

OUR MODERN MITZRAYIM: ON THE PSYCHOSPIRITUAL PROCESSES OF COLONIZATION AND SOUL MURDER

// ELUL 5783 - ZACHARY R.J. STRONG, B.ENG.MGT

*The Halluci Nation
The human beings
The people
See the spiritual in the natural
Through sense and feeling
Everything is related
All the things of earth and in the sky have spirit
Everything is sacred
Confronted by the alienation
The subjects and the citizens see
The material religions through trauma and numb
Nothing is related
All the things of the earth and in the sky have energy to be exploited
Even themselves
Mining their spirits into souls
Sold
Into nothing is sacred
Not even their self
The ALie Nation
The alienation*

(The Halluci Nation ft. John Trudell)

HELPFUL TERMINOLOGY

- **Consilience:** When different approaches to a subject yield the same or similar conclusions¹.
- **Mitzrayim:** This is the Hebrew name for Egypt, but also a word with meanings related to constriction, oppression, hardship, difficulty, and tribulation. On the surface, this is connected to the Hebrews' time in slavery, but the Jewish concept has consilience with secular literature.
- **Colonization:** In mainstream academia, this term is used to describe the physical processes of Eurocentric powers taking control of areas of land. However, a wider review of the literature indicates that colonization is also a psychological process by which one becomes compliant with, subservient to, and even dependent on an external power.
- **Soul Murder:** A term first popularized in a 1989 book about childhood deprivation², soul murder is said to be a spiritual crime that deprives the victim of their capacity to enjoy life.

AUSPICIOUS TIMES

In the ancient and foundational work of Jewish mysticism, the *Holy Zohar*, a prophecy is related that speaks of a time of incredible knowledge and wisdom. In this period of human history, prophesied to begin in the Hebrew year 5600 – or 1840 CE – the “floodgates of supernal wisdom” and the “wellsprings of lower wisdom” would burst forth, preparing the world for the Messianic Era.

Since that time, not only have many profound Jewish mystical works been printed for broad consumption within the Jewish community, but secular scientific advancements have reshaped our world. Mere decades after the Zohar’s prophesied date, Darwin’s theories about evolution upended the traditional Western understanding of human nature, and decades after that, Einstein’s theoretical work on the structure of our universe upended our understanding of... everything.

However, despite our incredible advancements in science, technology, and even spirituality, we are struggling more than ever to even survive. The wealth disparity between rich and poor is embarrassingly large, leaving many scrambling to cover the necessities of life. The differences in prosperity between the West and South America, Africa, and Asia has long been a sore point, particularly given the historical contests of Eurocentric colonization.

The COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated these issues, with its associated restrictions serving to crush the middle class, disrupt the world’s economy, and arguably put some Western countries into an immediate recession. The strains on global supply chains are also unignorable, and worsening environmental disasters – fires, floods, dry rivers, unexplained phenomena – are placing further burdens on troubled economies.

Amidst the backdrop of these modern concerns, however, the deep and vibrant traditions of the world’s indigenous populations – including the North American tribes, the Afrocentric “Hoteps”, and the millennia-old Jewish nation – are concerned with things like spiritual health and soul murder. The modern lifestyle, from their perspective, is like a form of slavery or exploitation, only punctuated with occasional bursts of euphoric excess.

The mind-numbing nights spent dancing and flirting at nightclubs. The exhilarating view from the peak of a European mountain. The scandalous kaleidoscope of the world wide web.

Olanzapine to take the edges off, a glass of wine to relax. Work at The Office all day, watch The Office all night. Mourning an addiction to the black mirror after a Black Mirror episode fades to a black mirror.

All the while, the rich get richer, the poor get poorer, and the middle class get squeezed out. Fiat currencies. Boom and bust cycles. Fractional reserve banking³. Broken electoral promises. Annual performance reviews, raises promised but never materializing. No power, no fun, barely any point.

The elders and the rabbis ask – why?

Why are you doing this to yourselves?

Why are you dragging the rest of us into this mess with you?

If the “decolonial scholars” weren’t so colonized themselves, drunk off the fat of taxpayer-subsidized professor salaries, they would hear these questions and respond. But, they themselves are in “mitzrayim”.

EXPLORING THE FLAVORS OF MITZRAYIM

The convergence of several lines of thinking, each of them many years old, indicates that the problems seen as novel by Western thinkers have been accounted for long ago⁴.

