

Aquarius Agenda

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Edition 1-2014

*For Barbara, for being
& thank you Zachariah Bos for all the help.*

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FORWARD

Receiving *real new* thoughts is uncomfortable to the “false self” or “ego” which is why each step towards awakening *from* the ego is difficult to own, it is paradoxical by nature. Think about *new* thought, the discomfort is the reason we can’t spontaneously play guitar without ever having touched one. Yes truly, If you had all the theoretical info in your head why shouldn’t you be able to just play guitar? Because these things are of new thinking, new movement and new sensation, this makes them uncomfortable, *the unknown!!* So we have to plod along and make them a part of our motorique, intellect and eventually our emotional “sections”. We have to shed the blood sweat and tears to allow ourselves to own it, plus there’s a lot of neural junk in there getting in the way:

“Oh I don’t know I’ll never play guitar, it’s just too hard and I am not good enough” Or: “maybe I am just not talented in that way!”

The discomfort is the reason we can’t drop addictions without first having to “break the habit”. The very definition of the word habit is:

routines of behavior that are repeated regularly and tend to occur subconsciously.

So you see it works both ways, 1 when we are trying to create “new habits” and 2 when we are trying to break old ones. This would indicate that the average human is much more at ease within the parameters of his comfort blanket. One of the main targets of this book is to change the way our conscious and our subconscious relate to each other. Remember the kid Linus in the

Charlie Brown cartoon who wouldn't go anywhere without that old flea-bitten rag of a blanket? There is a name for this uncomfortableness caused by new thought, it's called cognitive dissonance which literally means uneasiness caused by moving outside the box of our comfort zones.

So how much thinking do we actually do and how much of what we call thinking is nothing more than replaying the tape of experiences past and relying on things that we "know" to be true? Here's a secret, most humans once they are above the age of 6 almost never experience new thinking, they experience learning and responding to stimulus and once this has become the status quo they have become a programmed machine or zombie, just another brick in the wall. Getting better at a hobby is not new thought although it hints at it, which is one of the reasons we have them. What is "learning" if not simply repeating something someone has told you? Even the way we respond to new stimuli is dictated by our past programming which means we are not responding out of presence but out of past.

I propose the only way in which we can have new thought and experience life as it truly is, is to leave what we think we know behind and shed our old self as a snake sheds it's skin. If we live our lives any other way are we not merely blundering through life without purpose and meaning? Sure you may say:

"But I have a career and a goal and a degree and I am smarter than anyone I know."

Or you might say:

"Who does this guy think he is, I know what I am doing with my life who is he to tell me right from wrong?"

If you have reacted in the manner above re-read the first part of this forward and contemplate your response out of a space of non- programming or presence without judgment. The truth is someone responding with new-thought or thought without baggage, would not react in the above manner. Think how often this happens in a day.

Old thinking got us where we are, new thinking will get us out, along with everything else that exists within our ozone layer. We are on the cusp of accelerated evolution as a species, indeed we are about to be faced with a choice, evolve or suffer the very dire consequences.

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Contents.

Forward.

Introduction to Awakening.

Chapter 1. SAMSARA.

Imperialism.

Slavery.

Enlightenment.

Genocide.

Psychology of Consumerism.

Introduction to Ego.

Chapter 2 DAK DZIN.

Bankers.

War.

Introduction to Karma.

Chapter 3 SATIPATTAHNA.

Basic Human.

New Biology and the Environment.

Fear Indoctrination.

Self Consciousness.

Essence and Personality.

Red Flags for Disorder.

Zombies and Bleeders.

Our Place in the Quantum Field.

Dissecting the Machine.

Breaking the cycle of Madness.

Dealing with Suffering.

Attachment to Desire.

The end of Suffering.

Beginning of Evolution.

Meditation and Affirmation.

The Wheel of Dharma .

Introduction to Truth.

Chapter 4 NIRVANA.

Green Business Plan Flip the System.

Eartship, Sustainable Homes, Recycled
Matirials.

