



National Security and the Misology- Misanthropy Paradox of Technology

George Mickhail

Senior Lecturer, School of Accounting and Finance, University of Wollongong
Professeur des Universités Invité, IAE, Université d'Orléans, France
Visiting Scholar, Baruch College, The City University of New York, USA
Director, MetaCapitalism Research Centre, Australia



Introduction

We've arranged a **global civilization** in which most **crucial elements** profoundly depend on **science and technology**. We have also arranged things so that **almost no one understands science and technology**. This is a **prescription for disaster**. We might get away with it for a while, but sooner or later this **combustible mixture of ignorance and power** is going to blow up in our faces... I worry that, especially as the Millennium edges nearer, **pseudoscience and superstition** will seem year by year **more tempting**, the **siren song of unreason** more sonorous and attractive. Where have we heard it before? Whenever our **ethnic or national prejudices** are **aroused**, in times of **scarcity**, during challenges to **national self-esteem** or nerve, when we agonize about our **diminished cosmic place** and **purpose**, or when **fanaticism is bubbling up around us** - then, **habits of thought** familiar from **ages past** reach for the **controls**. The candle flame gutters. Its little pool of light trembles. **Darkness** gathers. The **demons begin to stir**. (Carl Sagan 1996:32)

Misplaced Faith

in

Science

&

Technology

Aristotle

Aristotle

 wanted to understand

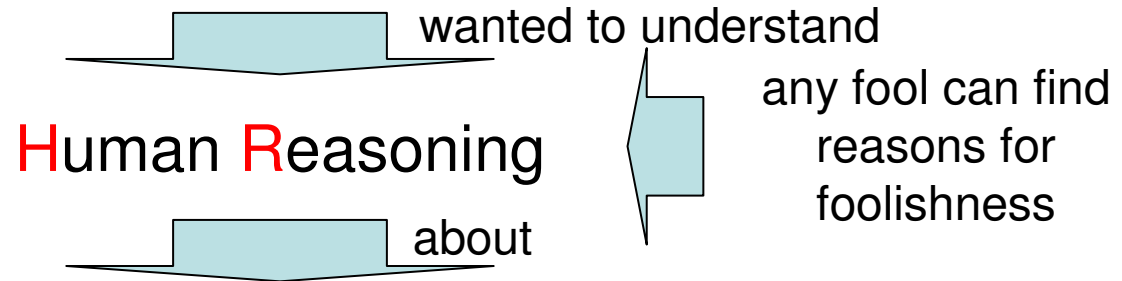
Human Reasoning

 about

D O G M A

Science :: Pseudo-Science :: Religion

Aristotle



D O G M A

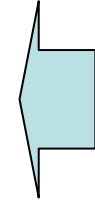
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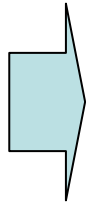
Human Reasoning

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any fool can find
reasons for
foolishness

Misology



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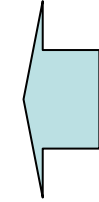
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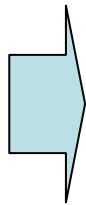
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Misology



DOGMA

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 Accessible ONLY through

Scientists :: Alchemists :: Religious

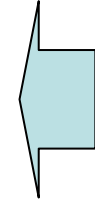
IDOLS

Aristotle

 wanted to understand

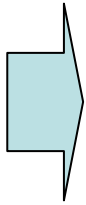
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I D O L S



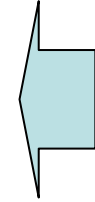
Misanthropy

Aristotle

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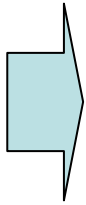
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Misanthropy



DEBATE

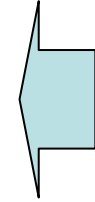
TRUTH + WISDOM

Aristotle

 wanted to understand

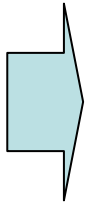
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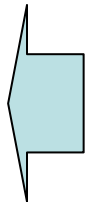
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I D O L S



