

Consciousness, and the Holocaust

In the 1920's and 1930's, questions of race and eugenics were a world-wide issue. In the US, too, publications appeared that showed model families with many and healthy children, and warned to choose one's spouse with consideration to the offspring to be expected. Only when news spread about the eugenics and purification of race programs conducted in Nazi Germany, it was recognized where this well-meant ideology was going to lead to in the end, and the respective campaigns were stopped.

This type of mentality possesses the ability to correct itself by thinking things to their ends. The concepts it is led by lie in the future, and are revised or dropped if the actual consequences of striving towards them lead to contradictory concepts. Concepts, thus, are objects, as opposed to subjects, of thought. - This mentality I call **parametric**.

The continental European mentality, incapable of self-criticism as it has shown itself, must be considered unreconcilable with parametric cognition. It has to be destroyed by subduing the substrate, i.e. the society that houses it. The question arises whether something spiritual in nature can be killed. Looking into the history of Germany, the answer seems to be no. In the 19th century, following the Napoleonic era, the European peoples united each into nations. With the remarkable exception of Germany each defined themselves by their internal cultural consistency, and by their natural outward borders. Germany lacked any of these criteria, and thus defined itself by focussing on factions of the society that could be considered sources of internal inconsistency. The soonest victims of this search for the "enemy within" were the university students. They demanded human rights, like freedom of the press and independence of the sciences and the humanities. The next victims were the catholics who were suspected to obey to Rome rather than to Bismarck. The next in sight were the socialists, or leaders and theorizers of the working classes. During centuries, the Jews had been depoverized, and thus it was only natural that many of the socialist leaders and thinkers were Jews. So, the Jews were next.

Parallel to this process of singling out interior enemies the positive process of defining "Germany" went on and led to a concept of ethnic purity that was contradictory to facts, but very effectful in arts and opera. Pretty precisely after 125 years of development, both concepts, the positive one about what Germany is, and the negative one about what it is not, had become sufficiently convincing to permit "just" action. Because, also as a parallel process of the 19th century, the concepts of justice had been redefined and been laid down in new codices, effective as of January 1st, 1900. Into this framework of justice the newly developed convictions about race and deviancy were integrated, and thus acquired the quality of being just and morally good. The holocaust was the necessary consequence of this specific historical development of the German mind. This mind, summing up, can be described as a steady focus above a template of diverse or changing data. It appears like a motionless spotlight, the quasi-physiology of which is seeing, as opposed to hearing. The data that appear within the frame of the spotlight are categorized into concepts. These concepts gain absolute value, which means that they acquire the potency of authorship. They turn into subjects of history. They cannot be wrong, and they do demand concurrent action.

This mentality just described I call **concentric**, and it is what is called "consciousness." Any mind, being it the one of an individual, be it objective, or absolute that works in this way is conscious, and any mind that works differently is non-conscious. Thus, Americans with their parametric thought are non-conscious, which is why they are so successful. Because, as we have seen, non-consciousness implies the ability to correct oneself. - As Hannah Arendt has elaborated in length, consciousness is dropped as soon as individuals from a (conscious) high culture immigrate into a wilderness, as it happened when Europeans settled in America, South Africa, and Australia. Consciousness is detrimental to survival, and the human brain is clever enough to drop cumbersome features of the mind if survival is at stake. - Consciousness is a feature of old, decaying and dying

cultures. Active, productive cultures are never conscious.

The German concentric mentality did not stop functioning on May 8th, 1945. It is still going strong. After the war, in a rushed-through repetition of the 19th century, the victims were again the students, the liberals, the communists, and then - well, not the Jews, because none were left, but equivalent ethically and sociologically defined factions of the society. A huge and costly beaurocracy has been established to physically eliminate the unemployed poor. By two thirds, this class consists of non-caucasian immigrants. The collateral damage of eliminating the white trash - a term in fact used by the chancellor and other top political leaders - contained is readily put up with in this new racist warfare. - Consciousness is morally evil and can only be eliminated by physical elimination. Germany needs to be destroyed, or else we'll never get rid of racism.

Non-conscious, parametric mentality is oriented towards signs, or labels. In the Iliad these labels are displayed in beautiful verses by the goddess Iris. In the US, they are visual monothematic stimuli. If, there, in a no-passing zone, you go 5 miles below speed limit, you get tail-gated and honked at: The label tells you to go 65, so you've got to go 65, and no excuses. If you go 30, although the next steep curve with speed limit 25 is still 300 feet away, you get tail-gated and honked at: The behaviour controlling label is missing, which means you have to race like hell, or else just park the car, but not to proceed on your own discretion. - The most prominent American philosopher of our day is David Chalmers. He once pointed a hair-dryer into his audience, calling the hair-dryer a consciousness-detector, and meaning to screen the audience for conscious individuals. He didn't detect any. The reason for this failure was not that the hair-dryer was just this, a hair-dryer, and not a consciousness-detector - this was just a mere technical shortcoming easily to be overcome in the future (with, e.g., hair-dryers that can understand language, or can read EEGs) - rather, the reason was that consciousness is not a label. And, in parametric minds, any cognition or "thinking", consists of reading from labels. As this example was meant to show, education doesn't make any difference. A philosopher may be interested in labels different from the ones of an illiterate negro woman, i.e. different labels may matter to them in their survival efforts, but that doesn't differentiate their mentalities.

Parametric mentality is sequential in nature. It consists of stimulus-response chains. Most labels are less unequivocal than traffic signs, because of which more often than not different responses are possible in reaction to identical labels. Consequently, in the US, nobody knows what's right, and therefore everybody tells everybody else how to behave, and what's right. To Europeans, the behaviour of Americans is unpredictable, because we lack the skill to detect the relevant labels. To any American, the behaviour of any of his fellow Americans is easy to predict, because he reduces the environment to that set of labels to which the other fellow will reliably and stubbornly adhere. Only a small part of the environment is perceived at all, a part that could mathematically be described by a Julia set. - If you, as a European in the US, park off the road, then unfold a large map over the steering wheel to get oriented, some fellow is certain to stop his car next to you for the single purpose of telling you that you can't park there. To him, the label, or critical stimulus, is the stopped car, which he interpretes as parking behaviour, which is in clear contrast to the absence of a sign regulating this behaviour. To a European, the relevant stimulus, or label, would be the map, which he would interpret as a problem having been solved, and not needing his interference. - For much more profound analyses of this see Gorer, Watzlawick, Arendt, or Bates.

As has been previously explained elsewhere on this site, the present American-Arabian war, judged by the kinship of the mentalities, is an inner-Islamic war. It would be interesting to predict the outcome by analysing which of the two mentalities involved shares more parametric, or more concentric features, respectively. Sequentiality, in the long run, always wins over perspectivity. Programming a couple of avatars, Sam and Jerry, one American-parametric, the other German-concentric, should be no big deal. They could be placed in an objectively identical environment and then be tested to see if their subjective worlds are identical. They can't possibly be, because Sam

doesn't understand concepts, and Jerry doesn't see any labels. As soon as Jerry, in an effort to make his environment internally consistent, unwittingly starts smashing the labels Sam can't do without with for his survival, they'll probably start to kill each other. - Something of this sort may have been the so far unexplained cause of the Third Punic War that destroyed Carthage.

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