Welcome to Utopia.

Introduction to Awakening

We are stardust,

We are golden

And we've got to get ourselves

Back to the garden

Joni Mitchell

When I was 19/20 I had a strange experience. It was a hot day in Brisbane Australia, I was at home sitting in a window frame overlooking the park and beyond the park was a forest. The forest was a long way away and the park was flat. While the morning temperature rose that trick of evaporation started taking effect. The air between me and the forest seemed to curl and twist as the sun sucked the moisture up and out of the earth. I had been sitting there drinking my second cup of coffee contemplating my predicament. I was in a dreadful relationship- an “on the rebound” type, had no employment and had been kicked out of the Queensland Conservatorium of Music where I sort of wanted to get a degree because I thought that’s what people did.

I had been still for a long time, the coffee was cold and I realized *carefully* that I felt O.K. It was very strange indeed, I had an amazing tingling feeling in the back of my skull and down my spine. I had experienced this before, usually when watching

someone perform a piece of music at the Con, when they really meant it. On other occasions when I was observing someone working on something while they were in the process of deciding in full concentration how to approach the task. This feeling was usually fleeting and normally disappeared as soon as I would become aware of it, but not this time. I guess it was the prolonged period of stillness, the forest and maybe even the heat but it was still there. I became aware that *I* could not *think* or it would vanish. I am not sure how long I sat there but the morning was moving on to noon.

As I sat not moving, I had the sensation that I was looking through someone else's eyes and thoughts did seem to be occurring but as if not to me. It was as if I was listening to someone else's thoughts. The prickly feeling intensified and I seemed to have a physiological response, a little like an adrenalin rush combined with a quickening of the heart rate. I was having a realization of some sort, I *knew* that whatever situation I was in now was of little consequence and that change was in my own hands all the time. That I did not have to stay in a relationship because of fear of being alone, that leaving the Conservatorium was a good thing and had no negative reflection on *myself* what so ever. After all I knew I was a talented musician and I had learned much from the Con that I could and would use for the rest of my musical career.

This inner dialogue continued all day as did the tingly experience. It went deep, I was able examine all aspects of my past, horrors and high points, my present and my potential future, I even put out an imprint of my future partner who I *knew* I would meet. At the same time I realized the when was not important. I was experiencing absolute objectivity. I realized that I *was* having a discussion with *someone else*. This was not a higher power or

god, I knew in a flash who this was. This was the me who was not bound by the programming of parents, grandparents, dogma or schools. Society had nothing to do with this person who was unchangeable. This person knew the right path without question and external influence could not shape his character or essence.

I was aware now that the other I who *had* been effected by all these things was no longer alone....I had met the witness of my mind! Years later I would come to know this as spontaneous introduction to Rigpa which is described by Dzogchen Buddhism as the true nature of mind.

I had been alone in the house but I could hear people stirring outside. It took a while to prepare, in fact I couldn't immediately communicate. Happily the people entering the house gave me space while they were packing away their day and preparing for the evening. I had been there all day without moving.

The very next day I pulled on my jeans and checked my wallet, 50 bucks, grabbed my guitar and left to set out on my journey, to discover the world, my world. This is the story of my very own initial awakening. This book is the story of the awakening of humanity. We have come to dangerous crossroads in that journey, I like to think of the Aquarius Agenda as a sort of Tom-Tom, a road map.

The stranger I had met on the window sill had a massive effect on me. We would meet again...

1 SAMSARA.

Humanity is afflicted with a heart breaking struggle for happiness while running head long towards a self imposed suffering.

The above is a rough translation for the Tibetan word Samsara.

Samsara comes about through the illusion that one can find happiness in the world of form. Its root lies in the idea that man is above nature and spirituality. All the big bright colors of the world of form appear to be much more vivid, the noises louder, much more impressive than what one might presume to visualize as " a world of inner peace". Most people cannot even sit still for half an hour let alone meditate, and who would want to, who has the time?

