ANTI
PATTERNS

creating and perpetuating social dominance

Social Imagination and Civic Intelligence
The Evergreen State College, Spring 2013

Preamble to Anti Pattern Project

The purpose of this exploratory project is to collaboratively explore how inequality, injustice, oppression, and other unhealthy social forces are created and maintained in society. We are cautiously optimistic that this type of analysis could ultimately prove useful in working *against* those inhuman social forces.

This is a wiki-based project and we do not consider it a finished piece. It's definitely a work in progress.

This is the product of the Social Imagination and Civic Intelligence program, spring 2013 at The Evergreen State College. This reflects the content of the Wiki (http://wikis.evergreen.edu/civicintelligence/index.php/Anti_Patterns_on_one_page) as of July 4, 2013.

Introduction to the Patterns

Fundamental Evils. The first category contains the three patterns that we believe are fundamental to unwholesome behaviors.

Cultural Ignorance. The second category contains patterns that we believe describe culturally produced ignorance.

Societal Philosophy. The third category contains the patterns that we believe represent societal philosophy.

Institutionalization of Negative Philosophy. The fourth category contains the patterns that we believe institutionalize negative philosophies.

Tactics. The fifth category contains the patterns that we believe describe tactics that can used by power elites (and others) to maintain negative social interactions.

Media. The sixth category contains the patterns that we believe characterize the negative roles that the media can play.

Results. The seventh category contains the patterns that we believe represent the results or byproducts of civic ignorance. Note that each of these is also a pattern in that these tend to act as ongoing social determinants.

Fundamental Evils

The first category contains the three patterns that we believe are fundamental to unwholesome behaviors.

Civic Ignorance

Description

We place civic ignorance at the top of our anti-patterns collection because civic ignorance is at the core of everything that human beings do to each other that is harmful.

Civic ignorance takes different forms; it is their sum total and the perfidious interaction among the various forms that creates the Agnosphere, the ubiquitous shroud that fights civic intelligence on all fronts.

It is often quite "natural" and occurs in all of us to some degree. It is most menacing in its professional varieties, when well-resourced and self-serving elites intentionally cultivate ignorance. Historically, in the United States, the tobacco companies were the most treacherous and whose campaigns can be credited with thousands if not millions of unnecessary deaths. Currently the climate change denial campaign is the most prominent and much of the intentionally spread misinformation can be traced back to a handful of dedicated billionaires.

Civic ignorance is assured in many ways — in general, that's what we're trying to show with our project. Fixating on certain hard-and-fast "truisms" is important. Blaming the other person is important. On an individual level, not even listening to a argument that runs counter to your own is effective since that avoids any real consideration of the issue. From an institutional level, access to information and communication should be controlled by elites. The items on the public agenda should be restricted — but it should not seem like this is the case. Finally, critics of the system should be marginalized or ignored.

Links

All of the anti-patterns are related to this!

References

Agnotology book

Agnosphere Blog, http://agnosphere.blogspot.com

Violence

Rioter cheers while a car burns during the 2011 Stanley Cup riot in Vancouver.

Description

Effective rule can be achieved through dominance and submission by using violence. If the subject cannot be subdued psychologically through fear, then injury can be inflicted. If injury is not enough, then the subject can ultimately be eliminated by murder.

How it Works

The population is desensitized to violence through the media where it is overtly displayed, and portrayed culturally as the most convenient and efficient means of solving problems. Violence is also celebrated and glorified in sporting events, mass media, and video games. This desensitization to violence eventually makes it universally accepted by the populace. It has been, for example, that heavy users of violent video games are more likely to see violence as a "solution" to social problems and are more likely to ascribe negative motives to people than the average. When violence becomes the norm, it can be used overtly by the ruling class as a means of control. The glorification of domination through violent means can also be used to gain popular support for war.

Creating a culture of violence can also be used for indirectly inflicting psychological problems on the populace. When plagued with their own mental health issues and the mental health issues of the people close to them, people are much more likely not to be concerned with what the ruling class is doing and how they are doing it. Violence and the threat of violent increases fear and thus decreases the possibility of solving problems intelligently. If one can manipulate people through fear you can lead them into thinking the way you'd like to to think.

Evidence

349 soldiers committed suicide in 2012, while 301 died in active combat. This was the third time in four years that suicide surpassed combat deaths among American soldiers. It is assumed though not verified through scientific study that the reasons for suicide are linked to the psychological effects of combat service. The 90 percent increase in violent sex crimes committed by active U.S. Army soldiers between 2006 and 2011 is also attributed in part to the trauma of war. Soldiers suffering post-traumatic stress, traumatic brain injury, and depression have also been shown to have higher incidences of partner abuse.

A study conducted in Lebanon revealed that civilians exposed to (armed) conflict where six times more likely to have an anxiety disorder, three times as likely to have a mood disorder, and 13 times as likely to have an impulse-control disorder as people who had not experienced such events. Less than half of the survey respondents who reported a disorder had sought any treatment - and they took an average of six years to do so. (PLoS Medicine).

Links

Eye for an Eye – Retribution, Fear Mongering, Xenophobia

References

PLoS Medicine, DOI: 10.1371/journal.pmed.0050061

Environmental Degradation

Strip mining is an example of extreme Environmental Degradation

Description

The environment; including but not limited to soil, water, air, flora, and fauna, is something that have a natural balance. Through pollution, over usage, environmental degradation and lack of stewardship, the balance is broken causing the living and non-living networks that sustain life on this planet to suffer.

How it Works

With a growing population the needs to resources are rising, but in 1st world countries the amount of resources a single person can consume significantly out weighs the amount of resources a person living in the third world would. However, this is only part of a larger problem. The environment has also taken second place to human progress and when we really started to make "progress" our relationship with nature has been more of a conquest than of stewardship. When the depletion of resources cannot be replenished naturally we found ways to put a band-aid on the solution, chemistry. This has led to all sorts of problems, not that chemistry is bad, but chemicals like DDT, incidents like Bhopal remind us that we must remain vigilant. Our philosophy and paradigms when it comes to preserving the environment, respecting something that is shared by everything living on the planet will not change over night but we are starting to get there, we are exploring other sources of energy, our grasp of science is strong enough to understand our path and where, why, and who is taking us there.

Evidence

"Conservation is getting nowhere because it is incompatible with our Abrahamic concept of land. We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect."   — Aldo Leopold

A study from the University of Oregon found that in certain zones, areas that were clear cut had nearly three times the amount of erosion due to slides. When the roads required by the clearcutting were factored in, the increase in slide activity appeared to be about 5 times greater compared to nearby forested areas. The roads built for clearcutting interrupt normal surface drainage because the roads are not as permeable as the normal ground cover. The roads also change subsurface water movement due to the redistribution of soil and rock.

Swanson, F.J.; Dyrness, C.T. (1975). "Impact of clear-cutting and road construction on soil erosion by landslides in the western Cascade Range, Oregon". Geology (Geological Society of America) 3 (7): 393–396.

Cultural Ignorance

The second category contains patterns that we believe describe culturally produced ignorance.

