

# **Key Problem: Under Corporate Capitalism, Leadership Positions are Populated with People Who Are Inclined to Express Non-Altruistic Capacities of Our Human Nature**

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A major problem in the world today is that the vast majority of leadership positions in corporations, governments, and other powerful institutions, throughout the world, particularly in the currently most powerful countries, are populated by leaders who appear to have above-average capacity for non-altruistic behaviors and/or have above-average inclination, willingness, and ability to upregulate expression of their capacity for non-altruistic behaviors; rather than being populated by leaders who have above-average capacity for altruistic behaviors and/or above-average inclination, willingness, and ability to up-regulate expression of their altruistic capacities.<sup>1-4</sup> To explain what is meant by the above statement, allow me to review the Corporate Capitalist Economic Model's (CCEM's) understanding of Human Nature and the CCEM's approach to leadership and compare that understanding and leadership approach to the Children's Hospital Public Economy Model's (CHPEM's)<sup>5, 6</sup> understanding of Human Nature and leadership.

The CHPEM is fundamentally based on an understanding of Human Nature that is very different from the understanding of Human Nature promoted by corporate capitalism. Corporate capitalism is fundamentally based on a negative, pessimistic, incomplete, and inaccurate understanding of Human Nature---an insistence that human beings, by nature, are predominantly selfish, rather hopelessly so, and that any economic model that is not based on that "reality" is doomed to failure. The corporate capitalist economic model has little faith in Human Goodness and warns against placing faith in the human capacity for altruism. In contrast, the CHPEM is based on a positive, optimistic, more complex and complete understanding of Human Nature that emphasizes the spectrum of human behavioral capacities that we all have and the fact that the social milieu can up-regulate or down-regulate the expression of those capacities.

As explained below and in companion articles, the CHPEM intentionally populates positions of leadership with "altruistic natural leaders" who arise from those individuals who have demonstrated exemplary capacity, inclination, willingness, and ability to express altruistic behaviors; while corporate capitalism populates its leadership positions with people who have demonstrated remarkable capacity, inclination, willingness, and ability to express non-altruistic behaviors.<sup>1-4</sup> (For a detailed discussion of Human Nature and approaches to leadership, please

see the companion articles at the end of this article, as well as the **Qualifying NOTE** at the end of this article.)

“Altruistic natural leaders” are people who have a natural, innate gift of being able to lead in a kind, wise, fair, competent, altruistic, inspiring, and incorruptible way. Altruistic natural leaders are not motivated by a desire for wealth, power, fame, or control over others. They are motivated by moral incentive, not monetary incentive.<sup>7</sup> When one considers the spectrum of behavioral capacities that make up our Human Nature, altruistic natural leaders exemplify expression of behaviors at the altruistic end of the spectrum, regarding both their innate capacities for kind, altruistic behaviors and their ability, inclination, and willingness to generously upregulate the expression of those kind capacities and greatly downregulate expression of their selfish capacities. Once in positions of power, altruistic natural leaders are the least likely among us to be or become corrupt.<sup>8</sup> Such leaders are known (by people in their community) for these innate and practiced traits, and because of these traits they are asked to assume positions of leadership. Such leaders do not seek positions of leadership and power, they accept requests to serve in such positions.

An additional trait that “altruistic natural leaders” possess is an ability to recognize others who do or do not have the characteristics, inclinations, and motives of altruistic natural leaders. This ability enables altruistic natural leaders who are in positions of power to make good decisions regarding who they recommend (people who exemplify expression of the altruistic end of the behavioral spectrum) or do not recommend (people who exemplify expression of the non-altruistic end of the spectrum) for other positions of leadership.

This understanding of Human Nature<sup>1-3</sup> and this principle of filling positions of leadership with “altruistic natural leaders”<sup>4</sup> minimizes the likelihood that positions of leadership and power, under a CHPEM, will become populated with self-serving people who are primarily interested in power, wealth, control over others, personal gain, and/or fame and are easily corrupted and prone to misuse power.<sup>8</sup>

Another fundamental principle of the CHPEM is to encourage critical thinking, expression of different points of view, respectful dissent, free and open dialogue, and democratic problem solving.<sup>9</sup> The altruistic natural leaders of the CHPEM are committed to emphasizing the above principles and preventing “group think.” They are committed to preserving democracy and avoiding abuse of power. Commitment to these principles minimizes the likelihood of autocratic/totalitarian behaviors emerging and prevailing.

In short, because of the above principles and because of the above described traits of the altruistic natural leaders of the CHPEM, positions of leadership under the CHPEM are populated

by altruistic natural leaders, who are not likely to abuse power and are not likely to be or become corrupt or authoritarian.

