

COMPROMISES OF THE MIDDLE-CLASS PEOPLE (MCPs)

*Or why some MCPs prefer to perpetuate a flawed system,
vote for status quo and resist change*

Unquestioned acceptance and unrecognized conditioning

Passive, unquestioned, unthinking acceptance of the many-for-few model that many non-elite middle-class people have been born into, and their gradual "conversion" to addictive materialism in the name of realism, pragmatism, "practical approach to life", and the gradual marginalization of higher values, principles, morals and ethics in public life, have led to the inevitable erosion of people's inner moral compass (both at an individual and collective levels), and corrosion of conscience. This, in turn, led to compromises of all kinds or selective blindness at intellectual, philosophical and spiritual levels even among the so-called educated people (with graduate, postgraduate, doctoral or post-doctoral qualifications in every conceivable field).

Personal corruption at an individual level

The net result over just 2-3 generations is that most middle-class people have also become "corrupt" financially, intellectually, culturally, philosophically or spiritually, all in the name of being "realistic", "pragmatic", "smart", or "practical". And they believe the material prosperity (crumbs thrown at them by the elite who operate the system) is a sign of their "success" or a reward for "talent" or "tact" or "soft skills".

Sleeping with the enemy

Little do they realize that the elites who operate the current flawed, 'evil' capitalist model of economics have cleverly, nicely co-opted the vast middle-class into the system by first introducing a fake competition (jobs, careers, promotions, etc) for goodies (material prosperity, fame, recognition, toys of adults, assets, etc), and then making the self-esteem-diminished middle-class people believe they are being rewarded for being skilled, talented, etc. Those rewards come easy, are seductive, and in disproportionately larger size to the efforts (real value brought to the economic table).

The real trade-off: sale of soul

Little do middle-class people realize their perceived rewards are NOT really for the efforts, achievements or accomplishments related to skills, abilities, talent, etc, but for selling their soul, embracing the 'evil', and helping perpetuate the current economic system. That's the real deal for which the middle-class people have been rewarded so far. The tighter the embrace, the greater the rewards. There is a direct correlation between the amount of soul sold to the 'dEVIL', so to speak, and the size of the "rewards".

Selective blindness toward collateral damage

Yet, the vast majority of non-elites would like to believe that the current system (capitalism, lopsided economic globalization) must be good, effective, efficient, clean -- never mind the

collateral damage wreaked elsewhere, which would come back and haunt everyone till the moment of reckoning arrives. Their attitude is, *c'est la vie* -- that is life.

Really? Is that life?

Hypocrisy, lack of integrity; going through motions

Most middle-class/underclass people marry, take vows, but have no sanctity for the institution of marriage, or what it truly stands for (fidelity, loyalty, sincere companionship, unconditional love, etc). Most of them just go through the motions of marriage. Some have extramarital affairs. Some abuse, dominate or manipulate their spouse (wife or husband) in marital power games. Some present the charade of marriage for public consumption to avoid social stigma, for social acceptance. Inner stress levels take their toll over a period of time until it is too late. A spouse (victim of the other spouse in a married couple) dies, without really realizing what went wrong, and how the system the couple had so unquestioningly accepted and abided by, had done them in.

Married couples reproduce but outsource the parental responsibilities (of shaping their children into good citizens and decent human beings) to the rotten culture, society, and the media & entertainment ecosystem. Parents don't have time for themselves and their own children. When their children get online for attention and companionship, and get addicted to expensive hobbies like videogames and esports, or zombifying social media, or worse, con games or crimes, and then lose their way, parents blame the institutions, culture, society, the media ecosystem.

Similarly, people go through religious rituals but again attach no sanctity to them. They wear sacred thread across their chest, but don't shy away from abetting or accepting bribes, or indulge in other forms of corrupt, even illegal, or legally dubious, practices in their public-facing roles. Corruption is not just bribery; corruption could be intellectual, moral, ethical, philosophical, even spiritual.

So, why is it so difficult for the middle-class people to reflect, introspect, change, even when they know deep down the time has come for Big Change?

Ignorance

MCPs who resist change are oblivious to dangers ahead. They are not aware that their future, their and their children's and grandchildren's lives are on the block. Combined with a sense of learned helplessness, lack of confidence, lack of belief, resistance to hard work, resistance to change... this leads to a stance of perceived wisdom that inaction is preferable to, or better than, action/change.

The MCPs have a tunnel vision shaped by a sense of smallness vis-à-vis the system / elites but an inflated ego vis-à-vis peers and the underclass. This results in both selfishness and self-centredness, which then combine with insensitivity toward the underclass, in the form of Big Picture blindness.