Consumerism

Description

Consumerism is an approach to life that is predominantly based on the acquisition and display of material goods. Although consumerism is enacted individually by people who are seemingly driven internally to buy consumer goods (never staples), the drive can probably be traced to a media-induced need production which convincingly defines what the "good life" and how it can be purchased. It also sets up the standards of status through which people can be judged and these are in turn taken up by peer groups who help maintain the system.

Semantic Manipulation

The meaning of words is not fixed, it is malleable.

Description

Certain words, phrases, or ideas become taboo in societies due to their negative definitions. When these definitions prevent governments or corporations from their goals, they will sidestep the problem by redefining/rephrasing words or using straw man tactics to manipulate the public into accepting something they otherwise would not accept. Redefining negative or positive words, phrases, or ideas to change their meaning to support an argument or idea. This is done without changing the true merits of the words or phrases

To rename or reliable an act or object for the purpose of acquiring different results, outcomes or perspectives can be classified as Semantic Manipulation. The distortion of the original semantics can be motivated by wealth, power or to maintain the status quo within an organization that is reluctant to change. Like wise, Sematic Manipulation can be used to provide you with false information within media and especially pseudoscience. in doing so,Sematic Manipulation can not only be used to maintain a certain course within a system, but can also be used to influence it into a different direction.

Evidence

There have been many different examples in the last few years in explaining how Sematic Manipulation works. One of the most disasters examples is when the Bush administration distorting the fact that lead up to the Gulf War.

Despite the fact that the UN weapon inspectors could not find evidence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. The Bush administration created their own fact to support their agenda within the Middle East.

The Semantic Manipulation of the fact of Iraq's weapon program, coupled with the idea that Iraq had something to do with the 9/11 attack was the reason the U.S. went to war in the Gulf. Against the backdrop of protest within and outside the U.S. against the war, and conflicting information coming to light against the Bush administration original claim, The U.S. entered open hostilities with Iraq under false and distorted information. The willful manipulation of data to support a preconceived agenda is almost always at the core of Semantic Manipulation.

During the W. Bush administration semantic manipulation was everywhere. "The War on Terrorism" was a semantic manipulation of the word "terrorism," which is loosely defined, however it gave the government the extra power it has in time of war for an indeterminable amount of time. The Patriot Act, the invasive, controversial legislation was given a name that suggests anyone against it was "unpatriotic." The slogan "Support the Troops" was seen everywhere, suggesting that if one was against the indefinable, unjust war that they were also against the troops. This again suggests opposers were "unpatriotic." The best example may be that torture was renamed "enhanced interrogation."

http://truth-out.org/news/item/16167-retail-exemption-shields-some-fertilizer-facilities-from-stringent-safety-requirements

Fundamentalism

Description

Fundamentalism is a catch-all term for a broad family of approaches to religion. No country is immune: fundamentalism is found all over the world and although there are endless varieties, these various versions show remarkable similar characteristics. Among these characteristics are strong patriarchalism, strict exclusionism, "literal" truth of certain writings, acceptance of violence, and belief in the end of the world (mostly by fire although some favor ice).

Interestingly, fundamentalism is a relatively recent invention. Scholars assert that it is a broad response to modernism and it is often helped along when secular governments fail.

References

Marty, M. and Appleby, S. (1991) Fundamentalisms Observed. Chicago: Chicago University Press.

Compartmentalization of Knowledge

Description

Knowledge is effectively compartmentalized (or put into "compartments") when different people not only have access to certain types of knowledge but are actually denied formally or via social norms or personal preferences from going beyond their allowable sphere.

Compartmentalizing knowledge has several effects. For one thing it prevents people from having a holistic view. (And since many of the phenomena that now exist can only be "understood" when several viewpoints and perspectives from various sets of knowledge.) Also, as in the Tower of Babel story in the Bible, it keeps people from different knowledge camps from communicating with each other. Finally it implicitly designates certain types of

knowledge as "off limits" to some people, thus locking them out of any conversations which employed or built on the knowledge that was forbidden to them.

Compartmentalizing knowledge takes different shapes in different times and places. One of the more obvious examples are academic departments in colleges or universities.

Distorting History

The story of the first Thanksgiving is typical of whitewashed depictions of the relationship between native North Americans and European settlers.

Description

Altering history by teaching manipulated stories, facts, and data is a means of promoting specific ideologies and agendas. This can be achieved by creating events that did not happen, altering events that did happen, or omitting events altogether. Over time knowledge of the truth will die with those who lived or witnessed it, and the alternate version will be universally accepted as true.

Distorting history is an effective method of erasing events from the minds of the population, of glorifying events and people in support of state ideals, and vilifying events and people in conflict with state ideals. Presenting history in a way that supports the agenda of the state, and reinforcing it through public education and the media can be used to control the perceptions of the populace in ways that prevent dissent and promote nationalism.
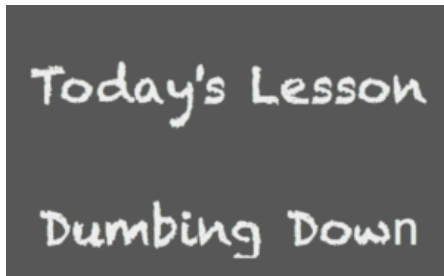
Evidence

Early American history as taught in the public school system contains many examples of myths and exaggerated heroism. The early European settlers are depicted as good Christians fleeing oppressive British rule and settling peacefully in the New World with the good Indians while having to defend themselves against the bad Indians. Little is said about the native population plummeting by an estimated 80% between 1492-1650 due to disease carried from the Old World settlers, outright massacres, and forced labor.

The Vietnam War seems to barely be mentioned in public school history lessons. Most Americans have a perception of it being unpopular, and even bad, but have no knowledge of the war crimes committed by Americans, and the extent to which even soldiers protested the war.

Links

Semantic Manipulation, Denialism, Cultural imperialism, Ultra-nationalism, Dumbing Down, Xenophobia

Dumbing Down

Description

The term Dumbing Down started in 1933 when motion picture screenplay writers changed the way they wrote in order to gain appeal with those of who had little education or intelligence. However, Dumbing Down will usually involve simplifying critical thought to a point where it begins to undermine intellectual standards of learning in a society. This then trivializes cultural, artistic, and academic standards.

Evidence

In the late 20th century, the increased number of students attending university, because of lowered scholastic aptitude standards, required the establishment and maintenance of intellectual distinctions; thus, in 2003, the UK Minister for Universities, Margaret Hodge, criticized Mickey Mouse degrees as a negative consequence of universities dumbing down curricula to meet "the needs of the market", degrees conferred for studies in a field of endeavour "where the content is perhaps not as [intellectually] rigorous as one would expect, and where the degree, itself, may not have huge relevance in the labour market", thus, a university degree of slight intellectual substance, which the student earned by "simply stacking up numbers on Mickey Mouse courses, is not acceptable"

"'Irresponsible' Hodge under fire", BBC News, 14 January 2003. URL accessed on 24 June 2006.

"50% higher education target doomed, says thinktank", EducationGuardian.co.uk, 14 July 2005. URL accessed on 24 June 2006.