Misanthropy

DISENGAGED
passive
populace



D E B A T E

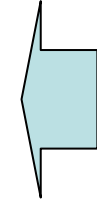
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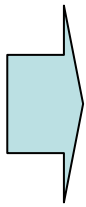
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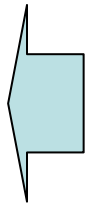
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I D O L S



Misanthropy

DISENGAGED
passive
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D E B A T E

TRUTH + WISDOM



ENGAGED
dissent
resistance
autonomy

Aristotle

_____ wanted to understand

Human Reasoning

_____ about

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I D O L S

Misanthropy

DISENGAGED
passive
populace

D E B A T E

TRUTH + WISDOM

ENGAGED
dissent
resistance
autonomy

_____ confusion leads to

ONTOLOGICAL INSECURITY

Opportunity

in exploiting

Ontological

Insecurity

Mauvais

Capitalism

of

Shock **T**herapy

‘Economic Shock Therapy Credo’

Milton Friedman

+

Chicago School Apostles

CRISIS

MASSIVE COLLECTIVE SHOCKS

CRISIS

MASSIVE COLLECTIVE SHOCKS

 which results in a


DISORIENTED PUBLIC

CRISIS

MASSIVE COLLECTIVE SHOCKS

 which results in a

DISORIENTED PUBLIC

 by following

ECONOMIC SHOCK THERAPY

DROMOLOGY


rapid change to
affect real
change from the
failed welfare
state doctrine

CRISIS

MASSIVE COLLECTIVE SHOCKS

 which results in a

DISORIENTED PUBLIC

 by following

ECONOMIC SHOCK THERAPY

 through

MASS PRIVATISATION

accompanied by massive debts

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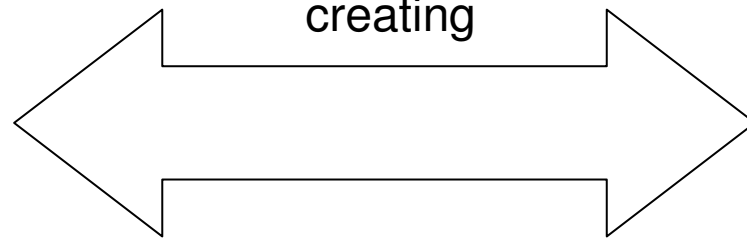
accompanied by massive debts

creating

PROFITEERING
BUBBLE

DISENFRANCHISED
POPULACE

DROMOLOGY
rapid change to
affect real
change from the
failed welfare
state doctrine



In 1980, Ronald Reagan forged ahead with Friedman's economic shock doctrine in reforming the U.S. government and liberalising the financial markets. At the end of his second term, and according to the Federal Reserve, in 1990 the richest 1% owned 40% of its wealth and the richest 20% owned 80% of America - the greatest level of inequality among all rich nations, and the worst in U.S. history since the roaring 1920s.

CRISIS

MASSIVE COLLECTIVE SHOCKS

which results in a

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PROFITEERING
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SECURITY to protect its interests against

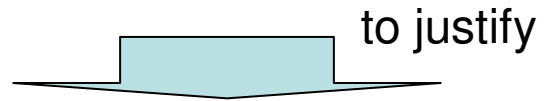
DISENFRANCHISED
POPULACE

so it promotes

AGGRESSIVE NATIONALISM


DROMOLOGY
rapid change to
affect real
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state doctrine

AGGRESSIVE NATIONALISM



bottomless spending on
SECURITY

AGGRESSIVE NATIONALISM

 to justify


bottomless spending on
SECURITY

 to **disguise** the need for

AGGRESSIVE SURVEILLANCE

 to **control** the threat of

a **disenfranchised populace**

 who is **left outside** the

PROFITEERING BUBBLE

Authoritarian **Communism** is forever **tainted** by the **real-world laboratories** of Stalin's **gulags** and **Mao's** re-education **camps**, but how about the **socio-economic experimentation** of the **neoconservative crusaders** to **liberate** the **global financial market**? Naomi Klein (2007) asks rhetorically why all those **violent coups** and **wars** to bring **pro-corporate regimes** had never been treated as **Capitalist crimes**?