Since birth we are encouraged to chase after elements of this world of form, whether it be to get an ice cream as a child or to get a Porsche later in life. We believe that happiness comes through the title we gain, through becoming the top dog at work, or receiving our PhD, perhaps even getting a spouse with breast implants. This is all food for a false sense of self, and that self will always be hungry. It is this forever grasping and clinging of desire, to have, to become or even to get rid of which causes the paradox of Samsara. This self is the one humanity, at least

Western humanity, has come to take as THE Self, and we defend the concept vehemently.

This is the psychosis which leads to all the worlds suffering.

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It is important that while reading the first 2 chapters that one does not take it to heart as a world view but to take the information on board more as insight, it is our Karma as a species to behave so. It would appear to be a necessary step in our evolution. The sole purpose of this first chapter is to emphasize that a few simple mechanisms indoctrinated into our collective consciousness are holding us back from evolving, living in harmony and at peace, optimizing the magnificent experience of life for us, our fellow occupants and the planet. After all, our sole purpose here is to reduce our entropy. Everything in the universe is in a state of evolution moving from chaos towards order.

Imperialism

Child psychology suggests that as a child we learn how to feel about ourselves and the world around us by imitating our role models. If you were surrounded by parents who were always drunk and fighting or were always angry, unhappy or scared, single, lonely, outgoing or introvert this will be reflected in your nature as an adult. We do this subconsciously, it is completely involuntary. It is also no surprise then that we almost always try to reproduce our childhood environment. Every now and then the exact opposite happens but this is generally nothing more than a knee jerk reaction to the same cause.

As a species, just like children, we imitate role models through a collective consciousness only we really have very little to go on when it comes to good role models. History and society seem to have pushed the envelope with the perpetrators of ill-gotten success, and quickly erased or twisted all memory of the good guys. Winners write history. While I believe that there have been advanced civilizations on this planet in the past who probably thrived under a radically different *sociocultural dynamic than ours, I understand full well that there is no trace left, any books or tablets have been carefully stored away somewhere or destroyed so that the likes of you and I will never get to study them.

{1}*Sociocultural theory focuses not only how adults and peers influence individual learning, but also on how cultural beliefs and attitudes impact how instruction and learning take place.- psychologist Lev Vygotsky.

A good example is the Royal Library of Alexandria which existed between the years 320 BC to 30 BC. This library, while being the last house of the Egyptian mystery schools, was charged with collecting all the world's knowledge. The library was part of a larger research institution where many of the most famous thinkers of the ancient world studied, protected under the flag of Hellenism. In this period religion was not an issue, all religions thrived together without prejudice. Society was open minded and of an intellectual, broad thinking nature. The Romans and the Vatican promptly burned this library to the ground.

The reason for this is that the puppet masters of the time didn't want any peaceful way of co-existence between systems of control, the method of divide and conquer worked just fine for them.

I can already hear you thinking uh oh conspiracy nut...Archeological sites just off the coast of India and Japan are being discovered in about 100 meters of water, which indicate that they were probably advanced coastal cities at the end of the last ice age. Their advanced construction and geographical locations definitely suggests this. Recent archeological studies show that the sphinx has suffered intense rain water over long periods creating runoff contours along its back. It hasn't rained in that area for at least 12 000 years....

The point of my detour in the story is that we seem to have lost, and or gravely mistaken, a vast chunk of history. All that we are really left with out of our puny 200 000 years of existence on earth is the Roman Empire and the bible, and if you have read just a few passages out of the Nag Hammadi scriptures then you know at least one of those is a fairy tale. Not great role

models then, but perhaps better than the ones we have, after all if you must choose between Nero or George. W. Bush

Our role models are those of our recent history, after 1000 years of the dark ages post Roman Empire. These are our fathers created by the mercantile system which gripped Europe during the 17th and 18th century and we are their children. We can take the psychological profile a step further and say what we think about ourselves *will be* the truth for us. Let's add it all up:

- Our role models have been psychotic murderers and warlords.
- We have grown from birth to believe our society's values are just.
- Our self image will be our reality.