APPROACH #1: SECULAR LITERATURE

There are many names that contribute perspectives to the modern situation, and many of them are already known. Orwell, Huxley, Solzhenitsyn, and other landmark perspectives have informed many members of the public about the role of the media and government in systemic oppression. Lesser-appreciated voices, such as anthropologist James C. Scott, examine the conflict between *metis*, or expert knowledge from the grassroots, and *episteme*, or systemic “knowledge” enforced by the state⁵.

One example of the tension between *metis* and *episteme* is the current conversation around modern birthing practices and their more traditional counterparts. Billie Harrigan, a scholar-educator-practitioner, notes that hospital-based birthing methods are not only more risky for mother and child, but traumatizing, intimidating, and intended to remove the idiosyncratic magic preserved by traditional birth workers⁶. Yet, with the weight of academia, government-sponsored organizations, and the media behind the *epistemic* approaches to childbirth, many women feel scared to explore more traditional options.

Within so-called “decolonial” literature, many scholars have unfortunately neglected the psychological processes behind colonization and the relationship to knowledge such processes imply. Rather, they have focused on the material outcomes of colonization, and – understandably – much of their focus has been on obtaining material benefits from the systems that long exploited them. However, this prioritization has left indigenous and diasporic communities vulnerable to the “knowledge traps” and various delusions peddled by modern authorities⁷⁻⁸.

APPROACH #2: PSYCHOLOGY AND NEUROSCIENCE

Over the past couple of decades, a great deal of consolidation work has been performed that is proving to unite fields like neuroscience, physics, developmental psychology, and even esoteric areas of study like terror management theory⁹. As might be implied by the name of terror management theory, one of the most central themes running through most of this literature is *fear*. Indeed, the thing that stunts all human development, facilitates all tyrannical activity, and holds societies back from reaching their potential is fear. The only antidote, despite our science, is courage – something that cannot be manufactured, World War II methamphetamine notwithstanding. We also find that courage, when consistently chosen over fear, leads people on a growth trajectory characterized by experts as an upward spiral, moving towards expertise and wisdom over time¹⁰.

APPROACH #3: JEWISH THOUGHT

“When a Jew faces his non-Jewish surroundings and sees them as great compared to his private environment, he takes the first step into exile... The next adjective describing “desert” is “awesome”. This is the trembling Jew taking his second step into exile. Regarding the desert as great, a Jew becomes ashamed and afraid of his own position... “Snakes” is the next word of the [description]. Snake bite is accompanied by fierce body heat. This is the level of enthusiasm of a [soul] which is misdirected. The enthusiasm is sapped making money, accumulating pleasures or toys, creating power and all the other compulsive pursuits with which we are all familiar. The poor [soul]... is made to grovel in the gutter of physical distractions.”¹¹

RECONCILING CONCEPTS

From these different approaches to the modern human condition, we see that what is primarily experienced and discussed as economic phenomena are actually a series of deeper corruptions of human nature that allow for economic exploitation to take place.

THE THREE PHASES OF MODERN MITZRAYIM

As outlined by Robert Kremnizer in his work on Jewish happiness¹², the Jewish teachings about their time in Egypt contain useful hints regarding the processes by which colonizers manage to control their host populations. The first process is intimidation; in the case of slavery or robbery, the threat of physical force is used to make targeted populations comply. This can also be more subtle, as outlined by Mark J. Plotkin in his book on South American shamanism – the glittering prizes of modernity, when dangled in cities, can lure many people away from traditional life¹³. The youngest Western generation calls this FOMO, or the fear of missing out and being left behind.

Insightful thinkers, unfortunately some of them terrorists and mass murderers¹⁴, noted that this first process began for the modern world in the 1700s and 1800s, which saw the instantiation of mandatory state education, the invention of the power loom and steam engine, the mass urbanization of Western countries, the standardization of national languages, and the birth of modern politics. Modern populations are taught to look back on this fondly as the Industrial Revolution:

“Parents and community elders were reluctant to let the younger generation be indoctrinated by nationalist education systems, conscripted into armies or turned into a rootless urban proletariat. Over time, states and markets used their growing power to weaken the traditional bonds of family and community. The state sent its policemen to stop family vendettas and replace them with court decisions. The market sent its hawkers to wipe out longstanding local traditions and replace them with ever-changing commercial fashions. Yet this was not enough. In order really to break the power of family and community, they needed a fifth column...