THE **E**volving
Security
Culture

Smear & Fear



1950s & 60s

reds under the beds


1990s

'black armband' brigade

2000s

Londonistan

SECURITY FRENZY

 mediated by


OECD, UN,
WORLD BANK

DROMOLOGICAL STATE OF EXISTENCE

'self-consuming passion'
driving demand for security

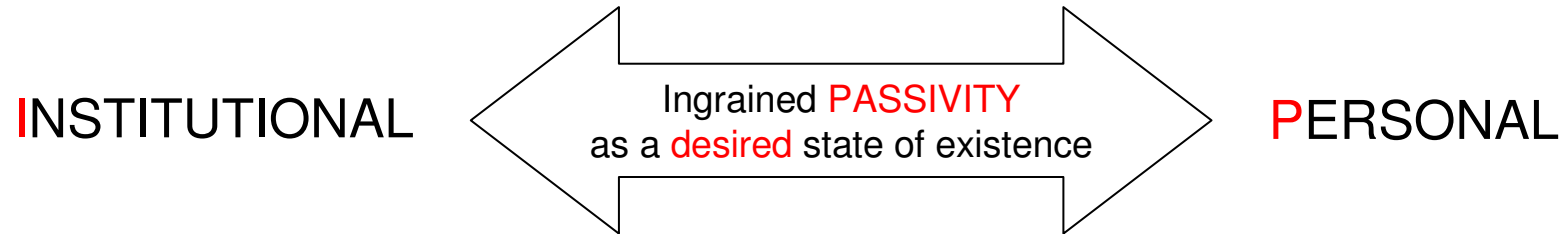
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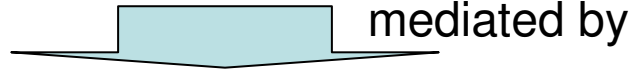
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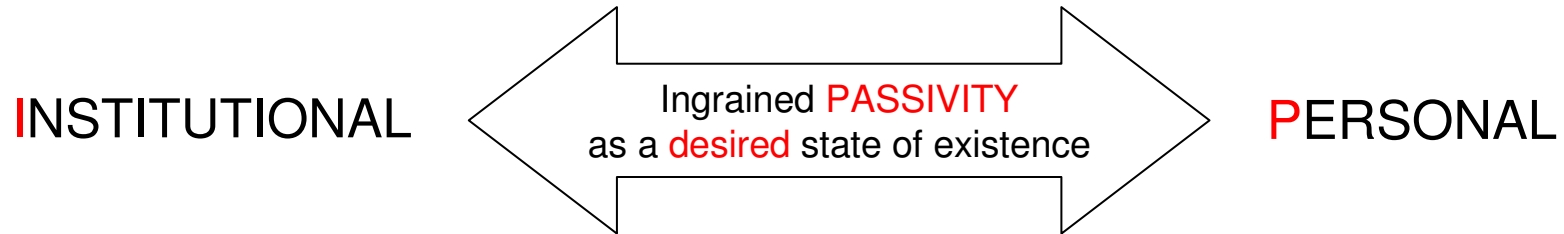
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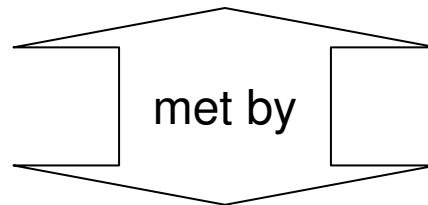


DROMOLOGICAL STATE OF EXISTENCE

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DEMAND



an exploitative Security Industrial Complex

SUPPLY

Decentralised Networked Surveillance Technology

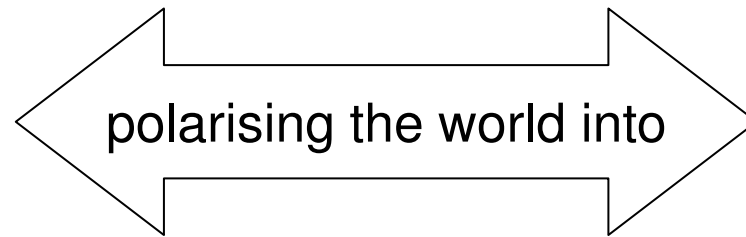
'OCCULT'

