we must mention the arrangements (the plans) that leaders of the World Economic Forum (WEF) have reportedly been envisioning for Humanity.<sup>18, 19</sup> The WEF group primarily consists of multimillionaire global corporate transnational capitalists and the subservient government leaders they have hand-selected, groomed, and financially rewarded to support and obey them. The leaders of the WEF and their followers meet annually in Davos, Switzerland. Disturbingly, the WEF group has reportedly been making plans for a “One World Government.” If these reports are true, this One World Government would be an undemocratic, authoritarian, totalitarian, extremely technocratic (e.g., AI driven), hideously surveillant, callous institution that would possess enormous wealth and power and would wield enormous control over individual people and individual nations. Among WEF’s top priorities has been to globally and extremely reduce CO2 emissions and address their dark, extreme concerns about global “over-population.” Indeed, one of the WEF’s key intellectual advisors, Yuval Harari, coldly classifies a considerable percentage of the human population as a “useless class” of people.<sup>27</sup> Basic individual human rights and national sovereignty would be greatly threatened by the One World Government that is reportedly being envisioned by the WEF group. Although the WEF group presents itself as a “force for good” in the world, it appears to be anything but that. They appear to be masters of creating totalitarian

“mean arrangements of man” and selling their vision and these arrangements as benevolent plans that will save Humanity and the Earth.

Finally, among the most recent and growing “mean arrangements of man” have been the disturbing arrangements made by governments, the private sector tech industry, and conventional media to censor or otherwise hide or demonize information that challenges currently prevailing government and corporate narratives. This has been most obvious during the COVID pandemic, where we have seen highly responsible, scientifically-sound dissenting views on COVID demonized, incorrectly labelled as “misinformation/disinformation,” and censored. Many physicians and scientists who have responsibly called attention to devastatingly poor management of the COVID pandemic (including devastating consequences of the COVID vaccines, at both an individual and population level) have been belittled, marginalized, and even lost their jobs and/or their licenses to practice medicine. There is no place for censorship in science, medicine, or democracy but censorship has been widespread during the COVID pandemic. (Please see articles in the “*Notes on COVID-19*” section of the *Notes From the Social Clinic* website)

It is not just dissenting scientists and physicians who are now being censored and threatened. Journalists, historians, and academicians who responsibly and appropriately provide critical analyses of current prevailing governmental and corporate narratives and behaviors are being increasingly censored, demonized, or otherwise threatened. Critical analyses of the Ukraine war and of the Israeli-Hamas war are being censored, for example. There is no place for censorship in a democracy. Censorship is a tactic of authoritarian, totalitarian, and fascist regimes.

The above represent only a few examples of “Mean Arrangements of Man.”

Which type of social, economic, and political arrangements would you prefer?

- Arrangements that cruelly ignore the human right for free, comprehensive, and accessible health care;
- Arrangements that deny freedom of speech and dissent and violate the most fundamental and important principles of science, medicine, ethics, and democracy;
- Arrangements that lead to obscene income inequality and undeserved, undemocratic accumulation of wealth, power, influence, and control;
- Arrangements that promote and reward mean, cut-throat competition and incessant manipulative advertising, and allow predatory prices and interest rates;
- Arrangements that allow, even breed and empower, racism, including an erroneous, systemic, abusive “gaslighting” attack on the Human Nature of the entire human race;
- Arrangements that breed and empower imperialism, colonialism, cruel exploitation of “cheap labor,” government-corporate corruption, reigns of terror, and forever wars, including genocide and potential nuclear war?
- Arrangements that empower a transnational corporate capitalist billionaire class to undemocratically make hideously technocratic, totalitarian plans for Humanity?

- Arrangements that polarize and divide people, lead to hateful intolerance of those with different opinions, and shut down healthy dialogue?

