

## Caring can make the change

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It's Saturday morning. It's been a long and busy week, in which we had 1 million views on YouTube, and I will be taking some time off over the weekend, but where are we now? That seems to be the right question to ask this morning.

If I drop the analysis for the moment and speak not as someone trying to analyse the current political-economic situation, but simply as a person seeking to make their way through life at this moment, it's fair to say that I am incredibly worried about where we are at this point in time.

The sentiments I've been expressing in my YouTube videos this week reflect exactly how I feel. I think we are living in a world where a few mad men, driven by greed and hate, which, when combined with their utter indifference to the well-being of most of the people on this planet, have taken us to the edge of a cliff over which they appear more than willing to push us off because they believe that they will not feel the consequences of our pain.

In making that statement, I stress that I chose the words mad men with care, because the people driving this process do appear to be men, and I do think they are mad. Let's leave the gender issue aside, having noted it, and deal with the madness. If madness, or insanity if you wish to put it that way, means an inability to understand reality, or to relate to the world as others see it, then I think my suggestion is justified. Donald Trump, many in his administration, and Benjamin Netanyahu and his henchmen all seem to meet these criteria.

Their desires are detached from reality. Their motives for war and their actions in imposing death, harm, destruction and other consequences that will last for the lifetime of millions, and maybe beyond, all suggest that they cannot comprehend the reality of the power that they are using to wreak havoc on the world. And all of this is for the dual vain purpose of securing their own freedom from jail, in the case of both Netanyahu and Trump, and of advancing their own already grossly excessive personal power and wealth, in the case of all those who appear to be abusing this situation for that purpose.

Their indifference to others is what pains me most of all. As Adam Smith noted in his *Theory of Moral Sentiments*, published in 1759, no one, not even the wealthiest person, can truly be indifferent to the suffering of others. I agree with that, but I would add a caveat. That is, unless the thinking of the wealthiest and most powerful has been so corrupted by ideology, dogma, and the detachment from reality I have already noted, this outcome should not be possible.

What we have done over the last 45 or more years is let a situation that has made this outcome possible.

Too many by then were greedy, selfish and indifferent when Margaret Thatcher in the UK and Ronald Reagan in the USA began to dismantle the post-war consensus that put at its [\*heart freedom from the fear that Franklin D. Roosevelt described in 1941\*](#). *They had forgotten what a previous generation that grew up with the consequences of the 1939–45 World War knew, which was that care mattered more than greed. They knew that peace mattered more than war. They knew that a society that left some behind could not prosper. They had seen the gross consequences of inequality and swore not to suffer them again. They believed a better world was possible. And they were right, because they moved in that direction.*

*And then greed, indifference, vanity, and avarice returned, and were worshipped. The consequence is that we have got to the point where we are now, where some who are so far removed from the suffering of others that they cannot comprehend what that suffering might be are in power and abuse that situation, quite deliberately, for personal gain, as if it is their right to do so.*

*So what is my fear based on all this? It is that I do not know where, how, or when all this might end.*

*Can we imagine a world in which such indifference, especially on the part of those with the means to capture power, can have a positive outcome? I cannot.*

*Can I imagine a situation where an alternative can be created? I have to cling to that hope. Equally, I have to admit that there are occasions when it seems hard. The current crisis is increasing that fear.*

*But what I also know is that change comes from the stories we tell. Those are the stories we tell about who we are, what we dream to be, and how we wish to live. There we have the power.*

*When I look at the lives of those corrupt individuals who are seeking to control the world at present, I see no joy, no vision, no hope, and nothing that frankly provides evidence within their apparent well-being that justifies any gain they might secure from what they are doing. And, ultimately, it is in the failure of their own ability to thrive that I see the prospect for change. Hate and indifference are not a basis for well-being.*

*Caring is.*

*I care. I rather suspect that you do. It is for that reason alone that we might ultimately change this world for the better.*