The Philosophy Works®
Lakeville, Minnesota, USA

Compassion*ism*

A *governance strategy* - in its infancy

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Reduce experience to perceived essentials for good.

™

Expect little from one mind.
-or-
Suffer scoundrels.

What better place to think?

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Appendix "A"- has supplemental material. (See page 11)

Appendix "B"- has the web links.   (See page 12)
                    - changes don't affect the version number.

Compassion*ism*

is a **_governance strategy_** for implementing _The Golden Rule:_
"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."
as a _group_ concept… by pursuing **_the science of_ "the common good".**

Compassionism's **_opening assumption_**:
The word **"honesty"** needs to be _usefully re-defined_, becoming **_a call-for-action_**.
So that, for example, <u>no</u> <u>one</u> can _claim to be -_ or _be perceived as -_ **honest** by merely <u>not</u> <u>communicating</u>.

"honesty" is**:** "**Striving to provide _information_ and _understandings, in efficient ways,_ which _inform the planning_ and _decisions_ of other people, including friends, strangers, and foes, to their _constructive Earthly benefit_ in the short and long term.**"
Thus re-defined, the word "honesty" proactively fulfills "the golden rule".
"silence" is**:** "**not communicating**" – & _is_ neither honest nor dishonest.
"dishonesty" is**:** "_Misrepresenting, denying the existence of_, or _omitting useful details of_: information or understandings which would _inform_ other people to their constructive Earthly benefit in the short or long term._"

Hence: **_Compassionism_ seeks <u>honest</u> _governance._**

The focus of _Compassionism_ is:

Striving to achieve benefits while avoiding catastrophes
in almost everyone's lives <u>worldwide</u>
– in an enduring way –
using the foundation of
simplified, mechanized, & <u>extensible</u> * public domain **standards**
on which are built
transparent & traceable **governance decision models**
combined with
obvious, known, shared, minimal,& uniformly-enforced **rules.**

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* **extensible**: _being able to extend_
- implies having **_the means_ <u>already</u> <u>in</u> <u>place</u> to add functionalities** beyond the intended scope.

Said another way…

For *a proposed course of action*:
IF: 'common sense' is (re-)defined as *having the means* <u>to check for potential</u> <u>catastrophes</u> in other dimensions of life (where *more dimensions* implies *more common sense*),
and 'judgment' is (re-)defined as the *having the means* <u>to check for potential benefits</u> in other dimensions of life (where *more dimensions* implies *more judgment*),

Then: **Compassionism** strives to bring *common sense* and *judgment* to bear,
yielding enduring, proportional, predictable social outcomes
in transparent, teachable, equitable, enlightening, & empowering ways.

If: you accept the idea that "**Compassionism**" (as characterized on page two)
is a <u>**noble objective**</u> as a governance strategy.

Then: *Keep in mind* that *we're on the same page.*
If the world's **present leaders** can realize Compassionism: **Hurray! Do it.**
If the world's **academic experts** can realize Compassionism: **Hurray! Do it.**
If the world's **faith-centered people** can realize Compassionism: **Hurray! Do it.**
… etc. …

Perhaps you will **strongly disagree** with my recommendations about *achieving* Compassionism (which follow). **No problem whatsoever.** *Stay focused.*

Keep our <u>*noble objective*</u> *in sight*, & **get us there** <u>**your way**</u>**!**

Working *alone*, <u>neither</u> *my brain* <u>nor</u> any of *your brains* are likely to deliver the plan which realizes Compassionism (again – you're welcome to *prove me wrong*).

As the logo on the front page suggests, I <u>fear</u> the dark side of '*single human minds* going where **human nature** might lead'; my reasons include: *human brain space is limited, subconscious motivations abound, rationalization is a mental reflex, & despots are people too.*

In a nutshell, I have *two recommendations*:

Emphasize: *extensible standards* and
De-emphasize: *"Leaders".*

Make *extensibility* a part of **standards**
so that **standards** will become *empowering*.