Child psychology and sociocultural theory work for us too, and while we think we are grownups who have valid, ethics, morals and principals this is simply not so, we are carrying deep seated issues.

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Everybody knows that The Portuguese, Spanish, English, Dutch, pretty much any country that could build a boat and put slaves on it were out to rape, maim and pillage. It's called expanding the empire or **Imperialism**. Dark things followed that lust for power, it has been the same from Genghis Khan to Hitler. What was that saying – absolute power corrupts absolutely. Why is this? What is the “lust”? I reckon if we have an answer to this question we could be well on the way to solving almost all the world's problems. Is then the temptation to misuse power itself the problem? The old saying would seem to suggest this, as if the

temptation of corruption is simply too much for any man to bare. Certainly until now power has always gone hand in hand with death, destruction and the propagation of wealth for a greedy few.

When we compare the lifestyles of North American Indians or Australian Aborigines to those of the Western white man at the time of their meeting we see radically different structures in their values, societies and relationship with nature. Natives were also not influenced by the mercantile system, the Roman Empire, or the bible I might add, plus they had no idea who the queen of England was. Furthermore if the state of the environment is any gauge of a society's success, the West would appear to be losing the race badly.

Why is it that the indigenous peoples of say Australia didn't seem to have the greed/power gene? Is it perhaps a product of the mercantile system? What is it that is so inherent in our society that drives us to such barbarism only to turn around and call ourselves "the civilized world"? Even today although times, technology and our understanding of the world around us have changed, the motivating energy behind power mongering and its collateral damage have not changed at all. No lessons have been learned. The architects of death and destruction are fully aware of the consequences of their actions and throughout history they have tossed Red Herrings left, right and center to seduce the people into buying into the need for blood.

There is hope though certainly now. There is another reality emerging and it is our time now to perceive it and accept it. First we must truly know what is going on NOW and to know that we must own our part in the scheme of things.

The corruption is not an us and them issue, it's us. If we can accept our part, even if it's just understanding the damage done through complaisance, then we are ready to start to evolve. One of the most beautiful aspects of this reality is whatever it is you complain about or dislike is generally a reflection of an aspect of yourself, instant feedback. Even the death and corruption which seems so far away from our own doorstep is personal feedback.

Before placing the Herring under the microscope we need to look into a few examples of events and people who have helped shape the recent development of our society. By recent I mean the last 400 years which is pretty much the birth of "modern" Western society, post dark ages (476-1000 AD). This is when Imperialism was born on a global level. As imperialism is the father of corporatism we need to examine a few of the "heroes" of this period who set off across the sea to bring Christianity and small pox to the savage, godless, indigenous peoples of who knows where in return for their gold, land, resources and servitude as slaves. The exercise is to try and find the power gene or the greed gene, categorize it, and speculate on how it has helped to develop human civilization into our modern day civilized society. The question is: what made us who we are today?



*If the history of humanity were the clinical case of a single human being, the diagnosis would have to be: chronic paranoid delusions, a pathological propensity to commit murder and acts of extreme violence and cruelty against his perceived "enemies"-his own unconsciousness projected outward. Criminally insane, with a few brief lucid intervals.-
Eckhart Tolle*

Some men in history are praised and held in high esteem for their deeds, even cast in wrought iron and put on pedestals, while careful probing will show them to have been complete monsters with low morals, no principals, decidedly evil. This is happening in our time with, for example, the family **Bush**. If you take a peek into their background you will find all sorts of horrors like connections to the Nazi's, (Prescott Bush was involved in financing the Nazi war machine and was actually shut down under the trading with the enemy act.) Or connections to the JFK assassination, not to mention the dubious ties to the Bin Laden family. Strange that we all think of Putin as being ex KGB, our propaganda machine makes this common knowledge, but how many of us know that George Herbert Walker Bush was director of the CIA just before stepping up to bat for the republicans? Don't take my word for it, there are plenty of books, documents, archives, and information available and yes while there are a lot of sensationalists about, there are a lot of serious people with hard evidence. Try reading or doing an internet search for the book *Family of Secrets* for example by investigative journalist Russ Baker.