The science fiction film Idiocracy (2005) portrays the U.S. as a greatly dumbed-down society five hundred years hence; which low cultural condition was achieved with dysgenics, over-reproduction by people of low intelligence being greater than the rate of reproduction of people of high intelligence, i.e. the educated. Conceptually, the world postulated in Idiocracy derives from the science fiction short story The Marching Morons (1951), by Cyril M. Kornbluth. Moreover, the novel Brave New World (1931), by Aldous Huxley, discussed the ways that society was effectively dumbed-down in order to maintain political stability and social order.

Overview- Academic work should be rigorous and complete, this is necessary to present a full spectrum of information. Some academia may be purposely not presenting full information in an effort to dumb down education.

Example- Strict standardized testing methods that prize quantitative skills rather than an holistic approach to education that develops skills. Teaching to a test enforces memorized learning rather than critical thinking. The Prussian education system in in place and schools are now a place where we learn to follow rules and accept what we are told is fact.

Religious influence that clouds or withholds scientific information in when presenting education. e.g. Catholic schooling; evolution, sex ed.

Why is it bad- Dumbing down education or academic works with the intent to withhold information due to perceived ignorance of the individual trying to learn by a secondary party will result in an incomplete education. Dumbing down information also takes away the full potential of the teacher. It doesn't allow people to rise above standards and it also creates complacency with not fully understanding the world around them. Standardizing a

dumbed down education is more likely purposely implemented to create a population that follows orders, which makes for good consumers.

Resources

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dumbing_down

Notes

(Maybe we should grab some of this text from Doug's Civic Intelligence article which follows....?)

Dumbing Down the Citizen

In the early 1970's Harry Braverman's "Labor and Monopoly Capital" (1974) demonstrated how the process of "dumbing-down" workers, primarily through severely reducing their on-the-job responsibility, flexibility, and autonomy (often called "de-skilling") increases management control and, hence, profits to the advantage of capital. Since we will be soon discussing the idea of civic intelligence we may hypothesize briefly about whether these ideas may also have some applicability outside the workplace. Is it possible that the citizenry is being "dumbed-down" in similar ways? And, if so, can we "run the processes in reverse" to undo the damage?

The key to Braverman's analysis is the decomposition of broad workplace responsibilities by management into discrete constituent parts, which are then used to force workers to perform within circumscribed ranges. This process, often in the name of "efficiency," dramatically lessens the scope and directionality of worker power. How could this process be replicated in realms outside of the workplace? The first responsibility to be jettisoned (as "outside" their primary work responsibility) in the civic sphere under such a redefinition would be the consideration of issues relating to general social implications. Thus workers and labor unions should focus exclusively on jobs and job security (and not, for instance, the social consequences of the jobs); artists should explore and express their individual feelings' scientists and researchers should pursue what is fundable within a narrow, specialized niche – computer science, physics, and other "technical" disciplines would expel implications of their subject matters from the curriculum; while measuring success purely in terms of monetary return on investment. Citizens of course would spend much of their non-working life shopping, buying items that will maximize their individual comfort and status while keeping the economic machine running at maximum capacity.

This general process removes the "politics" of labor, leisure, and learning; indeed it naturally results in the "de-skilling" of the citizen. Economists are the pioneers in this process by adapting and advocating the use of an economic calculus as the sole determinant for all of our decisions. This is the ultimate dumbing down; it reduces human aspirations and agency to that of an greedy and unthinking automaton. The media "de-skills" the citizenry in several ways as well, according to a variety of scholars. Castells (1997), for example, shows how the media's fixation with political scandal encourages cynicism and political disengagement on the part of the citizenry. The media often promotes "the spectacle" (Garber, Matlock, and Walkowitz, 1993) at the expense of the intellectually taxing. The ill effects of money on the media, politics, and elections also further increase the distance between citizens and public affairs (Schuler, 2001). Furthermore, Robert Putnam shows convincingly that, at least in the US, the virtually overnight spread of commercial broadcast television was a primary culprit in the steady degradation of American civic life over the last several decades (1996). One can only wonder what effects this new electronic "opiate of the masses" will have as it continues its spread on cultures outside the U.S.

The questions as to whether and to what extent citizen "de-skilling" has been orchestrated, and by whom, will not be discussed in depth in this paper (although the transformation of the US from a country of citizens to a country of consumers is certainly an appropriate and provocative topic to contemplate in this regard). It is sufficient to say that civic de-skilling is likely to dampen civic intelligence by influencing the content of, and the conditions under which, issues are placed on the public agenda, and by trivializing and polarizing discussion and deliberation on important public matters. Certainly each de-skilling step introduces changes in both institutionalization, the prescribed processes through which actions are advanced and validated, and in conceptualization of what everyday life entails; each step helps erect ordinary and the extraordinary barriers to civic intelligence.

Forbidden Knowledge

Description

This is the industrial strength version of Compartmentalization of Knowledge. This occurs when knowing something is actually denied to a certain group of people under the threat of penalty. One recent example is when the Centers for Disease Control in the US was forbidden by the US Congress to study gun violence as a "public health hazard.' According to Wikipedia, "In 2010, there were 19,392 firearm-related suicide deaths, and 11,078 firearm-related homicide deaths in the United States." In early 2013, the US Congress passed a new law that the National Science Foundation could not fund Political Science research.
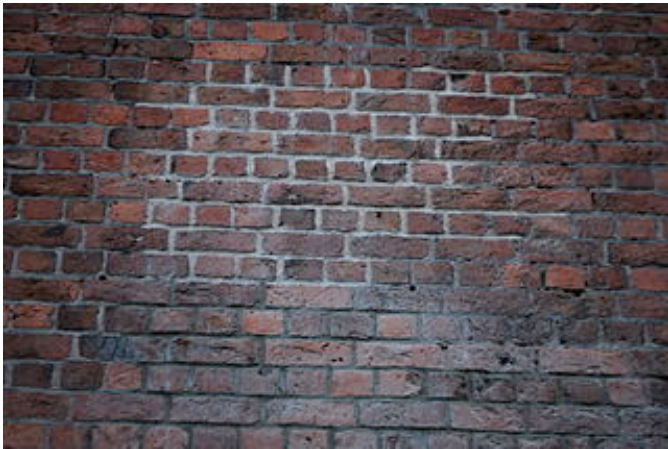
How it works

Photography banned from agricultural settings (http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2011/03/in-the-past-decade-modern/#.UYWHZxyxArg)

Links

This is strongly linked to Compartmentalization of Knowledge

Opacity

Description

This pattern means that important information is kept secret from citizens. This is useful when hiding corruption, nepotism, money laundering, smuggling, vote buying, tax evasion, etc. When information is kept private there is less chance that malfeasance can be noticed. With Opacity in place, over the years elite business and governments can distance themselves further and further away from any controls on them.

This pattern is good because it prevents people from seeing how business and governments actually conduct their affairs. This encourages corruption because there is no oversight. It can also establish this as a habit which ultimately can be seen as the "natural state of affairs", the way things are actually *supposed* to be.

How it works

Keeping things from the public eye can be maintained through laws or habit. Sometimes when there are transparency laws, a government can designate things to be secret in order to maintain state security.