Consider how extensibility improves Standards:

On computers, being able to *add new features* to existing programs/applications, *upgrade display hardware and software*, and *add peripheral equipment* are **examples of *extensibility*.**

George Orwell's 20th century novel ***1984*** encouraged the fear of 'automated government' bounding the *individual life choices of citizens* like cookie-cutters *limit the shape of cookies.* **Standardization *could, can, & should* incorporate *means for extensibility***, to assure a ***reasonable empowerment*** for people to *explore, adapt, & invent* beyond the bounds of the standard environment.

With extensibility added, standards become *the foundation on which* innovation can be **launched**, **utilized**, and **communicated**. Furthermore, there'll be much less need to 'reinvent the wheel' – a big time saver. "Standards-based education" will become a genuinely useful reality.

A caution: **Extensibilities** based on **lax standards** can create **quagmires**.
You, the reader, & I share English as a somewhat-*standard* shared language, allowing me to communicate to you. On the other hand, social words are no-better-than *clues*. The meanings of *social English words* have been morphed at will, for personal gain, for centuries – hence we have no firm foundation for social discourse; e.g.: *'honesty' as defined in 20th century dictionaries* are studies in **dishonesty**. **Sloppy *word definitions*** will impair Compassionism's progress.

Standards provide other, more familiar benefits as well:

The benefits of ***standards* as *foundations*** abound, *predictability* being one. Examples:
Standard environments often have vibrant infrastructures - 4'x8' sheets of plasterboard are inexpensive, readily available building materials.
Driving on the highway – a painted line separates you from oncoming traffic.
Many *replacement parts* are priced as commodities that are widely available.

In creating standards, ***simplification* & *synergy*** support **common sense** & **judgment**.
Simplification & synergy converge on *fewer, more clearly expressed factors* that **sharpen mental focus** by *reducing the number of cross-checks needed* to *achieve benefits* while *avoiding catastrophes*. These useful **e*xperience filters*** address the question: "Has anything changed *which should alter* what-I-do-next"? People who *text while driving* risk *distraction – overload of their experience filters*.

Knowledge is already being **mechanized** on computers.

Software algorithms can trap procedural knowledge in inexpensive, enduring, ultra-precise, quickly exercisable, transferable, inter-operable ways that unaided human minds will never match. ***What we know*** <u>**is**</u> *the basis* of common sense & judgment; **computers can help us keep track of** *what we know***.**

During his lifetime, Buckminster Fuller (who is known for inventing the *geodesic dome*) saw the 1970's advent of *the personal computer* as a watershed event, because research & development could be freed from corporate & government control. Today's powerful personal computers outperform the mainframe computers of the 1970's; tools to mechanize knowledge are at hand.

A simple example: Algebra problems with more than three equations in three unknowns are efficiently and accurately solved by computers, whereas the results are error-prone when done by hand, and hence of little recurring value.

Another example: **C**omputer **A**ided **D**esign/**C**omputer **A**ided **M**anufacturing (CAD/CAM) systems create an improving path for moving desired parts to production. *Additive manufacturing* (a.k.a. "3-D printing") forms prototype parts directly from CAD designs automatically & without the use of jigs & fixtures.

The hardware and software of *a standard computing environment*, overseen & coordinated by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) would provide **a robust baseline for education**, and provide the means for achieving ***certified mastery of particular academic subjects*** - independent of particular educational institutions. Include compilers so that anyone-who-wants-to can add new features to the standard software – thus assuring that the standard computing environment isn't stifling to personal creativity.

Patents could then be ***taught*** by **adding** ***virtual, exercisable models of the inventions*** to the standard software environment, and ***enforcing patents*** could become an integral part of the government's ***discouragement of theft***, rather than an occasion for expensive, drawn-out litigations (& the threats thereof) by patent attorneys. In part, the scope of remaining patent squabbles would be reduced because being "skilled in the art" would be defined by *the standard knowledge of the day* which would have worldwide visibility.

Privatization of "what is publicly known" is counter-productive.