In contrast, leadership positions under corporate capitalism tend not to be populated by people with the above-described characteristics of altruistic natural leaders. (See **Qualifying NOTE** at the end of this article.) Instead, capitalist corporations tend to assign leadership positions to individuals who are most likely to help the corporation to maximize profits and “beat” the competition---i.e., people who are highly ambitious, have demonstrated clever business savvy, and are exceptionally inclined and willing to maximize corporate profits and “increase market share.” When one considers the spectrum of behavioral capacities that make up our Human Nature, these corporate leaders tend to up-regulate the expression of behavioral capacities that fall along the non-altruistic end of the spectrum. They exhibit an ability, inclination, and willingness to upregulate the expression of those non-altruistic capacities, and/or an ability, inclination, and willingness to down-regulate expression of their altruistic capacities. Such individuals (like the capitalist corporations they lead) tend to be driven by a desire for wealth, power, control over others, personal gain and/or fame; and they tend not to be motivated primarily by an altruistic desire to serve the community. Compared to altruistic natural leaders, corporate leaders are more corruptible and more autocratic. Furthermore, the corporate culture and its reward system tend to transform its leaders to become increasingly less altruistic and more corruptible.<sup>10</sup> In contrast, the culture of the CHPEM tends to transform its leaders and participants in a more altruistic, less selfish direction.

Unfortunately, the world is currently powerfully dominated by practitioners of the Corporate Capitalist Economic Model (CCEM), and their concepts of Human Nature and leadership result in population of leadership positions with people who are inclined, willing, and able to highly express capacities at the non-altruistic end of the human behavioral spectrum. Accordingly, leaders of corporations (particularly giant transnational corporations), leaders in government (including the NIH, FDA, CDC, WHO, Intelligence Agencies and State Departments), and leaders of other major institutions (including some institutions of higher learning that have succumbed to “corporate capture”), have increasingly become populated by leaders who exhibit non-altruistic behaviors and decreasingly populated by the most altruistic, wise, self-less, fair, and least corrupt/corruptible among us.

It is no wonder, then, that poor decisions have been made and are continuing to be made in a world that is powerfully controlled by practitioners of the corporate capitalist economic model. For example, the COVID pandemic would have been managed in an entirely different manner by the kind of “altruistic natural leaders” that the CHPEM seeks and empowers. Those altruistic natural leaders would not have violated the fundamental principles of science, medicine, ethics, and democracy that the corporate-captured “leaders” egregiously violated.<sup>11-13</sup> Similarly, the

Ukraine war would not have occurred if the US government had been led by the kind of “altruistic natural leaders” that are sought and empowered by the CHPEM.<sup>14, 15</sup> In a world that embraces the CHPEM the horrible atrocities committed in Israel probably would not have occurred, and we would not now be on the verge of WWII and nuclear holocaust.

If we want to understand why/how the world has become such a dangerous mess, we need to understand the views of human nature and leadership embraced and espoused by the CCEM and the CHPEM, respectively. They are very different. This difference is responsible for much of the mess we see in the world today.<sup>16</sup>

**Qualifying NOTE:** Although leadership positions under corporate capitalism tend not to be populated by people who exhibit the characteristics of altruistic natural leaders, that does not mean that none of the leaders of corporate capitalism is capable of exhibiting the characteristics of altruistic natural leaders.<sup>17</sup> I say this because some leaders of corporate capitalist enterprises, including some CEOs, are upregulating the expression of their capacities for non-altruistic behaviors simply because participation in a capitalist enterprise is their best option (often their only option) to provide well for their families. In other words, they are upregulating these behaviors by default. They may, in fact, have great capacity for altruistic behaviors and altruistic natural leadership, and would be perfectly capable of up-regulating those capacities, if they had the option to play a leadership role in an altruistic enterprise, such as a children’s hospital (during the altruistic era). But in the absence of such an opportunity to exercise and demonstrate their altruistic natural leadership potential, they do what they need to do to be successful providers for their families. That is, by default, they make themselves attractive for leadership positions within corporate institutions. For the above reasons, I am confident that many leaders within corporate institutions could be excellent altruistic natural leaders within the CHPEM, if that opportunity were provided and they were to seize it.

#### **RELATED ARTICLES:**

The footnotes refer to the following companion articles, which 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.

1. On Human Nature
2. Upregulation and Downregulation of the Expression of Human Behavioral Capacities.

3. Human Nature---A Graphic Depiction---Sowing the Seeds for Public Economy and Social Beauty
4. Altruistic Natural Leaders
5. The Children’s Hospital Public Economy Model (CHPEM)
6. The Social Beauty of Children’s Hospitals
7. Moral Incentive vs Monetary Incentive
8. Does Power Always Corrupt?
9. The Foundational Pillars of the CHPEM
10. Capitalism Transforms Human Behavior
11. Eight Fundamental Principles of Science and Medicine:  
<https://notesfromthesocialclinic.org/eight-fundamental-principles-of-science-and-medicine/>
12. How would Three of Canada’s Greatest Historical Figures Respond to the COVID Situation If they Were Alive today? <https://notesfromthesocialclinic.org/how-would-three-of-canadas-greatest-historical-figures-respond-to-the-covid-situation-if-they-were-alive-today/>
13. Please see additional COVID-related articles in the “**Notes on COVID-19**” section of the **Notes From the Social Clinic** website: [www.notesfromthesocialclinic.org](http://www.notesfromthesocialclinic.org).
14. An Analysis of the Situation in Ukraine: <https://notesfromthesocialclinic.org/an-analysis-of-the-situation-in-ukraine/>
15. To Weeping Mothers Whose Children Have Been Killed in Wars:  
<https://notesfromthesocialclinic.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/UKRAINE-Weeping-Mothers-FINAL.pdf>
16. Mean Arrangements of Man
17. Capitalist Leaders-By-Default