Links

This pattern is strongly linked to corruption patterns. It's really the handmaiden to corruption.

This pattern also could link to toothless journalism and to laws against activist or muckraking journalism. With the right type of laws, it would be easy to jail journalists for "slander" if they suggest that there might be malfeasance behind the closed doors — even if it happens to be true!

Notes and Suggestions

It is interesting to note that even if there is transparency, societal apathy can mean that corruption and other crimes can continue without interruption.

Hidden Agendas

Overview

Society relies on honest leaders to give them information in regards to sovereign and global affairs. No honest democracy can exist if governmental motives are withheld from the public.

What it is

Misrepresenting motives or policies to anything that could affect a society.

Evidence

Wars, public opinion, media, education

Example

The 2002 Iraq war. It was said that this war was a war on terror. Top officials from both sides of the aisle later came out and said the war was for oil. We were not spreading democracy, rather we were protecting our national interest, oil. The US government used the 9/11 attacks to fuel this war. Scare tactics were invoked and the American public was told that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction. That was later proven to be false information. There is even controversy on what really happened with 9/11. Multiple discrepancies and flimsy explanations lead some to believe the whole attack was even an inside job. http://www.washingtonsblog.com/2013/03/top-republican-leaders-say-iraq-war-was-really-for-oil.html

Government's claim to represent the people, but may have a hidden agenda. This deceives citizens and fuels their disrespect and distrust for those in charge. Once trust is broken, the people will begin to look for more evidence of lies and distrust can snowball. Hidden agendas cannot represent the people's best interest if they have no say (as they've been kept in the dark)and overtime can lead to civil disobedience and social unrest.

Image: The reverse side of the Great Seal of the United States (1776). Traslates to "New Order of the Ages" or "New World Order." Some claim this shows a hidden agenda to create such a world order.

Corruption and Fraud

Evidence

The Hidden Money (http://www.truth-out.org/opinion/item/15812-the-hidden-money)

Links

Opacity

Notes

incorporates money hiding laundering.

Societal Philosophy

The third category contains the patterns that we believe represent societal philosophy.

Social Darwinism

An illustration of Social Darwinism

Description

The principles of evolution dictate that those with beneficial mutations are more likely to survive while those with non-beneficial mutations will fail. Likewise there are sometimes non-beneficial traits that people possess that make them more likely to "fail." These things can be genetic or developed elsewhere. Things like health issues, chronic conditions, disabilities, etc. The idea of Social Darwinism in it's most extreme is that it is natural that these people fail, and that society shouldn't feel responsible for taking care of them. Basically, it's a dog eat dog world.

While some people might have arguments about whether or not we can save money on health care by giving the government more control in regulating costs vs offering incentives for organizations that self regulate Social Darwinist's know the best way to save money on health care is to not pay for it in the first place! It turns out you can save tons of money by adopting Social Darwinism. Balancing the government's budget will never be easier... in fact why have a governmental budget at all? People should take care of themselves, right?

Evidence and Examples

See Libertarianism.

Denialism

Political cartoon by Carlos Latuff

Description

The adherence to certain beliefs proven to be untrue, sometimes supported by certain media outlets and pseudo-sciences. Refusing to accept as truth something that has been proven to be true. Often motivated by religious beliefs, self-interest, or as a defense mechanism out of fear or discomfort.

How It Works

Relieves guilt by taking away responsibility.

Can be used to postpone or eradicate fixing problems that the state doesn't want fixed.

Though proof is presented, individuals continue to deny the proof and adhere to their false beliefs.

Problems can be reframed in a way that they are represented as not being problems at all. Popular beliefs can be played upon to invoke denial of the problem.

Evidence

Holocaust Denial

"Nazi policy did a great deal to facilitate denial of the Holocaust even as the killing operation unfolded across German-occupied Europe during World War II. The Holocaust was a state secret in Nazi Germany. The Germans wrote down as little as possible. Most of the killing orders were verbal, particularly at the highest levels. Hitler's order to kill Jews was issued only on a need-to-know basis. The Nazi leaders generally avoided detailed planning of killing operations, preferring to proceed in a systematic but often improvised manner. The Germans destroyed most documentation that did exist before the end of the war. The documents that survived and related directly to the killing program were virtually all classified and stamped "Geheime Reichssache" (Top Secret), requiring special handling and destruction to prevent capture by the enemy. Heinrich Himmler, Reich Leader of the SS and Chief of the German Police, said in a secret speech to SS generals in Posen in 1943 that the mass murder of the European Jews was a secret, never to be recorded.

In order to hide the killing operation as much as possible from the uninitiated, Hitler ordered that the killings not be spoken of directly in German documentation or in public statements. Instead, the Germans used codenames and neutral-sounding terms for the killing process. In Nazi parlance, for example, "action" (Aktion) referred to a violent operation against Jewish (or other) civilians by German security forces; "resettlement to the East" (Umsiedlung nach

dem Osten) referred to the forced deportation of Jewish civilians to killing centers in German-occupied Poland; and "special treatment" (Sonderbehandlung) meant killing.

Both at the time and later, such euphemisms impeded a clear understanding of what the Nazis were doing. This was partly to facilitate the killing process by keeping the victims in the dark about their fate as long as possible. Widespread Jewish resistance was only possible once Jews understood that Nazi policy was to kill all of them. Furthermore, Hitler could not just assume that almost no one would protest the killing of Jews. Even within his own party there were those who agreed with the campaign of persecution against Jews but who occasionally balked at systematic murder. For example, Wilhelm Kube, the German civilian administrator of occupied Belarus, fully supported the murder of the Belarusian Jews, but protested when the SS deported German Jews to Minsk and shot them there."

Climate Change Denial

"Conservative billionaires used a secretive funding route to channel nearly $120m (£77m) to more than 100 groups casting doubt about the science behind climate change, the Guardian has learned.

The funds, doled out between 2002 and 2010, helped build a vast network of thinktanks and activist groups working to a single purpose: to redefine climate change from neutral scientific fact to a highly polarising "wedge issue" for hardcore conservatives.

The millions were routed through two trusts, Donors Trust and the Donors Capital Fund, operating out of a generic town house in the northern Virginia suburbs of Washington DC. Donors Capital caters to those making donations of $1m or more.

Whitney Ball, chief executive of the Donors Trust told the Guardian that her organisation assured wealthy donors that their funds would never by diverted to liberal causes."

References
http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2013/feb/14/funding-climate-change-denial-thinktanks-network
http://www.pacinst.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/climate_statement3.pdf

Links

Weapons of Mass Distraction, Dumbing Down, Compartmentalization of Knowledge, Distorting History, Social Apathy, Media Monopolies, Professional Obfuscation.

Eye for an Eye – Retribution

Retribution: Everyone gets stabbed!

Description

Equivalent exchange by way of exact behavior. There is no need to "be the better person" because you will be the only one. Doing unto others the same as has been done unto you is true balance.