We kid ourselves that we actually live in a democracy and vote people into power while anybody who remembers the fiasco around the Bush vs Gore voting scandal knows this is simply not so. It was a family grab for power backed by the big bucks. And what came next looked pretty much like the actions of a war lord: "*I'm a war president, I'm a war president*" he kept blurting with relish on T.V. with a big smile. So when did this crazy shit actually start?

A little history: When the Americas were discovered this same brand of evil ran amuck without restraint, no one was watching. **Hernan Cortes** carried out one of the bloodiest most

underhanded looting parties in history on the people of South America. Spain didn't know quite what to do with him however he eventually ended up being embraced by the crown having streets named after him and having statues erected depicting him in victorious poses on horseback. First they had tried to kill him but after he murdered half of their army and absorbed the rest, he sent chests full of gold to the Monarchy to help change their tune. His actions were completely selfish having allegiance to none who could not take him a step further towards his goals. He would quickly work out who to flirt with and who to murder often doing both to the same party. Sure enough he achieved his goals of conquering a nation, being looked upon as an Emperor, attaining vast wealth but the Greed Gene almost always backfires. While Cortes attained more land and gold for Spain than any other conquistador, he did these things for recognition and status and upon returning to Spain he was shunned by the aristocracy and there were even attempts to bring charges against him.

I am curious what would have gone through his mind as he took his last few breaths? After all the blood and death, struggle and deception with the full knowledge that he was on death's door, would he have been happy with his life's achievements? Would he feel fulfilled and be able to die in peace? Did it all matter? Would he realize what life *is* and be struck by what he had done? Once again, he was a warlord and he was operating illegally, it was only when it looked like he was going to win with or without the Spanish flag behind him that the Crown accepted him as their own. Not to mention the gold!

Once more I have completely lost track of any morals here, he is obviously a bad guy but ...are we supposed to think he is a good guy.. or not? Are we supposed to maybe not care?

Another of these characters is **Robert Clive**, this guy was a small time crook. After getting caught with his pants down he became the Hero of an Empire, apparently fighting battles against terrible odds for god, king and country. This is what get's taught in school. The truth is that in England he was an extortionist who had a racket pressuring money out of local shopkeepers for protection. Upon being exported to India he got a job as a Clerk and lived the life of a fornicating, hard drinking, bachelor/ opium smoker (opium overdose was his eventual cause of death). Catching the scent of plunder and corruption, our courageous heroin addict decided to get involved in the "struggle for India". Clive (who was not employed by the army) took a handful of men and stormed a palace left unattended while its defenders were off fighting the British. What had started out as a looting party gained a little more attention than he was hoping for and by a bizarre twist of fate Robert Clive had won the day for England. India was suddenly threatened by a strong British influence instead of a quaint merchant irritation to be put up with.

The Indians took offense and attacked the British settlement at Calcutta. Most of the occupants made it out but the 100 remaining were imprisoned in a 20 foot cell. This is where the line "black hole of Calcutta" comes from. The British were indignant claiming that a regime who could do such a thing was cruel and were not worthy of governing dadadada. The stories of the Black Hole of Calcutta were blown out of all proportion offering an excuse to make war with the Indian people. (Red Herring)

Once more our hard drinking, hard fighting, heroin addict friend General Robert Clive headed north this time in British navy ships and this time he was actually enlisted which meant legal looting! He recaptured Calcutta and pursued Indians up river. In a cowardly maneuver, Clive coerced the second in command to the opposition to have his troops disappear at the moment supreme for which he would receive the title Governor when the battle was won. Sure enough at the point of battle the soldiers took off and Clive, having his very own tame Governor, got him to open the treasury removing a personal fee of a quarter of a million pounds “reward”. Of course Clive double crossed the new Governor who was replaced shortly after, losing everything. Clive became Governor of Bengal. Governor Baron General Clive of Plassey when later questioned about his massive plunder was quoted to have said:

“An opulent city lay at my mercy, vaults were thrown open to me alone, piled on either hand with gold and jewels. At this moment I stand astonished at my own moderation.”

