

Transcript

Hi there, Robert Verkerk here.

I wanted to talk to you today about this era of dissonance or cognitive dissonance that we are amidst and also to introduce this idea of the heroic bystander effect, which in essence means we cannot afford to be a passive bystander to sit by and watch while potential atrocities occur around us because of the measures being taken around COVID-19 at the moment.

So I think we all agree that COVID-19 is incredibly divisive and it's not that we haven't had divisive issues before course. Biden's decision to withdraw all of a sudden from Afghanistan is one of them. The decision to invade Iraq and the absence of weapons of mass destruction is another.

But this is an issue that affects so many people now the division doesn't occur just into two camps. It occurs into multiple camps, so we've highlighted about 17 in our article this week, 17 camps that coexist.

Whether it's to do with the seriousness or proportionality of the response, whether it's to do with vaccines being the best way of dealing with this, or whether the virus is actually zoonotic is animal in origin, or whether it was made in a lab. And whether mRNA technology is really the greatest thing that's happened to medicine since the development of antibiotics, or whether it's part of a slippery slope that introduces this opportunity to introduce artificial genes into humans and create a post human era transhumanism.

So one of the reasons that these different camps can coexist is because it's actually very difficult to find robust evidence to absolutely prove or disprove any of these different views and while we've identified 17 of them, you could identify many more. There are probably more than 50 common views that people have and in many respects we're starting to feel that this is part of a plan within this process.

You will see that there is a development of certain camps that are part of an ingroup. These are camps that basically resonate with the mainstream narrative and with the status quo.

And there are camps that are absolutely part of the outgroup. They are marginalized.

In trying to understand how this happens, I was drawn to the work of a professor, now an emeritus professor, Ervin Staub, who's been actually very active in training police forces to not overreach what they're doing, and that's happened even since the time of George Floyd in the US. He's now in his 80s. Back in 1981 he was very involved in Harvard. He devoted his life to studying genocide and the atrocities. Severe atrocities that have occurred at different times in human history. Whether it's in the Stalin era, the Nazi Germany, Holocaust, or Rwanda, Darfur, Bosnia.

And what they have discovered, and what is summarized in this particular article that was then published by Ervin Staub in political psychology in 1985, is that there are a number of features that are common to the perpetration of these atrocities.

And as I read the paper, I started really to feel that many of these situations are actually building, not lessening as we move deeper and deeper into this pandemic, and it's not related to the fact that

the pandemic is becoming more serious. The consequences of behaving in the way that we have been have become more serious, but we haven't seen anything as severe in terms of the way in which the virus interacts with humans as it was when it first really arrived in a big way within human populations in the early part of 2020. In essence, what urban style talks about is that in order for particular people to perpetrate these crimes against humanity you have to have a change in societal conditions and that that breeds aggression.

That breeds cruelty and that means that societal conditions need to get worse, and that's exactly what's been happening over the last 18 months He talks about the need to have an overriding ideology that drives this aggressive behavior.

And again, in many respects, this idea of really attacking and denouncing and marginalising dissenters, people that don't support the status quo, even though the status quo is not supported by hard evidence, that is one of the prerequisites.

He talks about scapegoating the way in which individual groups of people take, for example, unvaccinated populations today are being blamed. Our other piece looks at the data around this, and it's very clear that the data does not support the view. You can work the data in such a way that it can, but when you really look at the data properly you see that it does not support the view that unvaccinated people pose a threat to vaccinated people. In fact, what it shows is that fully vaccinated people have an increased risk, sometimes several times increased risk compared with unvaccinated populations and of course there can be many confounding factors at work and another factor Staub talks about is repression.

We have an extremely repressive regime. As we see democracies being replaced by authoritarian regimes across the world, and of course propaganda is a big part of that whole process discrimination against outgroups is there. So, in trying to resolve the kind of conditions to prevent a re-emergence of these atrocities he draws us to the very thing that saved his own life when he was dealing with Nazi occupied Hungary as a young child.

And it was an active, heroic bystander that saved his life.

So please read our article, to understand that actually there is really no place to sit by if we really care about future generations, we do have to act.

We can't afford to be passive in this, so let's all become heroic bystanders. Let's become active in this. Let's do everything we can to.

Let's do everything to distribute the information that really helps people to have the information that's so blatantly missing in what is supplied by governments and health authorities and the mainstream media.

So thank you very much. Please dig into our articles and share as widely as you can.

We no longer have a YouTube channel - that's been removed courtesy of YouTube so we really are reliant on people sharing our information from our website to as many other platforms as you can.

Thank you very much.