This pattern upholds the running behavior that seems to underline a lot of society. The idea of "Returning the Favor" has evolved and resides in the shadows along with most hidden agendas (see hidden agendas). By keeping a "laser pointer" on the simplicity of what it is in any form, eye for an eye can never truly loose it's muster. It is "instant gratification" the current moment- which is important when there is a demand for quick respond.

How it Works

Eye for an Eye is, in it's purest form, doing exactly what is done to other party that has been done to them. Example: to kill another is to be punished by death. As time as passes, the way in which it may manifest can vary. This is due to the complexities of society. The idea dates back to biblical times- See Matthew 5:38 (king James Version).

Evidence

Mutually assured destruction: I.e. Policies on nuclear warfare, Hatfield and McCoy Feud that lasted (1862-1891)

Links

Hidden Agendas Violence

Resources

Mutual Assured Destruction (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mutual_assured_destruction) Hatfield-McCoy Feud (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hatfield-McCoy_feud)

Cultural Imperialism

McDonad's in Jakarta

Description

This pattern presents the way in which powerful cultures present their culture as the most acceptable lifestyle, and condemn the cultural practices of others. This often take place in tandem with the more official imperialism. Many

nuances of culture are exotic and acceptable, but if it contradicts the values of the dominant culture, the ideals of the more vulnerable must be eliminated.

Disagreements in cultural values can cause tension, especially for a dominant culture, therefore the dominant culture must eliminate the other in order to maintain peace. The systems of capitalistic enterprise requires a common culture in order to produce and sell products to the consumer in the most efficient and profitable manner. The more people agree and think alike the easier it is to direct advertising and trend towards the consumer.

Evidence

The greatest example is the conceptualization of "The American Dream". This ideology has been presented to countries around the world as the greatest system of cultural ideology, and continue to present the values of one country as better than any other. The expansion of american consumerism is among the strongest cultural aspects that has been presented and implemented in other cultures, often to their detriment. Within the united states itself, cultures that do not represent american cultures are viewed as a threat and are often stigmatized.

Ultra-Nationalism

Countries cooperating is very anti- ultranationalist

Description

The act of using nationalism to rally and sway the perceptions one's country (or group of people) by designating an enemy. This is typically a diversionary tactic in order to take away unwanted attention and or to win popularity.

This high level method aids in creating tunnel vision for those susceptible as well as grants solidarity for the person providing the energy. When an individual (or nation) has this type of hold on the people, things run smooth- there is also very little questioning.

Using an event or an appeal to common ground to ignite extreme solidarity.

Evidence

9/11's events has created one of the biggest examples of Ultra-nationalism in history thus far. The patriot act came into full affect shortly after- something that the American society, otherwise, would have said no to- a direct result of Ultra-nationalism.

Resources

The Patriot Act (http://www.justice.gov/archive/ll/highlights.htm)

Institutionalization of Negative Philosophy

The fourth category contains the patterns that we believe institutionalize negative philosophies.

Criminalizing Poverty

Skid Row: Los Angeles

Description

Poverty can be criminalized, both ideologically and physically in various ways in order to keep people in the cycle of poverty.

Poverty is among the greatest threats to the structure and ideology of capitalistic culture. If poverty is viewed as being a failure of the system, the power structure may be in danger. Therefore, if the poverty stricken are classified as criminals, they are personally responsible for their state, and the power structure is not in danger.

Evidence

Cities, such as Los Angeles, have decided to implement policies to pump money into the police force and arrests for low level crimes with the idea that this will catch high level crimes as well. In the case of Los Angeles in 2005-2006 the city initiated a "Safer Cities Initiative" which was supposed to be a comprehensive plan to deal with the homelessness issue in the Skid Row area of LA. This was reportedly going to consist of comprehensive services including housing, mental health services, etc. Instead the city spent six million dollars in beefing up thier police service and zero dollars on other services.

From: Napper, T. (Director). (2013). Lost angels - skid row is my home [Documentary]. USA: Cinema Libre Studio.

"In recent years, the United States has seen the proliferation of local measures to criminalize "acts of living" laws that prohibit sleeping, eating, sitting, or panhandling in public spaces. City, town, and county officials are turning to criminalization measures in an effort to broadcast a zero-tolerance approach to street homelessness and to temporarily reduce the visibility of homelessness in their communities. Although individuals experiencing homelessness should be afforded the same dignity, compassion, and support provided to others, criminalization

policies further marginalize men and women who are experiencing homelessness, fuel inflammatory attitudes, and may even unduly restrict constitutionally protected liberties. Moreover, there is ample evidence that alternatives to criminalization policies can adequately balance the needs of all parties. Community residents, government agencies, businesses, and men and women who are experiencing homelessness are better served by solutions that do not marginalize people experiencing homelessness, but rather strike at the core factors contributing to homelessness."

From: "Executive Summary." Searching out solutions: constructive alternatives to the criminalization of homelessness.. Washington, DC: United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, 2012. 2. Print.

Links

Denialism, Dehumanization, social Darwinism

Bad Education

Description

A "Conveyor Belt" education that does not provoke thought, engage students, or encourage achievement.

How It Works

A "Conveyor Belt" educational system is one in which a school is viewed in the likeness of a factory. Children are placed on a "conveyor belt" and sent down the line to be assembled accordingly (regardless of whether or not their mind functions in the same likeness of the majority.) This system works against the natural processes of the human mind.

The "Conveyor Belt" system does not account for children with special needs, is unsympathetic to home life, uses student activities that promote ultra-nationalism and competition, and uses poor methods of teaching that dumbs students down.Students with special needs (ranging from a mild learning disability to down's syndrome) are lumped together in one classroom with differing needs that are not all met and so they remain stagnant. Many teachers have students that they are unable and unequipped with knowledge to understand due to their home life. This is another aspect of special needs that are being unmet due to teachers' misunderstanding and misinformation. Pep rallies and rivalries with other schools are a sort of preparation for nationalism but can easily be turned into blind pride and blind following. The competitiveness also takes away from the sense of community. Finally, this method of schooling reinforces the dumbing down of Americans by discouraging critical thought while encouraging submission.

This method of educating students was effective over fifty years ago, but our world has transformed and the traditional education system has become outdated. Students are forced to go to the schools based on their location and are placed on a track based on their test scores. If they score low, they go to a lower ranking school with lower expectations and vice versa. When students are expected to fail or succeed, it is likely that they will do just that due to self-fulfilling prophecy. Children living in low income areas attend schools with environments that they likely don't feel safe in and that their teachers expect little of them.

Because of Teacher Unions, teachers working at a public school for two years are able to receive tenure if they meet the necessary requirements. After tenure, it is nearly impossible to fire these teachers.

For most students, dropping out of school leads to prison or death. In "Waiting For Superman" (link posted below) it is stated that it costs $123,0000 for just four years in prison while it is only $8,300 for thirteen years of private schooling. Even with this knowledge, it is unlikely that our systems will change due to the fact that a smart country is more difficult to run than an dumb one.

Evidence

Waiting For Superman Video Link (http://www.movie2k.to/waiting-for-superman-watch-movie-482494.html)

Aronson's "Jigsaw classroom" has proven to increase academic performance and reduce prejudice in the classroom however it has not been incorporated into schools because competition is considered to be more beneficial.