At the pinnacle of his dubious career, England was becoming suspicious. The Baron had been charging the British East India Trading Company and plundering India at the same time. Slippery as ever Clive stayed one step ahead of the game turning Bengal into a money making machine for the Company with land taxes. Now India could pay for the privilege of farming their own lands as slaves for the British and their crops. The Indian middle men were screwed by the government and the middle men screwed the people. A tax pyramid was created which killed 25% of the population. Skeletons walked the streets then lay down in them to die while the British aristocracy wine, dined and shipped off the crops and wealth. Millions died.

This is an example of corruption and greed gaining power, of a sovereign nation. Twenty five percent dead and it's development blasted back to the dark ages. India was a highly developed, mighty empire brought low by a series of wars, the British simply got lucky at the right time. Our system still works the same way. If you research the latest banking crises you will find the same tactics, which would explain why the top 1% of our current population get richer while the percentage of poor, starving and dying is growing. For the public, a charade of smoke and mirrors is created so we group together behind a leader much as we did with our warlords, we receive a certificate at birth telling us which group we belong to and we huddle under its protection while the elite of our group make plans. As I write these lines, almost the entire Middle East is in a state of civil war or devastated by the occupation of the X-“coalition of the willing”. Syria, Iraq, Egypt, Somalia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Israel/ Palestine, Lebanon, and the cancer is spreading to Europe, steered by the same greed. Greece, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Ireland, Greenland even the Netherlands is affected by it. This is a huge area. The only difference is in the Middle East it comes in the form of physical violence while in Southern Europe it manifests as financial violence.

What do these two heroes have in common?

Hernan Cortes: Cunning manipulator, mass murderer and serial killer, liar, backstabber, intelligent, cruel and malicious, greedy for power and wealth. Self appointed general ironically despised in Spain upon return and shunned by the aristocracy and the nobility. Monuments made of him. Allegiance to

none but himself. Died an unhappy man
shunned by his peers.

Robert Clive: Extortionist- thug, Criminal, mass
murderer and serial killer, avaricious, drug
addict, alcoholic, debaucher, underhanded
cowardly tactics. Self appointed governor.
Questioned upon return re dubious
practices and ill earned wealth.
Monuments made of him. Allegiance to
none but himself. Died of a heroin
overdose.

Hmmm, there seems to be a pattern arising here...The
biggest problem of all is that this behavior is condoned, rewarded
and quickly accepted by the public thus assimilated into the
curriculum and thus becomes an important flaw in our
curriculum vitae. Because we have turned a blind eye, it has
become an accepted element, perhaps a valued element of our
code of ethics. Because of this centuries old system of
acceptance, as one of these warlords gathers power through
violence and corruption, we the public gather to them like moths
to a flame. In any cellular organism such an unwholesome
intruder entering an otherwise harmonious environment would
result in antibodies being sent out immediately by the immune
system to deal with the problem before it corrupts the host! Our
problem is in the mind.

Slavery

Another abhorrent side effect of imperialism is and was **slave labor**. Before the industrial revolution slaves were akin to **oil**. Slavery was accepted as normal, and there's more of it today than ever before! There was little difference between the African slaves who had done absolutely nothing to deserve their service to the Empire and the British convict slaves who were mostly just hungry. In the Americas the British had gained their huge wealth on the backs of African slaves forced to work on the plantations but in Australia, they came up with another solution. It was brilliant, they managed to get rid of the prisoner problem, exterminate a useless indigenous population and colonize an otherwise uncolonizable land!

