

## **The enormous power of protervity and social corruption**

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**Abstract:** After an insightful analysis, a heartless power, which in many cases is acquired through large amounts of money, very often determines not only the world's agenda, but also much of the lives of millions of people, is here identified and characterized. In this power, sometimes unseen, mainly held unlawfully by some business owners and partnerships, in many ways all of us participate, putting money in first place over anything else and making it an end in itself. The most effective weapon that uses this power for its own purposes is social corruption. I show here in some way how society, influenced by this power, ignores the individual and how the individual becomes an enemy of his own organization, society. It is explained how society as we know it, is in danger of extinction and how we could remedy this knotty tribulation that the evil power itself is not interested repressing. When the social arrangement is broken by either party, i.e. the citizen or society disrupts this social pact, an act of corruption has been committed. Corruption means "the act of spoiling", a wicked behaviour. I also give here a recipe aimed to reduce social corruption to tolerable level.

**Keywords:** Social corruption, social pact, sinister power, extreme poverty.

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### **INTRODUCTION**

In human beings, impulses that make them behave in a particular way, are a common occurrence. A natural impulse which has increased its occurrence and intensity is greed. Greed is the main engine that gives rise to predatory economic power. This evil power has always existed. Throughout human history, there have been countless demonstrations of this influence. However, with the development of new technologies and new communication networks, its effectiveness is now terrifying. If this problem is not controlled, it could destroy society as we know it [1,2]. All social groups are organized under agreements that may be presupposed or under more sophisticated arrangements such as social pacts, where laws and rules force individuals to act for society, just as rules and laws dictate the actions of society to respect the individual. Through the so-called social contract, the individual agrees to look out for the society and society as an organization establishes commitments with the citizen. The individual agrees to pay taxes, to obey the laws and rules established for all, to respect the rights of others and especially agrees to look out for the social organization. In any doubt or indecision, citizens should put the interest of society above their own. Likewise, society is forced to watch over citizens. Society must provide health, education, security and many other things for the individual's well-being [3, 4]. When this arrangement is broken by either party, i.e. the citizen or

the society, an act of corruption has been committed. Corruption means "the act of spoiling". In particular, if a citizen puts his own interests above those of society, trying to obtain a profit at the expense of others, this is committing an act of corruption [3,4].

The weapon that provides better results for this greedy power is social corruption. Among all the issues that negatively affect social groups, social corruption has the highest rank. With social corruption, problems such as impunity, insecurity and poverty are generated. These problems reduce the quality of life of human beings. As people's lives become more miserable, moral problems increase and people get sick more easily, gripped by depression, sadness, generating economies of war that further denigrate the individual and the whole society. If social corruption is left unchecked, i.e. without reducing it to tolerable levels, it could result in the destruction of society which is the organization that allows, when applicable, the performance of individuals in full command of their faculties within human groups. Corruption and poverty cannot be eradicated, despite what some politicians say; we can only aspire to reduce them to tolerable levels [3, 4]. Among other things, through the system of social corruption, this great power changed the paradigm of labour exploitation by the paradigm of unemployment. It turns out to be a strange regime. A dictatorship based on poverty, degradation of labour and sorrow of the

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people [2-5]. In this work, this serious problem is addressed and a strategy to combat it is suggested.

### **THE MEN OF POWER AND THE SOURCES OF POWER**

To speak of the evil power, you must first try to define what power is. There are many definitions of what power is [6]. When an object such as the power has many features, it is difficult to define it, because one or more of the particularities is usually taken to establish a definition. Unpretentiously and skimming basics, here power is defined as "the ability to impose one's will on others" [6]. In the words of William Hazlitt "The love for power is the love for ourselves" [6]. This is because it permits one to acquire emotional and material rewards, inherent to its ownership and exercise. Power is manifested in different ways:

- The power of ecchymosis (bruising). The most primitive power is undoubtedly the whip (punishment or direct threat on the body). Slaves were forced to work by the whip.
- The power of enchantment. The power of the church and the politicians are very similar. Both try to convince (through seduction, try to impose). Commercial advertising attempts to captive customers and make them compulsive buyers through the advertising message (this is called learnt behaviour or conditioning).
- The power of compensation. The power of the employer is purchasing power (the worker sells his labour force). In all forms of power we find what the individual will exchange for something else [6].