Jigsaw Classroom History (http://www.jigsaw.org/history.htm)

Links

Ultra-nationalism, Dumbing Down

Private Schools

Mock Public Space

Description

Mock [adj]: not authentic or real.

Public Space: Areas or structures that are open to the public, commons, a third place. This can be private or publicly owned.

Mock Public Space: This could be characterized as places were people come and gather without physically being their. In most cases this occurs over the internet.

Mock public space is generally physical or virtual space that people perceive as "public" but in reality disallow many aspects of "publicness" that are important to democracies.

This could be an opposing pattern to "Greater Good Place" pattern card. In that pattern it describes a need for a place for people to gather and be social. it also addresses the fact that "that people need the physical presence of others and that virtual spaces however important and vibrant they can be, have not made physical meeting places obsolete".

With that in mind, a Mock Public Space would replace the public spaces that people come together and share.

Evidence

With online social networks and online gaming becoming more prevalent within our society, more and more people are replacing their time spent with friends and family with this new form of virtual connectivity. The therapeutic value of personal relationships as it pertains to communication,social behavior, and physical health may be impaired by the present of a Mock Public Space. It has been argued that people, especially kids, are less healthier than they were before the introduction of online communities. There are many factors to this argument, including diet and social demographics, but the time spent sitting in front of the monitor replaces the time spent playing or other forms of activity. The physical idleness may be a key factor in the rise of poor health within our society.

Professional Obfuscation

Ulysses enticed by sirens

Description

The complexity of the world makes reasoning about it very difficult. In many public deliberations it can be useful if this situation can be made even more incomprehensible. There are many ways to bring this about. One effective way to do is to engage professionals to develop campaigns to increase public ignorance. In the United States the tobacco lobby effectively kept damaging information about the lethality of their product the people. They also systematically claimed that there was no "proof" of the link. More recently climate change denial campaigns have been developed that are intentionally designed to sow doubt in the population.

"In a now-famous memo, leaked to the press in 2003, Republican pollster and media advisor Frank Luntz urged candidates in the 1992 mid-term elections to use scientific uncertainty as a political tactic. "The scientific debate remains open" he wrote emphatically. "Voters believe that there is no consensus about global warming. Should the public come to believe that the scientific issues are settled, their views about global warming will change accordingly. Therefore, you need to continue to make the lack of scientific certainty a primary issue in the debate." (Oreskes and Conway)

According to Wikipedia, Agnotology "is the study of culturally induced ignorance or doubt, particularly the publication of inaccurate or misleading scientific data."

Resources

Oreskes, Naomi and Conway, Erik. Challenging Knowledge: How Climate Science Became a Victim of the Cold War. In *Agnology*

Proctor, Robert. *Agnotology: The Making and Unmaking of Ignorance*.

Sustaining World Hunger

Description

There is enough food in the world to provide for everyone and yet 925 million hungry people were reported in 2010.

Unequal income distribution leads to poverty. without money or proper resources, people have a difficult time providing food for themselves and their loved ones. It is a vicious cycle: A person becomes poor, their health declines, and they remain poor because they are not healthy enough to find work. Poverty is only a cause of hunger due to the fact that food is viewed as a privilege rather than a human right.

Displacement of people is another cause of chronic hunger. Degradation of our environment (i.e. global warming) is predicted to cause future hunger.

Evidence

"The world produces enough food to feed everyone. World agriculture produces 17 percent more calories per person today than it did 30 years ago, despite a 70 percent population increase. This is enough to provide everyone in the world with at least 2,720 kilocalories (kcal) per person per day according to the most recent estimate that we could find.The principal problem is that many people in the world do not have sufficient land to grow, or income to purchase, enough food (http://www.worldhunger.org/articles/Learn/world%20hunger%20facts%202002.htm) ."

Links

Environmental Degradation, Societal Apathy, Cultural Imperialism, Criminalizing Poverty, Caste System, Greed.

Profit-motivated Health Care

Description

Pharmaceutical and health insurance companies profit off of disease and injury, and so it is in their fiscal interest to keep patients ill and/or injured. Band-aid "solutions" and expensive procedures target symptoms, instead than causes, of diseases.

How it works

Health care companies and professionals profit off of people staying alive, but being ill, so that they can pay to be "cured." There is little to no incentive for health providers to offer aid to those who need it most, because they are often the ones who can't pay for it. Turning healthcare into a commodity to be profited off by some, and denied to others, is a sure way to prevent cures from reaching the public and eliminating the unemployed or underemployed who cannot pay for a doctor. If you are lucky enough to be accepted for treatment, the price will be outrageous, and you may think it would have been better to pass on than to be drowned in debt for the rest of your short life.

References

http://www.bizjournals.com/denver/print-edition/2012/07/20/health-care-overpriced-motivated-by.html?page=all
http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=7QwX_soZ1GI#!

Monopoly

This looks like something we'd like....

Description

Monopolies (both actual and defacto) exist when one institution controls the access to something else, generally a commodity, information, or a service. In the absence of external controls, the institution can (and almost inevitably does) then set the price, determine the attributes of what they're selling, and, even, who's eligible to acquire what's being sold. The key to the idea is control. A monopoly that is actually being regulated does not have the power that an unregulated one has, a power that is generally misused.

Tactics

The fifth category contains the three patterns that we believe describe tactics that can used by power elites (and others) to maintain negative social interactions.

Silenced Voices

Description

Words are powerful, and the stories they make can destroy governments. Dissenting voices must be silenced to maintain order and discipline. The voices of the oppressed carry an emotional appeal far stronger than that of any government sanctioned media, therefore governments will censor those that cause them harm.

Dissenting voices are powerful forces for change. If those in power wish to maintain control over societies and cultural movements, they must silence the voices and ideas of those that wish to change the systems of power. Within many dictatorships the control of ideas within the media and internet are integral to maintaining power. If these voices were able to speak freely, people would become interested in their ideas and begin to think in ways that may contradict those in power, which could lead to a revolution.

Evidence

Across the globe, dissenting voices are minimized and ostracized into obscurity. Women in many countries are forced to stop writing, blogging, and interviewing out of fear that citizens may find solidarity in their stories. In America, gays and lesbians were presented as predators, and mentally ill, out of fear that their stories would challenge to status quo and be understood as the human beings and citizens they are.

Fear Mongering

Nuclear proliferation is often used in fear mongering in politics

Description

The use of fear to influence people's opinions toward a specific end is the goal of this pattern.

Fear is a very big motivator. Some researchers (citation needed) have listed it a one of the biggest motivators for human behavior. Since it is such an effective motivator for action and change it can be used to influence human behavior toward specific ends. Say you wanted to motivate a nation to go to war with another nation: you could motivate people toward this end by convincing people that the other country means harm against the citizens of your country, in this way people could be convinced that the best course is to preemptively attack in order to avoid being attacked themselves.

Evidence

Fear mongering is most often found in politics. One of the best known examples of fear mongering can be seen in this TV advertisement from Lyndon Johnson's 1964 presidential campaign (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IkWAhuXtalw) .

