

Capitalist Leaders-By-Default

More on Human Nature and Capitalist Leadership

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Human Nature is composed of a spectrum of behavioral capacities, ranging from great innate capacity for altruism at one end of the spectrum to great innate capacity for non-altruistic behaviors at the other end, with a range of capacities in-between.¹⁻⁴ All of us have at least some innate capacity for altruistic behaviors and at least some innate capacity for non-altruistic behaviors. Some people may have above-average innate capacity for altruistic behaviors, while others may have above-average innate capacity for non-altruistic behaviors. Some people may have above-average capacity for both altruistic behaviors and non-altruistic behaviors.

But innate capacity is one thing; expression of capacities is another thing. We are all capable of either up-regulating expression of our altruistic behavioral capacities or up-regulating expression of our non-altruistic behavioral capacities, and we are all capable of either down-regulating expression of our non-altruistic capacities or down-regulating expression of our capacities for altruistic behavior. This is similar to the fact that humans are able to up-regulate or down-regulate the expression of certain genes. (Genes are analogous to innate capacities. Expression of genes can be either up-regulated or down-regulated.) People differ regarding the ease with which they are able to up-regulate or down-regulate an innate behavioral capacity.

We also differ regarding our inclination and/or willingness to down-regulate or up-regulate expression of one innate behavioral capacity or another. Some people are very willing to up-regulate the expression of certain capacities and down-regulate the expression of other capacities; while others are very unwilling to up-regulate or down-regulate certain capacities.

The bottom-line is that Human Nature, in all of us, has both altruistic and non-altruistic aspects. There is a spectrum regarding the size of various innate behavioral capacities; a spectrum regarding the ease and extent of expression of those capacities; and a spectrum regarding the inclination and/or willingness to express certain capacities.

A major problem in a capitalist society is that positions of high leadership tend to be populated with individuals who either have above-average capacity for non-altruistic behaviors, or above-average tendency/willingness/ability to express their capacity for non-altruistic behaviors, or have below-average capacity for altruistic behaviors, or have below-average

tendency/willingness/ability to express altruistic capacities---or some combination of these variables.⁵ This is particularly true of many of the most powerful leaders within the capitalist system, for example the leaders of giant transnational corporate capitalist entities and key leaders who attend the World Economic Forum (WEF). Such individuals are a “good fit” for leadership positions in corporate capitalist enterprises, because their behavioral capacities, inclinations, abilities, and willingness enable them to help the corporation become more profitable, wealthy, and powerful. Such individuals are not a good fit for leadership in an altruistic public economy, and a public economy should avoid placing such individuals in positions of leadership.

However, it is important to clarify that many current leaders within the capitalist system do not have above-average capacity for non-altruistic behaviors (self-interest-oriented behaviors), or below-average capacity for altruistic behaviors, or above-average inclination or willingness to express non-altruistic behaviors, or below-average inclination or willingness to express altruistic capacities. In fact, many capitalist leaders have great capacity for altruistic behaviors and would greatly express that capacity if they lived in a social milieu that encouraged such expression (e.g., in a public economy). **They are capitalist leaders only by default.**

In other words, if these “capitalist leaders-by-default,” who are currently leaders within the capitalist economy, were, instead, participating in a CHP-EM-inspired public economy, many of them would likely upregulate expression of their capacity for altruism and could, thereby, become excellent leaders within the public economy. But, since their main opportunity, and often only opportunity, to provide for their family is to participate in the capitalist economy, they have needed to upregulate expression of their capacity for non-altruistic behaviors in order to secure employment and optimally provide for their family. That is, they are expressing (often very reluctantly) their capacities for capitalist behaviors by default. In today’s current world, they have had little or no choice.

So, an important and careful distinction should be made between “capitalist leaders-by-default” and the considerably selfish “hard core capitalist leaders.” There is a huge difference between the two. A goal should be to warmly welcome the “capitalist leaders-by-default” to participate in the public economy---while avoiding placement of hard core capitalist leaders into positions of power. Some, even many, of the capitalist leaders-by-default” may be excellent “natural leaders,” once freed from the grip of corporate capitalism.

Unfortunately, in our current world, the majority of the leaders that occupy the highest and most powerful positions of leadership, have the capacities, inclinations, abilities, and willingness that are characteristic of the “hard core capitalist leaders.” In addition, those leaders have

populated lower positions of leadership with like-minded, like-behaving individuals. The result is that leadership positions throughout the world, including leaders within government institutions, have been a “good fit” for the corporate world but a “poor fit” for Humanity. It is no wonder that poor decisions are being made. It is no wonder that “Mean Arrangements of Man”⁶ have been created and have prevailed. It is no wonder that altruism has been so sidelined and Social Beauty⁷⁻⁹ has been so spotty.

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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 (soon to be posted)
5. Key Problem: Under Corporate Capitalism, Leadership Positions are Populated With People Who Are Inclined to Express Non-Altruistic Capacities of Our Human Nature
6. Mean Arrangements of Man
7. Social Beauty
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