

Evil Nature of State Religions

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What are Human Beings?

What distinguishes human beings from other animals is **Exchange** of Goods and Ideas among different people and **Caring** for the babies, infants, young, weak, old and dead. No other animals bury their dead ones. Mammals and birds feed their young until growth and independence. After that all living things must live for themselves. When they die, they return to the nature alone.

In the evolution of human beings we know the Neanderthals were already human beings because they buried their dead ones decorating with wild flowers in the fields. For more details see:

<http://www5e.biglobe.ne.jp/~kaorin57/What%20are%20human%20Beings.pdf>

Religion of Human Beings

Worship of ancestors

The Neanderthals apparently had a religion. They must have had an idea of the other world from which one comes by birth and returns to by death. The original religion must have been worship of ancestors because it is the most natural. Every morning I pray to my parents, relatives, teachers, friends who are now in the other world for the peace and prosperity of our world.

Animism

The primitive Homo Sapiens believed in existence of spirits in everything in nature. This is, I think quite natural from our self-observation. We feel we have an internal world which we call mind and our bodies through which we see, listen, smell, taste, touch, sing and talk, move around as we wish in the outer world. In short one is master of oneself. So everything in nature must have spirit in itself.

The animism is, in my opinion, a beginning of science as well as religion. We know that everything in nature rises following natural laws. The regular movements of heavenly bodies, turning of the seasons, movement of every object follow natural laws with complete certainty. The primitive people called it spirit what we now call natural laws.

The remains of stone ages show that all of the basic technologies of civilization were completed in the primitive ages. Sannai-Maruyama remain in Aomori, Japan lasted 17 centuries (3,900~2,200, B.C.) .

It shows how our ancestors lived in the place based on the riches of the mountains and the ocean.

It should be noted there is no remains of warfare throughout the long period of time.

Civilization

The influx of new people from Asian continent with rice planting agriculture and metallic tools completely changed the history of Japan. Yoshinogari remain in Saga prefecture, Kyushu shows a huge village encircled by double rounds of deep dykes, a very tall watch tower, big warehouses and

other buildings, graveyards, etc. There are also remains of the residents, some of whom show horrible deaths with many wounds, or even being beheaded. The remains show that the agriculture and metal tools completely changed the society of Japan around 4th century. The heavily defensive structure of the remains tells the state of constant warfare.

Civilization and State Religion

The warfare combines the winners and losers into a larger state with rulers and the ruled. The process continues until establishment of tribal states ruled by kings. The society is now split into vertical social classes with kings, priests, warriors, commoners and slaves. The equality and freedom of human beings in the primitive ages are now lost. The ruled are obliged to support the rulers not only economically but also militarily as soldiers being drafted in war times. The rulers have all the rights and the ruled only duties.

This is so unfair and against humanity that it had to be rationalized by states religions.

In Japan Nihonshoki completed in 8th century collected tales and legends about different tribes all over Japan to form a combined history that rationalized the rule of the dynasty. Numerous shrines based on animism or local events all over the country were taken over, modified and included into the combined hierarchy of shrines with a mythology that rationalized the authority of the dynasty.

Similar processes proceeded all over the world. The ancient states were all religious states. The kings were regarded as gods, or the highest priests to serve the gods. Even today “Matsuru” in Japanese have both meanings as “politics” and “prayers”.

Evil Nature of State Religions

Japanese Empire

Japan is geographically separated from Asian continent hence have been more or less isolated from the rests of the world through the ages. Especially during 17-19th centuries Japan had been almost completely closed. During these ages the world had greatly advanced through industrial, political and science & technology revolutions. Alas! The advancement in world politics was also that of colonialism and imperialism. When Japan opened herself to the world in later 19th century, there was a real danger that Japan might be colonized by occidental powers.

In order to survive in the world of imperialisms, Japan chose to make herself an imperialistic state. Japan revived the ancient state religion, immensely strengthened it to the degree that the Japanese emperor be a living God! This state religion was quite effective to promote the militarism to achieve victories in Japan-China and Japan-Russia wars (1905). On the other hand the state religion was also a powerful tool to suppress demands for human rights and democracy within the country.

Expansion of Japanese Imperialism in Asia collided with that of USA. The collision ended up with the second world- war. The war in Asia and the Pacific Ocean (1941-45) cost tens of millions of lives,

caused enormous destruction especially by atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and ended in the fall of Japanese Empire herself. The total damage and breach of human rights by the war is just beyond appraisal.