Another area where fear is often used as a tactic is in advertising/marketing. (more to follow-work in progress)

"One and a half million (of the Muslims in the United States) are radicalized to the point that they'd want to kill you."
— Fox News

Links

Media Monopolies,Xenophobia

Focus on Deficiencies

Description

This pattern suggests that the way to look at a community (or other things presumably) is to focus on its *deficiencies;* what's broken or dysfunctional. Thus, one can "diagnose" a community for its "diseases" such as crime, drug use, broken families, or "loose morals."

This pattern reinforces the idea that the particular thing being looked at is bad fundamentally. This has the effect of making people in the community feel that they're worthless and are incapable of doing anything positive. It also can justify the need for "professionals" to come in from outside and clean up everything. The pattern also helps disregard the things that are good about the community and represent potential "local" solutions. If these assets are ignored, then it's very easy to simply not think about supporting them.

Activism Delegitimization

In this popular meme, a protestor in the Egypt revolts of 2011 wears a hat made of bread (in fact used to protect his head from rock throwing)

Description

Dissenters, especially those who are active in their dissent could be delegitimized in order to take away their ability to be taken seriously by the public.

Mocking, or pointing out hypocrisies. Ignoring the message of a protest and focusing instead on the individual or group who are protesting.

Evidence

This is a tactic often employed by political pundits and commentators. Here is Talk Radio Pundit, Rush Limbaugh, engaging in some activist delegitimization: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tKthEvX2luQ
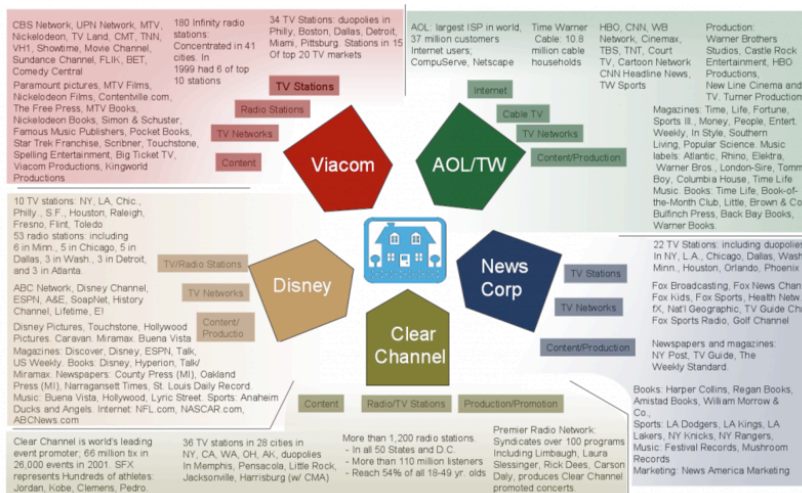
Links

Silenced Voices, Media Monopolies

Media

The sixth category contains the patterns that we believe characterize the negative roles that the media can play.

Media Monopolies

Description

Media outlets that are controlled by a small number of corporations often broadcast propaganda that aligns with the interests of those corporations. Information that challenges or opposes those interests is rarely given through mainstream media sources.

How It Works

A large company, or corporation, such as News Corp or Walt Disney Company, buys many shares of a media source (i.e. news, radio, newspaper, billboards. etc.) so that they effectively own that source. The information broadcasted is then under the corporations discretion. Now when there is an event that may jeopardize the interests of the company the news source controlled by them is forbidden from reporting on the event. The control and censorship of media is

rendered more effective through media cartels; whereby different corporations that own media sources agree to support one another through the content and right-wing slant of the news they control.

If media is controlled by corporations, pro-business perspectives can dominate. This will also inhibit marginalized groups from spreading their messages. When we allow these media sources to frame the way we view current issues then the way we respond to those issues is informed and manipulated by corporate interests. Media monopolies try to ensure that the public thinks a certain way, and that they are overwhelmed by a sense of superficiality and fear (see Fear Mongering pattern).

Evidence

See chart above. The New Media Monopoly by Ben H. Bagdikian http://www.multinationalmonitor.org/hyper/issues/1987/09/bagdikian.html http://www.fordham.edu/images/undergraduate/communications/caseagainstmediaconsolidation.pdf

Links

Dumbing Down Monopoly Silenced Voices Weapons of Mass Distraction

"Balance" Deception

Description

This pattern refers to a common journalistic practice in the United States whereby one side will be presented and then, and with equal time allotment, the "other side" will be presented. Thus a study on climate change will be endorsed by thousands and thousands of climate change scientists worldwide and then another person, perhaps an academic in a non-related field, will point out that there is no climate change.

This is a useful pattern for confusing the public by suggesting that if there are two sides to an issue, then they both have equal weight. Note that this pattern is definitely not to be exercised in all cases.

This pattern is also good because it can be justified by saying that "presenting 'both' sides" is a sound journalistic principle.

Notes and Suggestions

Former MIT Computer Science professor Joseph Weizenbaum — facetiously — suggested "the social utility of date rape" and "the upside of genocide" as ways to tell the "other side" of the story, when in fact, there is no viable other side.

Advertising-Funded Media

Description

This pattern presents the system wherein media stations are primarily funded by selling advertising time to others. This time is often very expensive and favors large companies. This creates a system in which the media answers not to the public, but to the companies that are paying for the advertising time.

Money talks, therefore the companies or individuals with the most money represent the strongest voice. Advertisers represent the consumers of the product, therefor they have the best idea of what the public wants. If media outlets do not cooperate with advertisers they are not providing what is best for the viewers. This ensures the media only presents content that is acceptable to the consumer.

Evidence

The search for ratings to support advertisers has been the system for years. News media in particular has been sensationalizing stories in order to draw eyes onto their channel and to advertisements.

Weapons of Mass Distraction

Time Square in NYC-an example of societal distractions

Description

Societal distractions can be naturally occurring or manufactured in such a way as to distract people and subvert their attention away from social and civic issues of concern to something more menial. If properly occupied by such distractions, people can be better controlled and thier attention diverted to issues of unimportance.

Cell phones, movies, sports, games, celebrity, Soap Operas, Music, war, holidays, reality TV shows, etc. What do these things have in common? They are all possible to use as Weapons of Mass Distraction. Distractions can be

useful and are possibly even necessary for human happiness, however they can also distract people from other goals or areas of interest that could be addressed, most notably political, social, and human rights issues. Any country or entity that employs this tactic is essentially saying that an informed and motivated public is a dangerous thing and a distracted and apathetic public is much preferred.

Evidence

Evidence of mass distraction being used as a technique to pacify the masses is very difficult to find. This is partly because much of it may occur naturally and organically and does not necessarily point to a organized effort on the part of any political party or persons in positions of power. Never-the-less, the outcome is the same: pacification and apathy toward social change, civic engagement, and other possible causes of contention with those in power.

Throughout history one of the more common themes in revolution and uprising in societies is that people who rise up and take action against those in power are not getting what they desire and often are of the opinion that there is an unfair disparity of resources: namely wealth, food, quality of life, land, and pursuit of happiness in its many forms. There is often a tipping point of dissatisfaction with the current system and some precipitating event that sparks action. Usually an extreme disparity of wealth, happiness and comfort is involved and lives are very much at stake.

