

The Good, Bad and Extremism

In every society, there are good and bad people; the good ones tend always to do good things, while the bad ones tend often to do bad things.

Good people, by their very nature, tend to be kind, helpful and tolerant; they are more respectful of the views and rights of others. Bad people, however, tend to be rude, unhelpful, and disrespectful, they also tend to lack tolerance and violate the rights for others.

Good people tend to be modest, regardless of how successful and smart they may be; bad people tend to be arrogant, regardless of how unsuccessful and ignorant they may be. Modesty reflects self-confidence and humbled power, while arrogance reflects lack of self-confidence and intent to demonstrate and use sheer power.

It is always possible, using the stick and carrot policy, to convince bad people to stop doing bad things and do good things instead. However, it is impossible to convince good people to do bad things without brainwashing them first; you need to convince them to believe in an ideology that sees the world as black and white only before asking them to do bad things in its name. Ideologies tend to transform their followers into mindless actors willing to do whatever is asked of them, even committing crimes against themselves and the other, that ideology justifies.

History of man and his civilization clearly indicates that extremist ideologies, regardless of their nature and objectives, have been responsible for almost all wars, massacres and ethnic cleansings; they have also failed to serve humanity in any way that counts; help establish freedom, promote tolerance, accept and practice democracy, work for social justice, or lead societal development. Fully committed followers of extremist ideologies are largely mad men and women or criminals in the making. Ideological indoctrination, left unchecked, usually leads to dogmatism, which leads to extremism and eventually to criminality.

Ideologies that lead to extremism and criminality must also include not only religions and sociopolitical ideologies, but materialism as well. When people become machines driven by greed and money for the sake of making more money, they become criminals willing to commit all kinds of bad deeds against the poor, the weak, and the ignorant and society to gain wealth and accumulate more wealth; and they do it all the time through fraud, manipulation, bribing officials, stealing public money, exploiting the needy, extortion and cheating.

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