Once they had served their sentences convicts could apply for grants of land and become settlers themselves- free English colonization for the crown. Most convicts did not return to Britain, life as a free man in Australia presented them with better possibilities such as free land and their very own slaves! While the convict saw this as his good fortune, the crown knew better.

Australian Aborigines had lived in harmony with nature, literally shepherding the land for tens of thousands of years prior to the arrival of the white man. That all changed within a few decades. When Cook arrived in the late 1700's the Aboriginal population was about 750 000. By 1920 they had been cut down by 90%.

The Daily News, June, 1933,

Auber Octavius Neville, Western Australia's chief protector of Aborigines was reported saying:

{2} *"The decisions made by the commonwealth government to adopt as a definite policy the encouragement of marriages of white men and half-caste women with a view to raising the standard of mixed blood to that of the whites is nothing new in this state. I have foreseen it for years and sponsored it as the only natural outcome of the position."*

"The blacks will have to go white. It is exemplified (by) quarter-castes and by the gradual absorption of the native Australian black race by the white."

A very similar plot was used in the horror fiction film *Revenge of the body snatchers*.

{3}The term "Stolen Generations" applies to Australian Aboriginal people forcefully removed or stolen away from their families. This occurred between **1890s and 1970s**. Many never saw their parents again. In removing their children the method of passing on the cultural activity was broken. Language, tradition, knowledge, dances and spirituality could only live if passed on to their children through ceremony and word of mouth. The objective was: **to end Aboriginal culture within a short time** and get rid of "the Aboriginal problem".

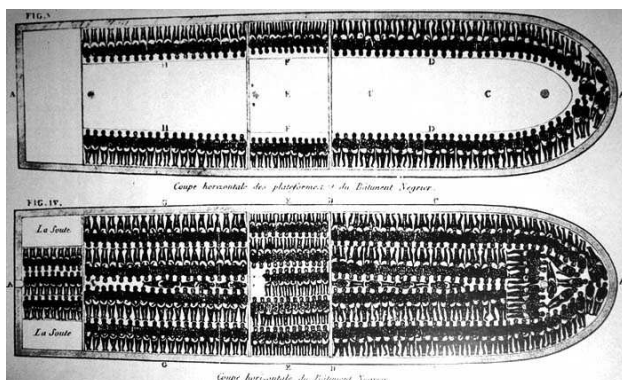
If a person steals a loaf of bread he gets taken from his family and sent to break rocks on the other side of the planet. If the Queen steals a country by force it's called expanding the empire and she gets to further commit genocide and exploit the countries resources. Best of all when the country has settled by slaves, she taxes them. This is the nature of Imperialism and this is mirrored in modern day **corpratocracy**. I pay tax and so do you. The Corporate world does not and neither do the Persons at the head of these institutions. The super rich *do not* pay tax. In fact most of the world's top names send their money through

letter box companies in places like the Netherlands, Cayman Islands and Cyprus where they make deals with the tax departments to avoid paying tax in their own countries. **Rock band U2** does this while preaching feed the poor on one hand they pay no tax on the other. **Starbucks** coffee shops claims to use fair trade products and runs their money through the same sort of letter box company set up in Holland. These companies are personally responsible for **slavery, sweat shops and the working poor**. I can picture Bono walking past the tax department singing yeah yeah yeah yeah. If our evolution is to occur this will have to change. While on the topic of Holland they too have had their hand in the slavery game in not too modest a fashion.

The West India Company (**WIC**), the dark sister company of the **Dutch East India Trading Company** was set up to carry out smuggling, piracy and Trans Atlantic trade in slaves. Ships would leave Holland and head to the African gold coast to pick up about 700 slaves then ship them off to the Caribbean and Brazilian plantations. Around 20% would die during the voyage due to disease and poor nutrition. The vessels would then pick up a load of sugar, gold or tobacco and return to the Netherlands although because the trade in human flesh was so lucrative they didn't always bother with the cargo for the return trip. This would fly against everything you will read in Dutch history books which generally state that the slave trade was not particularly successful and didn't last very long. This was true of the VOC but *not* of the WIC!

