

# The Civilization Box

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Is War and Conquest still the paradigm you want to pursue? Are Preemptive Strikes the best Defense? Can different people ever live together in Peace? And who can save Man from Man himself? Are you up to the task of handling these questions?

Well, if you are an Adult, act like one! If you are a child, prepare to go to bed without supper – because things are going to get tough, and your being as a child is not the solution. If you folks really want Peace, you are going to have to take Responsibility for it, and work hard towards it – because sure as hell Daddy ain't going to give it to you! Your Government Leaders have other plans in mind. Perhaps the time for your depending on traditional Government is over. In whatever society you are reading this, recognize that if you are not in direct Control of yourself and your Future, someone else is! And even if that someone else is a good friend or a trusted member of your family, your Future is still up for grabs. Unless your hand is firmly holding the tiller of your little boat, prepare for the worst.

My assumption is that the overwhelming number of people on this planet just want to live peaceful lives. They want to be free to work to provide the necessities for themselves and their families. They want their children to grow up in an environment which will allow them to realize their potentials, so that they too can establish their own families and live peaceful fulfilling lives. The bulk of people – from whatever society – are what you the Reader would call Good People. These good people – the vast majority of all people around the world – endeavor to live honest, quiet lives at peace with their neighbors.

If what I say is true – who or what is keeping this overwhelming majority of good people from having what they want? Is there an easy explanation to the world as it is, with its rampant violence a daily threat? Yes, there is an easy explanation, and I've got it – it's CRIMINALS!!! The answer is Criminals! Criminals, Criminals, Criminals! Criminals do not like to have to work for what they want. Criminals like to take what others have worked to produce, and not have to do the work themselves. Criminals think it is OK to lie and steal to get what they want. Criminals think it is OK to force others to work for them (Slavery). And if necessary, Criminals think it is fine to murder other men, women, and children to get what they want.

Will we ever be without Criminals? No. Like the poor, Criminals will always be with us. All aspects of Humanity will always be with us. The trick is to organize ourselves in such a manner that we don't create fertile fields for those aspects of Humanity that we don't want. Unfortunately, Government provides a very fertile field for Criminals seeking Power over their neighbors. Once they get themselves installed in positions of Power, they can do great mischief, and they are very difficult to uninstall. Worse still, their apparent success infects others with the consideration that perhaps a life of crime is the way to go. “Those rich and powerful 'Public Servants' lie, steal, enslave, and murder – why shouldn't I?”

Willie Sutton (an infamous bank robber in the 1930's) was asked, “Willie, why do you rob banks?” His classic answer was, “Because that's where the money is!” Someone might have asked Adolf, “Adolf why did you go into Government?” Might he have answered, “Because that's where the Power is!”? Adolf Hitler and Willie Sutton were both Criminals! The difference between them was just one of degree – a Criminal with only a gun in his hand can't hope to be as destructive as a Criminal with an army.

An obvious next question would be, “How did a tiny minority of Criminals get to be in control of the majority of the people?” The not so obvious answer, is Man's blind embrace of CIVILIZATION! Civilization is the result of the processes intrinsic to Government. And Government is the motive Force resulting from the predominant underlying political philosophy of the vast majority of people on the planet. This philosophy is in

part the unexamined, and incorrect idea that since the Group is senior to the Individual in Force, it is senior to him in all things.

This is how I see the progression in any Society:

- 1) The majority of people were living in peace.
- 2) Criminals attacked them.
- 3) The people recognized the need for defense from criminals.
- 4) The best defense was an organized Group of greater numbers and Force. (Google "Social Contract")
- 5) But there appeared other organized Groups lead by Criminals.
- 6) The need for ever-larger organized Groups escalated.
- 7) Larger Groups developed the Top-Down organizing structure as necessary to project Force on others.
- 8) That same Force was used against any Group-member who disobeyed the current boss.
- 9) This Top-Down structure is Government.
- 10) Civilization is the product of Governments forcing the vanquished to be like them.
- 11) Governments seek to civilize each other.
- 12) War is the resultant continual state of affairs.

Because War is an ongoing threat to all peoples, the need to maintain the means of defense is also ongoing. It is understood that a Group must have a centralized apparatus to ensure that their defenses are always prepared. It was in this atmosphere of constant need for instant readiness that the Myth of the Group's being senior to the Individual grew. From generation to generation, reliance on a strong Group as a necessity of life, is passed from father to son. No society that wasn't under firm centralized control could expect to survive an attack from a well organized foe. What that means is that there is no time for debate and voting and the training of an army when under attack, or even the threat of attack. There needed to be a constantly prepared force of men under a centralized command structure, to ensure the safety of the Group.

Those societies which put the freedoms of the Individual above the needs of the Group did not survive – they were at too great a disadvantage when confronted by a well organized Group. And if the Group didn't survive, it was likely that the Individuals within the Group would not survive either. So, an Individual's insistence on his independence, and his unwillingness to follow the boss's orders, became a liability in all societies. The hard truth was that a national leader had to know that at a moment's notice he could mobilize a convincing defense.

All societies on Earth are steeped in the concept that the Individual has a Duty to the Group. And what could be more obvious? War has proven time and time again, that without the Group, the Individual is dead! So, obviously, the Individual should sacrifice himself for his Family, Clan, Tribe, City, Nation, Planet. And what this translates into in practical terms is that the Individual has a Duty to obey the Leader of his Group. Any philosophy which disagreed with this concept of chain of command, and which instead emphasized the independence, and basic equality of Individuals, was relegated to religion, or Utopian wishful thinking. (Recognize that giving up Freedom for Security is not a new concept – it is the harsh operation of the Social Contract.)

And so here we are today! All because we needed to protect ourselves from a small minority of Criminals, we have somehow ceded control of our lives to Governments *run* by Criminals. And along the way we have crippled ourselves with the consideration that we as Individuals are as nothing in relation to the almighty Group. Meanwhile the juggernaut of Civilization is grinding on, and on.... Don't you think that perhaps it is time to start thinking outside this particular box?