

CIVILIZATION

From Savior to Slaver?

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If we are to assume that the Meaning of Life has something to do with the struggle to make survival, and the Quality of the resultant life, better and better for Individuals and Groups through time, we have to take account of why Civilization was such a great engine for advancement, and why it may now be straining towards tolling the death knell of Man's hopes and dreams of ever reaching a Utopia.

At its most basic, Civilization is the hammer-and-tongs beating of less powerful groups into the image of the more powerful. Along the lines of *Survival of the Fittest*, Civilization has weeded out the unfit, rewarded those more powerful with their spoils, and then forced the less fit into their mold. Those societies which could generate enough wealth and power to defeat their neighbors, were obviously better fit than the vanquished societies – better in that they had developed some tool of survival which assured their people a better shot at staying alive. This is vital because first and foremost, no matter the Quality of one's life, if he gets dead, that Quality will not be able to be shared with others or passed on to Junior. So, of greater importance at the outset of history was Quantity of life. When your species is in a close contest with lions, and tigers, and bears – an enlightened soul is of much less use than some aggressive clod with a sharpened stick.

With Civilization, we've progressed quite a bit – from poking others with sharpened sticks to the horrors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. And as ruthless as this depiction of Civilization may be, it is far less ruthless than that which predated it – the Old Testament paradigm of totally annihilating the Group with which you are in contest. “Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass.” These were Yahweh's orders to his troops in the Middle East back in the old days. (It is rumored that the Amaleks had a highly developed cuisine utilizing camel's milk and millet, but we will never know, because they are no more.)

Compare that methodology with Civilization's modern evolution dealing with that same patch of the sand. The civilized way to go about it is to first thoroughly demonize in your press, whoever has what you want. You tell your own folks that these hitherto unknown peasants are very mean, dirty, and backwards, and that they are about to unleash a catastrophic attack on Mom, Apple Pie, and the local PTA's. Once you have enough popular support, you launch a pre-emptive attack devastating their rudimentary defenses and infrastructure – water, electricity, and their capacity to feed themselves. Now that there is nothing much to stop your troops (except for the total unified hatred of the local population towards them), you invade, arrest and run through your court system all their previous leaders. Find them guilty (little surprise there), and then install your own people as their new leaders. Voila! After a few generations of grinding suppression, they will emerge civilized, and able to sustainably trade with the rest of the heretofore civilized world. One big happy family! And the recipe for Camel's Milk Quiche will not be lost!

When it all started, Quality of life took a back seat to Quantity of life. “Better Red than dead!” If there are no folks alive, it is certain that there would be no Quality of life; whereas if you are at least alive in a communal cave, there is a chance that you might be asked to join the country club next season. Civilization has assured a very high Quantity of folks. But, Quantity is not the whole of the formula! As efficient as Civilization is at homogenizing all societies along the lines of the most powerful, once every street corner in every city on earth looks pretty much like every other street corner in every other city on earth, there is no advantage in continuing the brutal process of Civilization. We must remember that Quality of life is also an essential ingredient in the Meaning of Life.

Some of the basic lessons, and resultant maxims of Civilization, are that “Bigger is better,” “Might makes right,” and “It’s the economy, stupid!” Empires, while unwieldy, have always been the norm under Civilization. What we are staggering towards today is the mythical New World Order – the empire to end all empires! This inevitable heaven on earth is the pinnacle of “Bigger is better.” The NWO will be a good thing, because we are told that the ugly “Might makes right,” will be tamed, and that no one will be able to hurt anyone else once all weapons – especially those dread Weapons of Mass Destruction – are pried from the cold, dead grasp of the last so armed meanie. Only the good guys, trained to Protect and Serve, will have them. It is assumed that whoever is anointed to rule the whole of the planet will institute a benevolent reign, rivaling Christ’s long-awaited 1000-Year Reich. Although I find it hard to argue against such a picture of earthly paradise, I have heard some objections from the inevitable naysayers, that all is not well with the NWO.

They suggest that what is really coming down the pike is not a paradise, but a corporate version of eternal sustainable profits for the chosen few. Corporations, not nations, are the real Mr. Bigs of today. They say that Eisenhower’s warning (which predictably came after he had any ability to actually *do* anything about it) was more of an announcement of a foregone shift of power, than it was a warning. And that global corporations have long just been using nations as frontmen to keep folks blind to what was really going on behind the scenes. And that since corporations are in essence artificial entities, they say that Mankind will wind up living on a worldwide people farm ruled by corporate robots – a scenario not too unlike *The Matrix*. Those naysayers insist that Quality of life will be only for the elite few – the interlocking directorates of the global corporations, and their families (blood is thicker than water) – and that a slavish super-controlled daily regimen will be the lot of the masses allowed to survive.

If you have followed along, nodding your head in agreement – and in wonder that some unknown writer could so cogently outline ancient to modern history, and provide such a prescient take on the future – I hope you will demand that my price is met for the solution to this dire prognosis. And yes, I do have the solution – it is within our grasp today!