

Trust? -or- Bust?

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Version 2.0 March 29th, 2016

Web Link: <http://ftp.setterholm.com/WorldPeace/TrustOrBust.pdf>

Save as: TrustOrBust20.pdf

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The PhilosophyWorks®

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In seeking “world peace”, most of us, including me, lack even the basic vocabulary needed for success. Why? The people who have realized the most benefits from “how things are” have protected their personal gravy trains... “Those who have the gold have made the rules”. The existence of a meaningful vocabulary whereby anyone could easily characterize social inequities would have interfered with the concentration of wealth and power.

World peace is just another problem. The resources to solve the problem have been available for centuries, but instead, the lions share of resources have been directed to preserving those gravy trains.

Many people have suffered over time; history has witnessed:

- > The expansion & contraction of empires driven by violent conflicts;
- > The rise and fall of tyrants who have torn societies apart, and sometimes arranged for the killing of millions of people;
- > Groups of people enslaving other groups of people for generations with a clear conscience;
- > Etc., etc. for thousands of years.

Treating less powerful groups of people harshly & unfairly has been commonplace. Revolts were frequently quelled by killing the revolutionaries, at which point specific threats to the status quo were eliminated.

Trust?

Social trust amongst human beings has decayed to the point that turning the tide of mistrust would be, at best, an uphill battle. What new paradigms would allow humanity to achieve “victimless contentment”? An instructive social vocabulary, revised business & banking paradigms, clear rules, and a much larger emphasis on instilling a shared understanding of *self-restraint* in all of us... may be pieces of the multi-dimensional masterpiece which would create international trust among human beings. *Creating enduring social trust* and *governing nations well* are closely related challenges.

Bust?

Staying on the old fashioned gravy trains isn't likely to be an easy ride. Revolt-inclined people will be able to disperse robots - 'intelligent', targeted autonomous attack vehicles and mechanisms - which will survive their deaths. Rich & powerful people will be among those who feel the heat of these "persistent & targeted retribution systems", religious fanatics may likewise warm things up for perceived 'infidels', and so on. Infant examples of the changing times are already in the news... e.g. drone strikes & the organized fielding of suicide bombers.

Furthermore, targeted retribution – though harsh - will seem like ‘the good old days’ when compared to the broad-brush persistence of diseases being used to settle scores.

How will people with vast wealth and power respond to the emerging threats to their ways of life? Will the ravaging of human social thought for personal gain continue to be ‘the way to go’?