Or, have we had enough of these “Mean Arrangements of Man?” Do we need new, kind social and economic arrangements, ones that will replace the “Mean Arrangements of Man” and will create greater Social Beauty---social and economic arrangements that:

- Fully honor the human right for free, comprehensive, accessible health care;
- Restore freedom of speech, freedom to dissent;
- Restore adherence to fundamental principles of science, medicine, ethics, and democracy.
- Enable equitable distribution of wealth, power, and influence;
- Promote a positive, accurate, uplifting understanding of Human Nature and a healthy, accurate understanding of the nature and role of competition;
- Promote a leadership model that populates positions of leadership with “altruistic natural leaders.”<sup>28-31</sup>
- Eliminate predatory business practices and incessant irritating advertising; and replace “price-based costing” with “cost-based pricing;”<sup>32</sup>
- Discourage and dis-empower racism of all types, including the abusive “gaslighting” of the entire human race;
- Work towards the eradication of imperialism, colonialism, exploitation of “cheap labor,” government-corporate corruption, tyranny, terrorism, and wars.
- Work towards peace among nations and respect for national sovereignty and generous sharing of knowledge and experience.
- Create and protect a “Most Precious Freedom”<sup>33</sup>

How did we arrive at this point in history---where so many “Mean Arrangements of Man” are prevailing, causing so much suffering, and seem to be escalating? Who created these Mean Arrangements and why have these arrangements prevailed and persisted? What is the root cause of current Mean Arrangements coming into being?

The many articles on the “**Notes From the Social Clinic**” website suggest that a major root cause of these Mean Arrangements of Man is the misunderstanding of Human Nature that guides corporate capitalism and has been promoted by proponents of capitalism to justify the corporate capitalist economic model.<sup>11-13</sup> A closely related root cause is the leadership model promoted by the corporate capitalist economic model---a leadership model that sidelines and silences “altruistic natural leaders;” promotes, instead, “leaders” who are inclined and willing to enthusiastically up-regulate expression of the non-altruistic capacities of our Human Nature; and thereby populates positions of leadership and power throughout governments and corporate institutions with such “leaders.”<sup>28-30</sup> It is no wonder that these “leaders” then make poor decisions and create the “Mean Arrangements” that have caused so much suffering.

Why have we put up with the “Mean Arrangements of Man” for so long, at so much cost of human life, human spirit, and human dignity? Why have we allowed the social and economic model that spawns these Mean Arrangements to continue them? Why do we expect to solve our many serious national and international problems while maintaining the Mean Arrangements (and the model that produces them) that have contributed greatly to these problems in the first place? Why do we expect Mean Arrangements and a Mean Model to create Social Beauty? A kind model and kind arrangements create Social Beauty; Mean models and Mean Arrangements do the opposite. When will we figure this out?<sup>34-38</sup>

Just as Nature “disavows the Mean Arrangements of Man,” so, too, should Humanity “disavow the Mean Arrangements of Man.”<sup>6</sup>

## RELATED ARTICLES:

The following related articles, except for 24 and 27, are posted (or will soon be posted) on the **Notes From the Social Clinic** website: [www.notesfromthesocialclinic.org](http://www.notesfromthesocialclinic.org) These articles are listed, by title, in the Table of Contents (TOC) of the website.

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20. Application of the CHPEM to the General Economy
21. Moral Incentive vs Monetary Incentive
22. Which Economic Model is More Realistic?
23. Which Economic Model Best Promotes Innovation and Creativity?
24. The US has Killed More Than 20 Million people in 37 Victim Nations Since WWII  
<https://www.globalresearch.ca/us-has-killed-more-than-20-million-people-in-37-victim-nations-since-world-war-ii/5492051>
25. [An Analysis of the Situation in Ukraine](#)
26. [To Weeping Mothers Whose Children Have Been Killed In Wars - Notes From the Social Clinic](#)
27. Yuval Harari: <https://www.weforum.org/stories/2020/01/yuval-hararis-warning-davos-speech-future-predications/>
28. Altruistic Natural Leaders
29. Key Problem: Under Corporate Capitalism, Leadership Positions Are Populated With People Who Are Inclined to Express Non-Altruistic Capacities of Our Human Nature
30. Capitalist Leaders-By-Default
31. Does Power Always Corrupt?
32. Cost-Based-Pricing vs Price-Based-Costing
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