

Human Traits & Follies

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Human Traits & Follies

by

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*Empires came, Empires went,
But the people carried on;
In tradition of lore,
They built us more,
To create a bloc
That makes
Us one.*



"A toast to the People!"

I dedicate this book to my cousin Bernie Jeske

My gratitude goes to my daughter Nancy,
and to my friend Pam Sigvaldason,
for their valued advice.
All mistakes remaining are entirely mine.

Preface

This book explores how human beings may have been created, how they united themselves, built and lost empires, reached the present stage of development, and now head towards possible destruction.

The Chinese people are probably the earliest group of human beings who have successfully united and who have stayed successfully united. Furthermore, the Chinese people successfully assimilated with other groups of people. The Americans of the U.S.A. reached a similar success, of course.

However, Europeans have a dismal record. It is interesting how early Europeans, many hundreds of years back, split themselves apart, and are now trying to reunite themselves, despite their differences and mutual hates that separated and still separate them. The Europeans could do much better if they set aside their warring history and united themselves to their mutual advantage.

Particularly, the book explores some human traits that either support or hinder human development.

Human beings are able to use their traits remarkably better than other animals. Take the way humans reason; the way they consciously create; the way they send themselves messages; the way they plan their future; to list a few; also, how these traits affected history, and how they affect contemporary actions. It is wise to remember that all actions, even inactions, send messages – often unintended messages. Therefore, all actions must be carefully considered.

The ability to appraise human traits is especially important in our time. In the final analysis, human traits, and actions caused by human traits, will always form the basis of either beneficial or destructive consequences.

The titles of the chapters, like *Empire Builders*, *Aspiration to be President*, *Follow the Leader*, and *Majority & World Control*, give some indication of the traits that are being explored. Take majority rule: though favored by democracies, it must be questioned, because it also led to the execution of Socrates in Athens, and the election of the Nazi Party in Germany.

Hopefully, the study of these human traits, and various topics, will lead us to some useful insights.

I chose a sleeping Chinaman for the front cover. Don't you love the old fellow? I certainly do. He's been sleeping for a long time, and when he awakes, we will all know it. The back cover depicts a possible ancestor of the human race. Treat him kindly.

Arthur O.R. Thormann
February 2015

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Introduction

Life is full of puzzling questions, many unanswerable, and to reach a conclusion on unanswerable questions is, at best, a speculation. Nevertheless, such speculations keep the mind active, and, thus, serve a useful purpose.

A puzzling question is how our various races of human beings developed, and one speculation is that we all originated in Africa, and we all came from one set of parents. Scientists do not have a big problem with this speculation, but I do. Take cats, for example. Cats vary from lions to tigers to panthers to pussy cats. How would all these variations have originated from one set of parents? But human beings having a single set of original parents poses another question, namely, how did its own creation or duality principle* take place? This question should stymie all those who reject the Bible's explanation.

The various conflicts between human beings pose more questions. With the development of these conflicts, mostly wars, a hatred between the various

* By "duality principle" in this case, I mean the necessity of a male and a female to create an offspring.

nations also developed, especially in Europe, although the Americans took part in the conflicts in Europe during the twentieth century. But through their involvement in the European conflicts, the Americans developed into the most powerful nation in the world – not because of their size but because of their advanced technology, and their buildup of armory. The Russians tried to match the Americans, but fell short. Then, terrorists sprang up to fight the Europeans and the Americans, and terrorists' hatred is hard to explain, which poses the question how to deal with them, other than to declare war on them and kill them.

Human beings built empires and lost empires, and this poses more questions. However, when one studies the Chinese dynasties, one can only admire them. The Chinese are the earliest civilization that still exists today. They went through wars waged upon them and survived. They even managed to assimilate with their enemies. In the latter part of the twentieth century, they began developing into a world power. They have the manpower; they have the atomic bomb; and they have the financial clout. We would be well advised to maintain their friendship. In my experience, the Chinese are also less rude than the Europeans.

Some of the answers have to do with the way human beings treat each other. Unfriendliness and rudeness are rampant, for example. Bill Bryson tells us

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