No known leader + unclear ideology

P A R A D O X

Supply can never satisfy
'self-consuming passion'
driving the demand
for security

PROFITEERING
BUBBLE



CONTROLLED
PACIFIED
POPULACE

Private Ranks

Number of U.S. troops and
private contractors deployed

2008: Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan

202,000 Contractors

186,000 Troops

1990: Invasion of Iraq

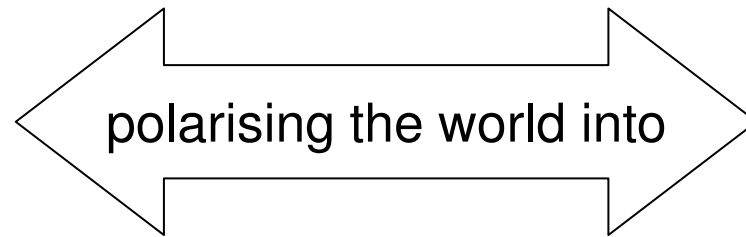
9,200 approx. 700,000

Source: Defense Department

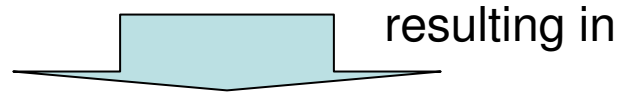
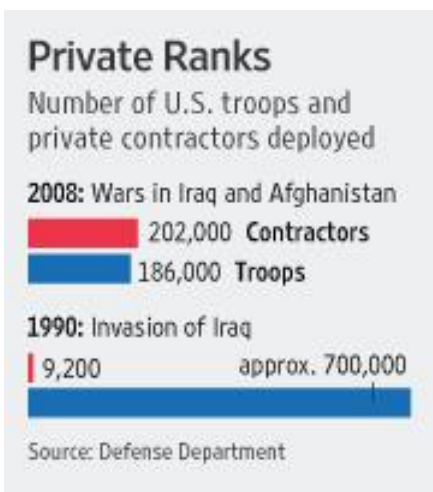
P A R A D O X

Supply can never satisfy
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for security

PROFITEERING
BUBBLE



CONTROLLED
PACIFIED
POPULACE



a **n**ew **w**orld **o**rd
by the **p**olarising effect
of **m**ilitarising
information & **t**elecommunication
technologies

5 Conclusion

3 challenges facing our ontologically insecure society

1. The deifying of scientific faith is problematic, because the *unintended effect* of this misplaced faith in technology, is disengagement from trying to understand the effect of the technology on our lives, and often results in the pacified submission to the divine ability of the scientific faithful.

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2. the **exploitative machinations** of the **neoconservative 'shock economic therapy' credo**, that purports more freedom and democracy. They *imposed* their dogma globally on a **disoriented public**, following **massive collective shocks**, to affect real change from the **failed social welfare doctrine**. The resulting **profiteering bubble**, due to the huge **transfers of public wealth** to few **private hands** were not only accompanied by **exploding debt**, but also with **aggressive nationalism** that justified bottomless spending on security, to **disguise** the need for **aggressive surveillance** to *fend off* the potential **threat of a disenfranchised populace left outside** the 'profiteering bubble'.

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3. an evolving **global security culture** had intensified our ontological insecurities. To **cope** with this 'insecure' world, we adopt a '**survivalist mentality**' seeking safety, which **implicitly ingrains passivity**. In contrast to this **desired state of existence**, **dissent, resistance and autonomy** became **security concerns** that **warranted surveillance and control** on an unprecedented scale.

(a) a new economy of fear that fuels an emerging security culture, and

(b) an intensified ontological insecurity that fuels the need for more security.

The **paradox** of security **technology** is that its **supply** can never satisfy the '*self-consuming passion*' for its **demand**. The new **global economy** with its **dynamic change**, from **fixed geopolitical conflicts**, to a **constantly changing *war on terror***, ensures that our **demand for security** is continually **reinvented**, where the **supply of fear** and **security** are continually **changing**, so that they would **never get used up**.