The exercise of power for most citizens is limited; it is partially practiced and seems to be mostly circumstantial. For a full exercise of power one is required to have the sources of power:

- Personality
- Property
- Organization [6]

There is not much doubt about the strong personality of John F. Kennedy, nor can we doubt about the many properties of Carlos Slim. Finally, as stated elsewhere, organization is not everything but without it, things get too complicated. Organization is not just power but it is a source of power.

### **THE EMPIRE OF THE IMMODERATE ECONOMIC POWER GAIN**

What is the enormous power of rapacious greed? In essence it is the soulless monetary power of voracious economic profit. First, money is considered a beneficial invention for mankind. Money certainly solves many existential problems. It turns out to be a means to obtain goods and services; with it we can make life more enjoyable, certainly. Moreover, money or its equivalent, material possessions have almost

always become present in great struggles and conflagrations where humans have participated. In this context, major problems arise when the money stops being simply a means, and becomes an end in itself. How did we get to this situation where money is an end in itself? People of great power have managed to do this using learnt behaviour, conditioning people (brainwashing) mainly through the means of communication, simply teach to them one thing: CORRUPTION [2-4, 7].

Originally, in a society organized through social pact, it is little thought that an ordinary person could accumulate wealth to the extent of having more power than the king or the president or the government of a country. However, at sometime this possibility was considered and, with a desire to avoid it, people tried to set limits; monopolies (state privilege) and concessions that could enrich someone so excessively were banned; they were exclusively for the state administration. In the course of history some cases of extremely wealthy men who could overshadow the power of the sovereign existed, but were isolated and considered rather extraordinary cases. At present, the power of economic gain turns out to be very powerful, and some holders are much more influential than many leaders of rich countries and in some cases more powerful than governments of various countries as a whole; the regulations imposed before to forbid monopolies, corporations and consortia, have virtually disappeared [2, 7-9]. In recent times, most humans have been indoctrinated to putting money and/or material goods before anything else. It is difficult now for a citizen to carry out an important activity for society without a tangible return in wealth. One of the first awards that the Roman Julius Caesar received was the Civic Crown, delivered to all who had saved the life of a human being [10]. It was an honour to wear it with dignity in public meetings. This was mentioned in the personal correspondence between Julius Caesar and Cicero, "My ambition is to serve well (to his General), said Julius Caesar. Although it may seem immodesty, I will say that neither intend nor aspire to achieve the Civic Crown for saving the life of a comrade in Mytilene. Laugh if you want Marco. Marco laughed" [10, 11].

### **THE PARADIGM SHIFT: FROM LABOUR EXPLOITATION TO UNEMPLOYMENT**

By putting money above all else, in the human being prevails greed (excessive desire to accumulate); in this situation the rest of the society is in danger. In accordance with this objective, around the world contradictory cases exist. In Mexico, on the one hand, lives one of the richest men in the world and, on the other, there are at least fifty million people living in poverty. To achieve this result, the great power had to indoctrinate the population. Teach; persuade them that they should lose the few privileges achieved through social struggle over a long period of time. The people