Unfortunately, **the extension of** *copyrights* to protection of ***software tools*** & ***data*** puts the free public use of software improvements and data on a **77-year hold,** rather than a patent-based **17-year hold** which allows companies to **withdraw the infrastructure** supporting particular ***software tools*** from the market. My large box of **expensive-but-worthless-and-useless** *copyrighted***,** *licensed* **software** contrasts

sharply with my ongoing *productive use* of *once-patented tools* **that belonged to my parents & my grandparents.**

There's no requirement to teach *what's actually copyrighted* **in a copyright.** Meanwhile, people are *subject to lawsuits* for *violating* copyrights. ***Privatization with a broad brush* results** - using *paint brushes* the size of *street sweepers*. An English group claims copyright of "The Lords Prayer" in the Lutheran Hymnal – having changed only *a few words* of the traditional prayer. A college student submitting a revised *Lords Prayer* with comparably few words changed **would be <u>thrown</u> <u>out</u> <u>of</u> <u>school</u> for *plagiarism*** . Legally owning '***The Prayer of Jesus'*** takes *copyright excess* to the pinnacle of asserted presumption, while turning *plagiarism* into a *farce* in the same big brush stroke. We have a ***wakeup call*** for **copyright reform**. We also have ***clear notice*** that "Plagiarism" is another quagmire of present-day *English...an avenger with attitude for some people* & *'a beckoning free lunch ticket'* for others. The quagmire nourishes our ethical flaccidity.

Carefully standardized, mechanized, shared public knowledge, including software algorithms, **may be** *as close as a society can get* to **"excellent, affordable public education"** that provides a common starting point for discourse and innovation. Why pass up the opportunity?

Recommendation #2: --

De-emphasize the need for competent Leaders as decision makers.

Get rid of leaders? No way! **Good looking, smooth talking, spokespersons** for government, finance, commerce, education, healthcare, etc.… eye candy + soothing words… Toastmasters graduates… **bring 'em on; thanks to you all!**

At least one **politician** is characterizing American *taxation of the rich* as '**class warfare**' – apparently *accepting-on-faith* his personal *presumption* that America is intended to have **a deeply stratified society.** This is not a *wakeup call* for the rest of us –

People are already *camped out on Wall Street* in New York…
looking for answers.

If *unbounded personal greed* isn't inevitable, then **it's time to** *get crackin'* on:
Leadership decision making *damage control*.

Mentally unaided people with political and organizational power are *excessively subject to influence* by people who have vast wealth, & vice-versa.; the 'class warfare' political speech trumpets the interconnect. **My** take on ***where* the leadership mess** came from**, what** we're up against**, & how** we can start *digging out* **follows.**

The perks* of *leadership *(wine, women, song, wealth, estates, slaves, sycophants, the thrill of victory resulting from better spies & a weapons advantage, etc.)* were **extreme-enough often-enough** that **keep-*me*-in-power/money strategies** have been nurtured **for <u>thousands</u> of years**. Making one's leadership divinely indispensable was one of the strategies - the "King/Gods" and Patriarchs come to mind. Asserting genetic superiority – the "royal-blood" ploy. Using force to make other people followers has been another strategy - a long list of despots comes to mind. Monopoly – made infamous by America's "robber barons" in the late 1800's. *Creating* complexities that-can't-be-avoided and dominating the solutions is another - lawyers excel. Creating & funding opponents, financing the wars, *and* profiting from the terminal chaos – The Rothschild Bank in Europe could have *taught the class*. Gaining perceived-control of *perceived-necessities* and holding back on delivery *so that more money is thrown at the problem* (hence *being ever-better-compensated for marginal delivery*) – rising American health insurance costs, education costs, and weapon acquisition costs bear a resemblance. The list goes on.

As a mental exercise: Consider how World History *might have unfolded* if leaders *had **no perks** as **the norm***; lots of perk-less people do their jobs cheerfully, diligently & competently every day.

Embracing personal selfishness as *the key organizing principle of governance* is **a bad idea;** as a blueprint for enduring social stability the embrace is *a fool's errand.* Selfishness naturally has strong roots in the motivation of human beings. *Encouragement* of selfishness, let alone the *enshrinement*, adds fuel to mental fires that naturally burn too brightly.