Nazis Germany

Adolf Hitler gained popularity by his anti-Jews propaganda. The state religion of Nazis Germany was an extreme racism. The racism of Nazis caused inhuman exclusion of the Jewish people from Germany and Europe occupied by Nazis, ending up with the horrible “final solution of Jewish problem” that exterminated six millions of Jewish people.

Judaism

After about two thousand years of migration in Europe the Jewish people could establish their state in 1948 based on Division of Palestine plan endorsed by UN. It was, however, the Jewish state built in the land of Palestine. About 750 thousand residents were excluded from their home lands, thus created the Palestinian refugee problem. For the past three quarters of a century, the suffering of Palestinian people has deepened. The massacre of civilians by Hamas on 7, October, 2023 was a trigger of the terrible war in Gaza in which tens of thousands of civilians have been killed, mutilated and millions of people displaced from their homes destroyed by Israeli bombardments. The massacre of civilians by Hamas was a serious crime but it was not the true cause of the war. The true cause of the war is the occupation of Palestine by Israel, expansion of the illegal settlements with the violence of the settlers and blockade of Gaza. The true cause of the problem, in my opinion, is Judaism that is so exclusive. The “selected by God” ideology of Judaism excluded the Jewish people from local societies wherever they migrated. That is why Adolf Hitler gained power through election by his anti-Jews propaganda. The greatest victim of Judaism is the Jewish people themselves.

Solutions

Japan

After the second world-war, on reflection of the terrible destruction of the war, Japan was reborn on **democracy** and **pacifism**. The three basic pillars of Japanese constitution are: sovereignty of the people, fundamental human rights and renunciation of wars. Our democracy and pacifism have enabled us to achieve a remarkable advancement of industry and science & technology **in peace** for the past three quarters of a century.

Universal religions

Abolish states religions that rationalize the acts of greedy political powers.

Judaism is the state religion of Israel from ancient time as depicted in the Old Testament. The New Testament describes teachings of Jesus who created a totally different religion; Christianity. Judaism God is a horrible one who almost perished the whole world by the “great flood”, or destroyed

the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by “fire from heaven”. The core of Judaism is the **fear** of God. This is the nature of the state religions which are reflection of almighty kings on the earth.

The New Testament tells about a man who called God “Father”. The core of Christianity is **Love** of God on everyone. He said “ Do not fear as God knows you. Even the number of our hairs is counted.” Jesus also said “ The Pharisees pray openly on busy streets. Their prayers will not be met because they have been already rewarded.” That is true as Judaism is a state religion. Jesus then said “ You must pray in secrecy at home hidden with closed curtains.” That is because Christianity is a universal religion for everyone. Calling God father reminds me of the primitive worship of ancestors in the primitive ages of mankind.

Religions in the East; Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism do not have any gods. They are more philosophy or even science than religions; open to everyone hence called world religions.

Democracy and Science

Set **democracy** and **science** as the foundation of your states. Contrary to the closed and exclusive nature of states religions, democracy and science are open and inclusive for all people.

Democracy

All human beings are equal and free. The fundamental human rights are the core of democracy;
< Freedom of thought, religion, speech, press, meeting, union, activities for truth and happiness, etc.
< Equality in election of the government, protection by law, reception of social benefits & duties, etc.
That principle is the key to solve social and international problems peacefully. With democracy fully established, who would ever want a war?

Science

The gate of science is open to anyone searching for the truths, but closed to any deception. The history of science, however, has been a struggle against state religions. The horrible Inquisition of Roman Church executed many scientists for telling the truth. The great Galileo formally surrendered to the Inquisition but it is said he murmured “and yet the earth moves.”

The state religions assert they are absolutely right, while the scientists assume they might be wrong. The learning methods of religion and science are quite different.

<> Religion; Do not doubt the authority. Just believe what is taught. The teaching is the law

<> Science; Doubt the authority. set hypothesis and make experiments. Only proven is the law.

Humanity

The democracy and science are, I believe, certain paths to recover humanity in our society. In a sense it is the revival of the humanity in the primitive ages lost through social divisions brought by civilizations. Learning from J.J.Rousseau, I want to call; Return to the Nature!.