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had to change the previous paradigm of the fight against labour exploitation to the current paradigm of the doom of unemployment. How is this accomplished? The citizens must go against their own interests. With the indoctrination they have been convinced that the major exporters, the very rich men, need to compete against companies from other latitudes, and for that purpose wages must be reduced in order to be competitive [2, 7, 9]. The North American Free Trade Agreement between Canada, United States and Mexico was actually intended to allow some very rich men to become richer exporters competing with others who were also trying to corner international trade for their own benefit. Poor men that still retain their work have reduced their purchasing power. They are only consumers who are not allowed to export products and could hardly become producers. How is possible to reduce the wages of workers without bursting the economy? If people do not have enough money to buy the country's products, companies stop selling and of course have to cut production, in a vicious circle ending in an economic catastrophe. This is, at least temporarily, prevented by what has been called *globalization* [12]. With globalization this market skyline is growing and products that are not sold locally are sent to markets that still have some money to buy [9]. Salaries are reduced with strategies such as the salary cap, avoiding social protest under the threat of having massive layoffs, as did the company Luz y Fuerza del Centro and Mexicana Airlines of Mexico; the supply of workforce is increased and they, the very rich men, can pay lower wages [6, 12]. Not only our society has been damaged, a very important part of the world population, is largely sick, jobless, disappointed, has lost hope and cannot see clearly what could be the solution to all these problems. The unbridled greed of a few is not only destroying the planet's resources, it is also ruining the lives of much of the human population [2, 7, 13]. The power that a few individuals have accumulated and the institutions that they manage for their purposes have become a monster that seems to have a thousand heads yet none. Nobody can reclaim, first because they are very powerful and secondly because they are not important as individuals themselves but through the system that they have generated [1, 2, 7]. It is certain that all of us contribute to the existence of this evil power. Indoctrination through the media, acting on the population, is of such dimensions that it is incredible that a very significant number of citizens advocate and support the prevailing order and reinforce and strengthen their enemy. When unions appeared on the scene in Mexico in 1872 and the first union association (Circle of Workers) was founded, the power of rapacious greed was not as powerful as it is today. The union was just an attempt to moderate the greed of some bad businessmen. Later other holders of this evil power appeared on the scene in greater force, such as bad bankers and bad financiers who with new technologies and new knowledge, like game theory and

mechanics of derivative products, have jeopardized not only people but also various governments and countries worldwide, with deregulation of the financial system which has allowed them to virtually take over the world. Have subjugated the governments of the United States and Europe and not talk about Mexico [2, 7, 8,12].

### **THE DICTATORSHIP OF FREE MARKET**

The great paradigm that the dictatorship of the free market has established is called economics of free competence. It ensures that liberalism in world markets will regulate and control economic operations and those large economic gains of the financial system eventually will generate more jobs to meet demand fully. This practice has proven to be a hoax. The rich men are getting richer and the poor are not only more in number but also getting poorer [2-4, 7, 12]. After the North American Free Trade Agreement, the Mexican economy has only grown barely 2% of annual GDP. In the 20 years that this treaty has lasted, the economies of more than 16 Latin American countries that had nothing to do with this treaty have grown faster than that of Mexico.

In practice, unions have shown themselves to be ineffective in containing the greed of some politicians and bad businessmen. If any union shows opposition to neoliberalism, they are demonized, discredited to the extent that, with this indoctrination, society demands that this be remedied, as happened with Luz Y Fuerza del Centro in Mexico: much of the population was convinced that, in short, they were thieves who deserved extinction. Thus, the neoliberals have almost finished with those unions who have opposed them: Ferrocarrileros, Luz Y Fuerza, Mexicana de Aviación and many others who have been cornered and also who displayed this kind of opposition force have been reduced to a minimum.

- As a result of this neoliberal economic model (dictatorship without a dictator) unemployment, poverty, corruption and unrest are generated.
- The recipients (with colossal amounts of money) are some bad entrepreneurs, investors and particularly some international banks and insurance companies (Lehman Brothers, Goldman Sachs, AIG, City Group, etc.).
- The losers are the ordinary citizens; society loses benefits (employment, security, education, health, pensions and more importantly dignity) [13, 14].

### **THE WEAPON PREFERRED BY THE "GREAT POWER": CORRUPTION**

The strategy is indoctrination (the charm: you can be very rich), the gun, the message that promotes CORRUPTION. If we are all corrupt there is no problem. Down here we steal the toilet paper, up there they steal millions. This turns out to be a bit smart for people here below. The arrangement should be: Nobody

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steals anything [3], [4]. Citizen indoctrination is achieved through the media, acting for the convenience of those above, and, in particular, so we lose our capacity for indignation. When any attempt at social protest looms, they introduce into the media some distracting issues such as: football, releasing drugs, abortion and homosexuality.

The decriminalization of marijuana would increase the threat to society as a whole. It is not so hard to imagine that a commercial pilot flies or a surgeon operating under the influence of marijuana, or any other drug, could cause irreparable damage. With the possible release of drugs, a world made up of many drug addicts with many complexities, it would be a very dangerous world. There should be another strategy. It should first of all educate, indoctrinate, people to behave appropriately and without damaging their physical and psychological integrity, to stay within the social pact, which is then obliged to look out for the others but especially to look out for their welfare.