America's present governance plan has become ***a gridlock of competing self-interest groups. Fractured polarization*** results from the "<u>largest</u>-<u>minority</u>-<u>vote</u> <u>wins</u>" approach of our multi-candidate elections. ***Disproportionate effects*** of "simple-majority rule" combined with *<u>excessive</u> <u>individual</u> & <u>subgroup</u> <u>veto</u> <u>power</u>* **render** a 48% minority ***proactively powerless***.

Until the 21st century, humanity was faced with the choice of: *having leaders* or *having anarchy* because *leadership* was *mental decision making*. Humanity chose to have leaders. As *lethal <u>automated</u> military forces* decrease the need for *soldiers* - how will we assure ourselves protection from *our own* national leaders?

In the 21st century **powerful computers are among us as commodities**. (Pocket-size devices, such as personal GPS auto navigators, are examples of *marvelous decision aids.*) **Evolving, semi-automated leadership paradigms** can finally **break the grip** that wealthy and powerful people have had on governance. *Good leadership* <u>exceeds</u> one-brain-full of paradigms, but need-not-become **rocket science.**

The time is ripe to *rethink* "leadership".

Consider *thinking-based professions.* A key reason that thinking-based professions exist is that the work products of professions (are perceived to…) matter and are not easily &/or inexpensively verified for accuracy; *a benign example* is (***Land) Surveying***:

S*urveying* has been a profession - & historically - <u>not</u> an amateur activity, because actual property line locations have defined land ownership. There was no timely/ inexpensive/ reliable way to verify the work of amateur surveyors, and fielding a second surveyor to verify the work of the first surveyor would have doubled the expense. The good news: surveying has been ***reliably teachable to individuals.*** .

Our *professional politicians,* relying only on *their own training,* are excluded from the prestige enjoyed by *professional surveyors* because:

<div align="center">

Balanced political decisions

for achieving **the common good** (whatever that might be)

have **too many dimensions**

to *cram into* **one human mind.**

</div>

Hence, politics will be better served by *traceable* **simulation/decision models** that (even) amateurs can exercise effectively. **In the "Professional Surveyors" sense, the emergence of "Professional Politicians" <u>won't</u> <u>happen</u>**. (I'm OK with being proven wrong – **soon**!)

The scattered "*points*" made by candidates in *American political debates* bring to mind a *~National Geographic* article from years ago, wherein *5000 bullet holes* were counted in the ceiling of a bunkhouse in the American West - attributed to the cowhands' *recreational shooting of flies.*

Condensing the core principles of governance to their most peacefully constructive and productive subset, ***removing*** pernicious & dysfunctional complexity from "the rules", and ***defining*** a standardized baseline of contemporary knowledge may allow humanity to ***avoid*** **recurring self-inflicted hardships** – e.g. wars & financial collapses - for the first time. Let's make "how our government works" *an open book.*

The benefits of achieving *mechanized decision traceability* abound. In contrasting *speeches* vs. *simulations***,** consider <u>**assumptions:**</u> In *simulations*, the *implemented assumptions* are available for *review & critique*, whereas *speeches* commonly *sweep-under-the-rug* the *darker aspects* of objectives & consequences (which are the motivating assumptions)… to widen the size of the receptive audience. So, in proposing a course of action, *intended results of a speech* are difficult to guess, whereas *predicted* consequences can *all be foreseen* in a simulation.