One way to stop or slow the possibility of growing dissatisfaction in a population is to provide them with enough distractions and entertainment that they have no time or willpower to be dissatisfied enough to do anything about it. A population that places a high enough value on entertainment can effectively be enslaved in their vices, and are in this way pacified from the pursuit of change within a society.

Links

Societal Apathy, Media Monopolies, Hidden Agendas

Results

The seventh category contains the patterns that we believe represent the results or byproducts of civic ignorance. Note that each of these is also a pattern in that these tend to act as ongoing social determinants.

Dehumanization

Scars of a whipped Mississippi slave.

Description

One of the best ways to exploit and mistreat a population is to distance oneself from them as much as possible. We can justify our actions against others by portraying our enemies as sub-human monsters that deserve less that ethical treatment. By creating rigid us/them boundaries we can effectively establish that "we" are in the right, and "they" are dead wrong.

Dehumanization is an effective method of controlling the populace. The target group will suffer psychologically and become accustomed to the maltreatment, and the conformist population will have an enemy that is easy to hate and blame problems on. By continually treating and portraying subsets of people who aren't in line with the goals of the state as less than human, that representation will eventually permeate the minds of the rest of the population. As the rest of the population adopts the dehumanizing attitude, they will naturally treat the target peoples with malice. This will serve to reinforce the aims of the state and will create an institutionalized oppression.

Evidence

Treatment of slaves in America was generally brutal, degrading, and inhumane. About 25% of colonial Americans owned slaves, but because slave labor was considerably cheaper than hired labor, nearly all of the white population benefited from slavery in some way. Slave labor as well as slave trade factored heavily into the economies of all colonies. Even most of those who were morally against slavery participated indirectly because it made financial sense. 200 years after abolition racist attitudes towards African Americans persist.

During colonial times and through the westward expansion across America, Native Americans were referred to and considered savages. The term savages was used specifically to help foster an attitude toward them as being less than human, which aided in justifying the slaughter of many, and relegating the rest to reservations.

Shortly after Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, President Roosevelt ordered the internment of over 100,000 people of Japanese ancestry. One Wyoming camp was described as "a barbed-wire-surrounded enclave with unpartitioned toilets, cots for beds, and a budget of 45 cents daily per capita for food rations." The proliferation of anti-Japanese propaganda fueled a fear mongering campaign that largely justified the internment in the minds of the civilian population.

Links

Cultural imperialism, Criminalizing Poverty, Racism, Silenced Voices, Xenophobia

Racism

Klan members who are openly racist

Description

Racism is the overt and covert, conscious and subconscious, belief that people of different ethnicities are **not** inherently equal. As seen in Anglo Americans treatment and view of Africans in the past and the present, a racist assumption of ethnic superiority supports and underlies exploitation, actual and monetary enslavement, and denying basic human rights to those in need.

How it Works

Racism has historically been the internalized belief that Europian Anglo-Americans have used to justify their conquest, capture, enslavement, killing, and rape of Indigenous people and their land.The belief that certain ethnicities are inferior or superior can become internalized and expressed subtly through actions or words that demean or dehumanize others. It allows one group, race, of nation to justify their domination of another people while believing that they are "civilizing" them. Racist beliefs and behavior are often learned from parents and/or role models. As a form of dehumanization, racism denies that humanity is one species and that what one does to another they do to themselves.

Evidence

Early in American history, slaves were brought over from Africa. They obviously looked, talked, and acted differently than the Europeans colonizing the West at the time. These Africans were treated as property and had no standing in society. Overtime and through legislation, slaves were freed and granted rights. However, many people have not accepted these people and their descendants as equals, particularly in the South early on, where the slave trade was most prominent for farming.

Links

Dehumanization Silenced Voices Violence

Xenophobia

Us Vs. Them Mentality

Description

An "Us & Them" mentality that leads to prejudice and an anti- humanitarian perspective. Enables people to pit against each other through dehumanization and ultra-nationalism.

Xenophobia is what causes one group of humans to enslave, murder, and act out in a generally violent manner towards another group of human beings. News coverage often times subtly encourages xenophobic beliefs for hidden political agendas. Common tool used during times of war.

Evidence

An example of xenophobia is the news coverage of Muslims, the general reactions to Middle-Easterners in America, and the war in Iraq.

Xenophobia Against Muslims in the U.S. (http://newsbusters.org/blogs/clay-waters/2011/09/13/ny-times-commemorates-9-11-rise-hate-crimes-xenophobia-against-muslims)

Links

Ultra-nationalism, Racism,Hidden Agendas, Media Monopolies, Societal Apathy, Denialism, Cultural Imperialism, Fear Mongering, Dumbing Down.

Societal Apathy

Being apathetic to the suffering of those around you is a kind of societal apathy

Description

By definition, this is "absence or suppression of passion, emotion, or excitement." When adding the social aspect to this, it creates a negative connotation. Not only is one absent of their own life's situations, they care even less about the situations of others-- even if they can do something about it. Social apathy is a desensitization of humane involvement where society is concerned. Much like "Unacknowledged Privileges" this a great pattern of avoiding opportunistic callings. Whenever one comes upon a chance to make a difference in another person's life they can fall back on the fact that it is "not their problem."

The belief that "you can't fight city hall" also helps to ensure inaction. Basing one's know of historically failed attempts, where there is a small group concern for important issues, they can "pass the buck" and ignore the problem.

Evidence

The events of Pearl Harbor rallied America to arms in joining WW2.

See: US Non-Interventionism Policy:

George Washington's farewell address is often cited as laying the foundation for a tradition of American non-interventionism: The great rule of conduct for us, in regard to domestic nations, is in extending our commercial relations, to have with them as little political connection as possible. Europe has a set of primary interests, which to us have none, or a very remote relation. Hence she must be engaged in frequent controversies the causes of which

are essentially foreign to our concerns. Hence, therefore, it must be unwise in us to implicate ourselves, by artificial ties, in the ordinary vicissitudes of her politics, or the ordinary combinations and collisions of her friendships or enmities. (1)

By not affiliating too closely with the rest of the world, the US attempted to avoid involvement in a situation that affected everyone. This elevates Social to National Apathy. The US were pivotal in tipping the balance of WW2, even though their hand was forced.

Links

Unacknowledged Privilege, Denialism

Resources

(1) United States non-interventionism (http://en.metapedia.org/wiki/United_States_non-interventionism)

Unacknowledged Privilege

Description

Ignorance of one's plot in life- by way of not realizing where one is in comparison to others (countries, people, monetary value, etc.).

One does not have to waste time on the responsibilities of being aware of their privilege of existence. If there is no demand to acknowledge anything beyond what is provided to us, especially if we have more than what we need, then there is no need to be mindful of how we are and what we do with, such, privileges in life.

Behaving or speaking without any regard of audience and environment around you- when dealing with topics safety, wealth, power, freedom, and etc. in which there are a plethora of situations.

Links

Social Apathy, Denialism

References

White Genocide (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QAebOPGpp0k)