

ME and WE Perspective Complexes

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Juxtaposed attributes of the ME and WE perspectives:

<u>ME Complex in Society</u>	<u>WE Complex in Society</u>
Freedom -----	Equality
Individual Rights -----	Social Responsibilities
Innovation -----	Resilience
Competition -----	Cooperation
Presentistic Focus -----	Learn from the Past
Reactive -----	Cautious
Encourage Change -----	Maintain Stability
Analysis/Parts -----	Synthesis/Whole
Dominate -----	Assist
Manipulate -----	Promote Fairness
Capitalism -----	Communalism
Resource Exploitation -----	Resource Sustainability
Market Society -----	Mutual Benefit Society
Better Weapons -----	Conflict Arbitration
Materialism -----	Spiritualism
Power -----	Security
Oligarchy -----	Socialism
Autocracy -----	Democracy
Empire -----	Unified Global Government

Total ME Negates WE

Total WE Negates ME

Humans Are Genetically and Hormonally
Endowed

To Act from Both Perspectives.

Culture and Circumstances

Promote

One Perspective or the Other.

The Goal:

To Personally and Socially

Develop

ME/WE Perspective Balance.

Commentary

In the 96% of human history [300,000 years] when humans lived in bands and tribes, they mostly achieved balance in the use of the ME and WE perspectives.

About 10,000 years ago humans began the process of developing more complex societies – settling in larger populations as agriculture and husbandry became the major sources of food. The majority of humans have lived in the complex state of society for only about the last 4,000 years, and during this time overall balance in the ME and WE orientations has been the exception. Instead, the ME orientation achieved dominance with an elite group in one form of autocracy or another controlling resources, accumulating wealth, and – with the help of institutionalized religion – ruling over the vast majority of much less privileged others. Only in the last four to five hundred years has the WE orientation achieved greater input in many modern complex societies creating a more balanced overall condition. In these societies, the polity and judiciary are structured to meet WE egalitarian principles while commitment to strong individual rights and a capitalistic economy manifest the ME orientation. This more balanced condition has existed for a relatively short time period – not long enough to achieve true stability nationally or internationally. Throughout, the ME oriented forces favoring autocracy have been ever present and eager to reclaim dominance. Sustaining the equality and cooperation principles of the WE orientation is especially difficult in the modern societal context of huge national populations that are dispersed across large geographical areas and which often include an extensive diversity of races, ethnicities, languages, and religions.

Conservative forces of ME based autocracy are currently “on the ascent” in many modern representative democracies. Unfortunately, poorly informed citizenries commonly fail to appreciate how fragile and vulnerable the egalitarian principles in their governments are. And now, this autocratic ME movement has been empowered in the United States – the home of modern democracy – in the form of the resurgent Trump administration’s effort to implement the Heritage Foundation’s Project 2025. This “Project” details a path to greatly enhanced executive power giving the President and his associates the ability to control the other branches of government as well as the media – in other words a plan to enhance the “new” ME oriented government structures and return to autocracy.

Complex society is itself an experiment in the overall human adventure, and complex societies that are more balanced with respect to the input of the ME and the WE orientations are currently under significant threat. If we do not want for most of us to become suppressed peasants again, it is time to wake up and renounce the misinformation and complacency that currently prevails and imperils so many of our better balanced ME and WE democratic countries.