Part of the function of *political lobbyists* is to assure that *the special interests* of particular groups/entities are not *pushed off the table* by ignorance, neglect, or whatever in the verbal rough & tumble of our political process. Recently – some politicians have recently called for *eliminating healthcare* for millions of people – which, in a ***transparent governance model***, would be <u>**zeroing**</u> **the partial derivative of health-with-respect-to-healthcare for** some but-not-all **people,**

which is *stunningly uncompassionate*, if not *un-Golden Rule*. (The "**eliminate healthcare for** *some* **people**" nonsense was my **wakeup call** to **write this paper**.)
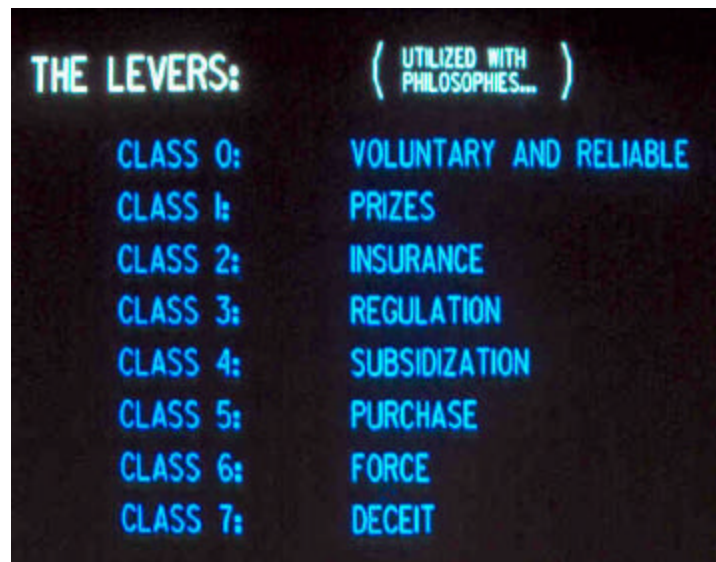
As mentioned before: **A** *fatal flaw* **of speeches (including debates) using the** *social words* **of the present** *English Language* is that the social words are only vaguely defined (at *best*) and have been abused and morphed with willful abandon - at least since Shakespeare's time, if not before. A prime example, after "**honesty**", is the abused & morphed English word: **"loyalty"**. American society has taught its children that loyalty is a key human virtue, but the *scope of behavior* that loyalty is meant to produce is almost completely undefined. People have been endlessly accused of being *disloyal* for not supporting "the next cause", whatever the cause may be; how can anyone be "disloyal" to any new idea? *Calling for loyalty to negations*, "anti-" causes, is *bizarre* (e.g. being "anti-communist") - human energy would be better spent on constructively improving what we are in favor of.

Unfortunately - **what we're in favor of** is presently **a big squabble** rather than **a shared vision** within the USA. In place of *paralyzing extremes*, *models allow* tradeoffs of "-pro" and "-anti" resource allocations to have *proportion*s, *cause & effect,* and *adjustability.*

In "*Systemantics*", John Gall observed that **large systems that work** have had their roots in **smaller systems that worked**.

In that spirit, **the quest for an overall governance model** could begin **by automating** *present jobs that are being performed inefficiently with high levels of compensation* – **an orderly follow-on** of **the industrial revolution**, wherein *jobs performed inefficiently with low levels of compensation* were automated. If *entrenched formal & informal personal veto power* is replaced by *a more constructive shared understandings* of the weighting factors underlying decisions – then *understandings* will be able to endure as personnel changes occur within organizations and bureaucracies, *new ideas* will have fair evaluation, and *the efficiency and equity of work environments* may be improved for the majority of workers.

Better leadership is about finding **more efficient <u>levers</u>** to move society in **useful directions**. The following viewgraph was part of my presentation at the SAE's **Aerospace Vehicle Requirements Conference** in Washington D.C. in May, 1985. I claimed that *lowering the lever class* (moving up on the list) was desirable.

The list still looks thoughtful to me 26 years later. <u>Now</u> a computing environment embodying **extensible standards** and **transparent governance decisions** may realize **autonomy** **without** **anarchy**… enriching the realization of:
Class 0: "voluntary and reliable" leadership leverage.

*The historical record of **service to self** shows that* there is **<u>no</u> <u>limit</u> to human ingenuity**.

Given **boundless human ingenuity**, *refocused*, we can *realize Compassionism*.