In today's Mexico, the new government is launching a crusade with "many legal reforms." This, for some people, has brought new hope; they can participate in some projects of national interest. Hope seems periodically reborn. There really is a good hope; it has always existed, the hope that "we can reduce poverty and insecurity to tolerable levels." However, if the real problem is not attacked, that is social corruption, as usual, some people will pocket as much money as possible from government programmes, and the rest of people will be given, in such a case, only crumbs. The strategy is the same, indoctrination (charm) aimed to make people in the end behave corruptly. For a substantial change in the right direction the most important communication media (television, radio, and newspapers) are required: the plan would indoctrinate the population in practices like honesty and responsibility towards society. This would change the lives of folks, raise the quality of life and give comfort to the people.

Herein, I intend to show that, when the phenomenon of corruption occurs at the level to which Mexico and several other countries are accustomed, then the social pact is broken; all this has changed the postulate of the social contract, and therefore this core has reinforced the power of rapacious greed. That is, both society and the individual "forget" or have forgotten their mutual commitment. So, as a result, they can also achieve levels of mutual destruction. Society fails to look out for the individual (marginalized) and the individual becomes not only a predator of other individuals but a predator of society and of the whole planet itself [3, 4].

How can we establish a therapy or a recipe to put a stop to this situation, to reduce corruption, limiting

the power of covetousness, if any action taken is corrupted and spoiled? Consider, for example, the current fight against organized crime in Mexico; obviously it has backfired. In the end, as we shall see, there is always something that we can do and that can give positive results. Note that to achieve something positive in favour of the citizen and society in general requires proper conditioning. This conditioning can be achieved only through the mass media, especially television.

### **IS IT POSSIBLE TO CHANGE THE STATUS QUO FOR GOOD?**

In an interview on television Channel 11, Mexico, held with Miguel Sabido (producer of films, soaps, etc.) [15], he commented that he made a soap opera tinged with social interest. In it, one of the protagonists, a tenacious fighter, somehow made things right. He struggled to overcome the limitations of his surroundings and, based on academic study, managed to succeed. Sometimes, the energy company cuts the light in his home for non-payment but he keeps studying by candlelight. Such was the impact on public attitudes, that, when they entered into the star's thinking in the soap opera, 600,000 people with a desire for improvement almost simultaneously searched for an educational institution at which to register, of course with the consequent problems of saturation and the corresponding objections of the government educational apparatus [15]. In fact, India, in particular, and some European countries have adopted the method of Miguel Sabido to instil in their citizens more appropriate values and respect for the laws and regulations of those countries with regard to the so called social agreement [15].

### **DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

In conclusion, it is possible to indoctrinate people to behave properly with respect to social organization. This can be done in a relatively short time according to the experience of filmmaker Miguel Sabido. It is relatively easy to teach people to look out for themselves first and, at the same time, to look out for their peers as a means of avoiding extreme deprivation, misery and poverty which makes us all miserable [3,4, 15]. This situation, characterized by the famous phrase from neoliberalism "Everyone looks out for themselves", is leading to the destruction of society. We are all indoctrinated to behave in a wrong and corrupt way. Could we choose the right indoctrination to fulfil the demand for a better life, ready to unite in the common interest? A full way of life is one where the individual can feel good a great part of the time. What is worth pursuing in this world is not so much the accumulation of wealth but FEELING GOOD. I can feel OK only if others feel OK.

Finally, we point out some issues to recap:

- Although few people or groups fully exercise the Evil Power all of us settle for it.
- We have been indoctrinated to be predators of our own organization, society.
- The indoctrination of citizens comes from the home, school, but mainly from the mass media, particularly television.
- We can make people learn to behave in solidarity with our fellow men, using the main channels of mass media.
- To feel OK for a good part of our life, we must really learn to love ourselves and to love others.

In our life, one thing is worth pursuing with determination: it is to feel that everything is OK, because it could be worst.

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