So:

- 1) Because the MCP is born into a pre-existing, pervasive, overwhelming, consciousness-saturating, soul-corrupting system that is never questioned, reviewed, recognized but blindly accepted, he/she assumes the system itself is natural (not man-made), little realizing that it is just one of the many possible systems we could consciously embrace (and should discard if it proves itself to be flawed).
- 2) An MCP's vision does not extend beyond his and his family's selfish interests, and becomes blind to the interconnected and inter-dependent nature of the constituents that are responsible for the evil of flawed form of capitalism-driven free-market economic system.
- 3) This in turn leads to lack of 'Big Picture' perspective, or absence of a global outlook, while being a beneficiary of globalization. So, an MCP typically suffers from a misplaced sense of self-entitlement, and tends to take the "goodies" for granted.
- 4) This in turn leads to lack of empathy, or insensitivity toward those who the system reduces to helpless collateral damage. Psychologists call this (lack of empathy) "evil". And merely because such "collateral damage" is beyond one's physical vision (out of sight), at a seeming very far-off physical distance, or merely because the collateral damage lack blood ties or kinship, MCPs assume they are not at all responsible, either directly or indirectly, for the woes of the victims.
- 5) But those hapless victims, the so-called collateral damage, are key constituents of the same system. They could be the underclass, the underprivileged, and Nature (the environment, the ecology, biodiversity and the planet) itself, without whom the system itself would collapse, given the inherent interconnected and interdependent nature of the constituents of the system, which is like a chain – cyclical, circular, ring-like, matrix-like.
- 6) The ideas that the fittest alone deserve to survive, that collateral damage is part and parcel of life, that those who are well off, prospering, thriving or successful, are "lucky" or "blessed", and that all one needs to do in life is mind one's business at all times, no matter what, without sparing a thought for the larger ecosystem, will eventually prove self-destructive, suicidal.

Wrong idea of "change = defeat + guilt"

First of all, accepting the need for change is acceptance of guilt and acceptance of the truth that they have got it all wrong so far, that they have erred or 'sinned'. That is painful to acknowledge, especially since the ego does not like being proven wrong, especially vis-a-vis peers who may have got it right.

Primitive, absolutist idea that "unknown = pain; known = pleasure"

Change is unknown, hence 'painful'; status quo is known, hence 'pleasurable'. For the primitive layer of the human brain, the pain-pleasure principle is paramount. Avoid pain, prefer pleasure.

No pain = pleasure. But for frogs about to die in the bowl of boiling water, change, or escape from status quo, alone can save their lives. The human brain has more layers over and above the primitive layer. Higher values, intellect are beyond the primitive layer. Use of intellect is necessary to realize that (perceived and short-term) pain (of change) is not always bad; nor is (perceived, reinforced) pleasure (of no-change or status quo) always good.

Flawed logic-I

Merely because MCPs assume they owe their perceived material-realm "success" to themselves, they think they have been and are intelligent, smart, wise, discerning. They also believe doing more of what they had been doing so far will continue to produce more and more of what they imagine, or have been tricked into believing, is "success". They think since they have been "successful" and the system has worked as per their expectations and its own promises, then it must be good, genuine, above board. They are mentally committed to only one path. Changing paths "midway" is too much of disruption, and too much of work, for them. They would rather continue on the same path, even if it leads to a cliff edge. Deep down, even though they do sense the approach of a cliff edge, because of their inner state of denial, they delude themselves that they have to discard the obvious warning signals, which they interpret are false alarms.

Flawed logic-II

Some MCPs tend to rationalize and adopt a reductionist approach to dealing with the issue, invoking history with a sense of authoritative wisdom. "Been there, seen that, done that. It's all the same, this crisis, repeating all over again, just in a different form. Same old human dilemma, same old human nature, same old human condition. Tragedies, wars, pandemics...collateral damage is inevitable. Survival of the fittest. Just keep the head down. It's an all too familiar story played out over centuries already. This too shall pass. Just ride it out. Be patient. All par for the human course. Take it easy."

Confirmation bias + short attention span

MCPs are far too invested in the current system, and their personalities, identity, sense of self, and ego get "attached" or identified with the system. Suddenly requiring to accept that such a system has been chimera, a mirage, fiction, or just unworkable theory that is totally flawed or unjust or with a dark side (to which they have contributed) would unsettle the sensitive and delicate self-image of MCPs. So, they go about marshalling selective evidence that reinforces what they believe in, and turn a blind eye to other compelling, conclusive, overwhelming, exhaustive, comprehensive evidence to the contrary. That's because their short attention span of the zombified, overstimulated mind interprets all that data and facts as too much work to process. Such MCPs complain of their brain "overheating". They prefer escapisms and fantasies to reality.

People lacking intrinsic merit in certain positions

For good or worse, some people who lack intrinsic merit (relative to other "successful" people in the same system) also learn to prosper using dirty tricks, so-called soft skills, con games, corruption, dark arts, etc. For them, the current flawed system is a known evil they have mastered and would like to milk dry forever. Change has to be resisted at any cost or all costs because the unknown is worse than the known.