Another reason for not carrying return cargo was to make sure the vessels would be lighter and more maneuverable so they could carry out opportunistic acts of piracy on the Spanish

treasure fleets on their way home. These ships were often laden with Aztec gold (courtesy of Hernan Cortes). In 1628 Piet Hein captured the entire Spanish treasure Fleet, and its vast fortune in precious metals. Funny, the Spanish stole it from the Aztecs and the Dutch stole it from the Spanish....Traveling energy?



The tiny country of the Netherlands became one of the ten wealthiest countries in the world through piracy, trade and slavery. During the 17th century Amsterdam was the foremost commercial and maritime power of Europe with tentacles stretching out over the globe. It was the financial center of the world and this was largely achieved through slavery. It was at this time when the European Enlightenment was emerging throughout the continent. Many good things came of the inquisitive and tolerant nature of the Dutch embracing the **European Enlightenment**. It had stimulated artists such as Rembrandt and Vermeer, given rise to modern navigation and had far reaching effects on philosophy, science and politics. Unfortunately the tolerance and liberal thinking stopped when it came to the trade in human flesh.

You could say the Netherlands are the reason we have African Americans today or you could say if it wasn't the Dutch it would have been the Portuguese. The truth of the matter is if it wasn't for the greed gene we wouldn't have African Americans at all except by choice. In fact would it be too far a stretch to say without greed we would have no racial tension? Greed is not like gravity, it's not inherent to our laws of physics, it is a character trait which exists only in human beings and is a question of freewill, choice. It is actually foreign to the survival protocol of any species. Wait on, there *is* one other life form that acts this way...A virus.

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By looking at our History the first thing that springs out is our propensity for violence without any consideration towards our fellow man and the fact that anything goes as long as it is a side effect of propagation of wealth, land, natural resources or power. While I am sure **Charles Darwin** altered his view point throughout his life as he observed and studied life along the way, the world has remembered only a few key points which were taken from his *Origen of the Species* and entered into scientific doctrine. This so much that later, when he tried to offer another opinion on his own work he was treated as an eccentric by his younger colleagues. His theory of survival of the fittest as a process of **natural selection** and that the world is a frightening place in which one species is pitted against another in a struggle for dominance is a good example. But wait! If Darwin's theory held water, why is it that every Empire, Dictatorship or Country who lived by Darwin's theory of separation and violence ends in bankruptcy and or burns out only to dissolve into weakness? Look at the Roman Empire, *ANY* Empire. In fact we have never had a Western ruling group who has *EVER* lived in peace,

harmony and cooperation. It simply has never existed. So, the phenomenon of Empire is:

- 1/ created by the greed, power gene, and
- 2/ it gets passed around from nation to nation like a football, or rather like some vampire spirit who moves from host to host.

An Empire appears to be nothing more than a bad idea demanding infinite consumption in a finite environment; it's rather like a house on fire. The nature of fire, is to consume all in its path until the fuel is gone. Is our perception of survival as a species then incorrect?

Darwin's theory of natural selection became so ingrained in science text books that it became common knowledge and to suggest anything else was scientific heresy! In fact a French Biologist in his book "Evolution and Diversity of Life" claimed that: life without cooperation was not feasible in nature. This flew in the face of Darwin's theory and he was ridiculed. With the turn of our century though, scientists have been quietly suggesting that perhaps Lamarck was not so off the mark in his theory of cooperation.

Could Darwin have been influenced by his own upbringing? Cooperation in nature is plain to see, you don't need a degree in biology to know that an oak tree is a key stone life form in nature not only re-cycling its leaves and Co₂, creating oxygen, spreading its own seed but also providing nutrients and shelter for entire ecosystems. Perhaps Darwin, born in 1809 shortly after the period of conquest written about here, was heavily influenced by the concept of what was acceptable within civilized society regarding his fellow man and projected it in his theories of evolution. I wonder if he had been raised by American Indians before the west had been introduced if he