*keeping our <u>noble</u> <u>objective</u> in sight**, let's press on**!*

Appendix A: Supplemental Material: --------------------------------

1. Perhaps humanity will look back on *achieving transparent governance* and say: "that wasn't so tough"; but looking forward, *where to start* is bewildering. In ancient Greece, Archimedes (the levers guy) said: "Give me a place to stand on, & I will move the Earth". In political matters there is no existing bedrock to serve as the clear foundation of governance models. Having a compact, comprehensive summary of world history to serve as <u>a common starting reference</u> is the next-best alternative to having a foundation. I recommend the use of:

Durant, Will and Aerial. ***The Lessons of History***

(New York: Simon & Schuster, 1968). LoCCCN 68-19949.

Arrange for *The Lessons of History* to become an in-print & electronic public domain resource. Sharing the Durant's view of human experience will create a broad framework for categorizing the similarities, differences, and synergies of proposed features of the evolving governance model, and could also serve as an industrial-strength High School history textbook. [The Durants did their homework first – in the course of writing 11 volumes of carefully-researched world history – before writing their 103 pages of *Lessons.*]

If we want to learn from history, then **the Durant's book is an English-based American masterpiece**. It seems likely that **the Chinese have a comparable-but-differently-informed masterpiece** arising from their 3000+ year historical experience which would add dimensions to the Durant's framework; **other societies may also have gems to add to the historical mix**. We <u>can</u> all *learn together* from human history.

2. Short of *evolving the transparent governance model(s)*, *or automating inefficient but highly compensated jobs*, <u>anyone</u> <u>who's</u> <u>interested</u> can write their own version of "**My Philosophy of my Job**" concerning the environment that they function in, *or aspire to function in*.

   "**Philosophy**" is: "**The reduction of experience to its perceived essentials**."

The writing exercises create additional anchor points which facilitate comparison of the essential similarities & differences of various people's viewpoints & strategies, which will eventually be useful in creating compact robust simulation & decision models.

   As an example, I drafted "A Philosophy of Philosophies" (a meta-philosophy) in 1993, updated in 2004 as "The Peacefully Adaptive School" and posted the results on my website: www.setterholm.com The document is: "Learning Together in a Diverse World.pdf" in the root directory and the *key elements* of "**The Peacefully Adaptive School**" are listed in English **on page five**.
   (Alternately use: http://ftp.setterholm.com/Philosophy/LTDW20.pdf)

3. I spent a third of 2011 writing "**Hyperspace Algebra Tools**", which is my attempt to smooth the transition of students from *Algebra 1* into *Linear Algebra* and beyond, hence

to inspire and empower young people <u>worldwide</u> to begin embracing quantitative analysis involving many variables. The link is:

http://ftp.setterholm.com/PseudoInverse/Hat.pdf

The current version is 0.50 wherein Appendix "P", on pages 49 and 50, addresses *transparent (i.e. traceable)* **governance** & offers *ample reasons* for humanity to move beyond reliance on "the invisible mental gears" of individual politicians. **Compassionism010.pdf is infant #2.** *The game is already afoot –* & headed ***heaven-only-knows where***. **Welcome aboard!**

(For an overview of my website content: see: http://ftp.setterholm.com/Directory.pdf)

Appendix B: Web links: --

Changes to Appendix B *alone* will only change the Compassionism.pdf *website file date*.
November 3rd 2011:

WebLink: www.setterholm.com Compassionism.pdf
= http://ftp.setterholm.com/Compassionism.pdf

After download, save this file as **Compassionism010.pdf**
Later versions will use the same WebLink file name.
Hence later versions will replace earlier versions on my website.

A Google search suggests that the word "Compassionism" was in use by the mid 1990's.
I defined my meaning of the word on page two, without referring to other people's prior usage.

I encourage cooperative *non-exclusive* progress on **realizing Compassionism**. Here I'll list ~20 links to *other people's efforts* toward that **noble objective**. Agreeing with my recommendations isn't necessary, but I'll need to perceive your *constructive intent*. **If your views are resonant** with my definition of **Compassionism** on page two, contact me via
Email: jeff.setterholm@gmail.com