

Root Causes of Problems Facing Humanity

By Rob Rennebohm, MD

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Physicians, scientists, and the general public would be wise to engage in extensive analysis of and dialogue about the **root causes** of problems facing Humanity. Focusing only on epiphenomena misses an opportunity to optimally help the patient, which in this case is Humanity.

Enormous problems are currently facing Humanity. Huge numbers of people are suffering from material poverty and/or impoverished souls. Economic instability and economic warfare threaten to cause global economic chaos and World War III, potentially with nuclear war. The COVID-19 situation has involved major violations of basic principles of science, medicine, ethics, and democracy. The specter of heartless, hideously technocratic, and increasingly totalitarian global governance has become a growing concern. **It is important to address the root causes of these and other social problems and stimulate widespread respectful public dialogue about potential solutions.**

The above concerns are extensively addressed in the manuscript entitled ***Sowing Seeds of Social Beauty***. The central theme of the manuscript is that the currently prevailing economic model, global corporate ultra-capitalism, is a major root cause of the problems facing Humanity and that an alternative economic model, the **Children's Hospital Public Economy Model (CHPEM)**, represents a potential solution.

The CHPEM has been successfully practiced for decades by pediatricians, internationally. It has generated **Kind Social Arrangements** and great **Social Beauty** within children's hospitals and could be applied to the general economy of nations.

The CHPEM is foundationally based on a set of **social understandings**---regarding human nature, motivation, leadership, competition, and freedom--- that is completely different from and more wholesome and accurate than the set of negative and demoralizing social understandings upon which global corporate capitalism is based and upon whose acceptance corporate capitalism depends. The manuscript tells the untold story of the CHPEM, explains how it could be applied to the general economy, describes how societies might look if it were applied, and addresses anticipated fears and concerns about application of the CHPEM to the general economy.

A key root problem with the global corporate capitalist economic model—a major root from which many of the model's harmful effects sprout—is the model's negative, simplistic, incomplete, inaccurate, and demoralizing understanding (or at least portrayal) of human nature. The corporate capitalist model greatly overemphasizes the innate non-altruistic capacities of our human nature and minimizes and marginalizes our innate altruistic capacities. It contends that human beings, realistically, are primarily selfish, on balance, and rather hopelessly so. It cynically warns against having too much faith in Human Goodness. Furthermore, it largely ignores the fact that the expression of our non-altruistic or altruistic behavioral capacities can be upregulated or downregulated, depending on the social milieu.

Another root problem with global corporate capitalism is that it inherently and increasingly populates positions of leadership with individuals who are inclined or otherwise willing to upregulate the expression of their non-altruistic behavioral capacities, as opposed to being committed to upregulating expression of their altruistic capacities. It is no wonder, then, that such leaders increasingly create **Mean Social Arrangements** that lead to **War** and other **Social Atrocities**.

Perpetuation of corporate capitalism's prolonged dominance and control over Humanity has depended on inadequate challenge of its core social beliefs, particularly its beliefs about human nature. While capitalism's highly flawed set of social understandings is the source of its immense power, it also represents its Achilles' heel, where it is most vulnerable. Humanity can free itself from capitalism's grip by focusing on capitalism's Achilles' heel—i.e., by effectively addressing the inadequately challenged set of social (mis)understandings upon which capitalism is based. If these social misunderstandings were to be effectively challenged, the harmful nature of the corporate capitalist economic model would be clearly exposed, and the public would realize that the capitalist model is inappropriate and does not deserve public support.

While the highly flawed social understandings espoused by global corporate capitalism predictably create Mean Arrangements of Man and Social Atrocity, the more accurate social understandings of the CHPEM create Kind Social Arrangements and Social Beauty.

As a pediatrician, I must also point out that millions of innocent children have suffered mightily as direct and indirect results of global corporate capitalism. The suffering of child laborers in the mines of eastern Congo, at the hands of global mining corporations, represents just one example. For that reason alone (the harmful effects of global capitalism on children), the acceptability of global corporate capitalism should be seriously questioned. Children's hospitals have demonstrated how children and all of Humanity could and should be treated.

Unfortunately, in most nations of the world a large percentage of the public has been conditioned to believe that any public economy model (e.g., the CHPEM) would be worse than capitalism. The triggered fear and belief is that a public economy model would involve “too much government bureaucracy,” would curtail precious freedoms, and would inevitably become corrupt and increasingly totalitarian. Capitalism, despite its flaws, is thereby viewed as a safer model.

But the CHPEM has already demonstrated that it does not inevitably become corrupt and totalitarian. In fact, the CHPEM is specifically designed to inherently protect against corruption and emergence of totalitarian behaviors and policies. It was only when corporate capitalists took over children’s hospitals and abandoned the CHPEM that corruption and increasingly totalitarian behaviors and policies emerged within those hospitals. Unlike capitalism, the CHPEM does not inherently lead to corruption and totalitarian behaviors and policies. Furthermore, the CHPEM provides a “most precious freedom” that capitalism inherently denies.

It is unrealistic to expect the enormous problems currently facing Humanity to become resolved, or ameliorated to any adequate extent, if we, the public, continue to accept global corporate capitalism and ignore consideration of alternative economic models, such as the CHPEM. The reality is that these problems will continue and further escalate, if global corporate capitalism continues to dominate.

We, the general public, can democratically choose to continue an economic model (global corporate capitalism) that predictably generates **Mean Arrangements of Man, War,** and other **Social Atrocities**, or we can choose a new economic model that generates **Kind Social Arrangements, Peace,** and **Social Beauty**. That choice should be based on thorough analysis of and extensive respectful public dialogue about the root causes and potential solutions of the problems facing Humanity.

What would happen if, after extensive public education and dialogue about the differences between global corporate capitalism and the CHPEM, referenda were held in all nations to democratically determine which economic model the public in each nation prefers? Such a process would be in keeping with fundamentally important principles of Medicine---study of **root cause** and emphasis on honest **patient education**, proper **informed consent**, and **shared decision-making**.

Rob Rennebohm, MD

