

Dynamic Perspectives on Reality: Societal Implications

2023

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Humans and their societies see and engage reality through two very different perspectives: Me and We [Get and Give, Exclusive and Inclusive]. These perspectives represent the collective consequences of a complicated set of neurological networks in the human brain and gut that are genetically predisposed.

The Me perspective supports biological survival. The We perspective supports social security and ecological integrity.

The Me perspective tends to be “now” oriented – presentistic. The We perspective encompasses a broader past – present – future point of view. Immediate Me needs and desires often conflict with what is required to assure longer term We oriented goals.

The human Intellect-Analysis-Verbal-Language mental function mainly serves the Me perspective while the Intuition-Synthesis-Visual-Image mental function primarily serves the broader We perspective.

The Me and We perspectives and their associated mental functions operate on a continuum where in most circumstances they are both simultaneously active but to different extents depending on the demands of the task or tasks at hand.

The Me and We perspectives are charged to different degrees with positive and negative emotions depending on the circumstances. The level of emotional charge influences which perspective takes precedence.

Our genetics, our experiences in life, and the worldviews of our surrounding cultures determine a) whether the Me or We perspective is generally favored, b) the extent and nature of their combination in different circumstances, and c) the degree and nature of their emotional charge.

In terms of societal institutions, the We orientation is supported by traditional Art-Ritual-Spirituality. The Me perspective predominates in the institution of Trade-Economy. The Polity and Justice institutions of society can be Me oriented in structure to support more authoritarian societies or We oriented in structure to support more egalitarian societies. The structure of Polity and Justice are key in this regard! While Intellect-Analysis based Science mainly supports the Me orientation in its experimental process and technological connection to the

economy, it can support the We orientation at the level of theory [e.g. particle physics and cosmology based on principles from quantum mechanics]. In modern complex society, Intuition-Synthesis is a little recognized and largely underdeveloped human mental function, but it does offer substantial support to the We oriented societal institutions [especially the egalitarian option within Polity-Justice].

Appropriately balancing the input of the Me and We perspectives in the four major institutional areas of modern complex society is the paramount challenge for humanity. Responsibly relating the condition of these perspectives and societal structures to the surrounding planetary, solar, galactic, etc ecologies is essential for humanity's long term survival.