The state and the market approached people with an offer that could not be refused. ‘Become individuals’, they said. ‘Marry whomever you desire, without asking permission from your parents. Take up whatever job suits you, even if you cannot make it every week to the family dinner. You are no longer dependent on your family or your community. We, the state and the market, will take care of you instead. We will provide food, shelter, education, health, welfare and employment. We will provide pensions, insurance, and protection.’¹⁵

The second process is a kind of shame, a feeling of inferiority. Commonly verbalized as an “imposter syndrome” and exacerbated by the ongoing necessity of public competition in modern economies¹⁶, the need to fit in, conform, comply, and be a “good citizen” or “good person” – as defined by the collective or by expert opinion – is often a prerequisite for full societal participation:

“Well I’ll tell you – you are out to lunch if you think it’s acceptable to not show up because you think there’s some Pride activities going on at school... right? Oh, that’s fine. You know, I’m going to show my opinion by hanging out at the mall... but all these kids who are involved... they’re here when we did Ramadan, and they’re showing respect in the class for your religion, for your beliefs. IT GOES TWO WAYS! If you want to be respected for you who are, if you don’t want to suffer prejudice for your religion,

your color of skin, your whatever, then you better give it back to people who are different than you. THAT'S HOW IT WORKS, it is an exchange!"¹⁷

The third and final process is a full immersion in the colonized society, a forsaking of the old ways for the new ways, and the resulting alienation from traditional knowledge, traditional family structures, religious belief, and other elements of human life cast as “backwards” or “regressive” by the colonial machine. In our world of Netflix, vape pens, psychedelics, nightclubs, birth control, and TikTok, it is difficult to deny that Westerners have become lost in materialism.

THE CORRUPTION OF CONFIDENCE

It may be surprising for many to learn that despite the West’s reliance on best practices, checklists, peer review, and *episteme*, one of the hallmarks of human nature is the capacity for superior intuition and expert judgement. Yet, an examination of modern education systems reveals that these things are not being taught at any level¹⁸, and that most teachers are unable to define, teach, or assess critical thinking¹⁹.

The COVID-19 pandemic brought with it perhaps the biggest wedge point for the colonized Western public yet – the choice between a prototype injection of mRNA, developed by Western *episteme* at “warp speed” in three months, or the possibility of death from a flu-like disease. In many ways, the public’s acceptance of the fear-based narrative began a cycle within a cycle, as both unvaccinated and vaccinated populations were made to feel shame for their choices. The overwhelmingly domineering response from governments, organizations, and corporations further instantiated the second process, making people feel powerless.

Perhaps crucially and tellingly, those citizens who “did their own research” and opted out of this novel treatment were ridiculed and scorned. They were backwards, they were uninformed. They weren’t progressive, weren’t committed to their neighbors. This, in itself, can be seen as a shame-based response from those who complied, but more importantly is a devaluation of personal intuition – *metis* – and a furious commitment to the state’s *episteme*. This is well-documented within terror management theory²⁰.



As discussed in my work *Ticket to Heaven*, the very fact that some people might think differently can become, as it did in the case of the unvaccinated populations of the West, intolerable. Particularly when a colonized person feels powerless and scared themselves, they can come to resent the kinds of courage

it takes to defy the media, government, and medical establishment on the basis of one's own interpretation of the scientific literature. Similar trends can be seen in the devaluation of traditional female healers, documented extensively by Billie Harrigan and other scholars of female medical history²¹.

RECONCILING WITH SELF

In a panel address to delegates from Rotary's 2018 World Conference, indigenous scholar and activist Riley Yesno related the importance of accepting one's own complicity in the system before beginning work to free oneself from it. The value of such wisdom can be seen in the futile efforts of "liberal" and "conservative" political parties, engaging in social warfare at the expense of social cohesion. Indeed, by seeking to achieve change primarily within the system and not outside of it, colonized populations entrench the very powers, processes, systems, and people that are the source of the problem.

Partially as a result of their explosive activity in post-Trump America, and partially as a result of their long march through the institutions, the most extreme elements of the political left have successfully seized control of media, governments, institutions, nonprofits, and even many corporations. Perhaps ironically, however, they debase and embarrass themselves and their positions by engaging in the kinds of grassroots activism that helped them achieve power in the first place:

"[Michelle Obama is] sitting there holding up those hashtags, 'BringBackOurGirls'...

Remember that hashtag #BringBackOurGirls? That blew my mind, like why are you asking me that? I am a stand-up comedian! Like what am I going to do...

Why don't you look across the dinner table, you see that guy? That is the leader of the free world, tell him to pick up a phone, call some NAVY Seals and solve it... what am I going to do?"²²

Perhaps even more ironically, the "conservative" segments of society, not realizing they are in the middle of a cultural revolution, are now the outsiders. Their activism is generally the inverse of the left's, and focuses on thought leadership and other activities that would only be appropriate were they not the targeted outgroup of the colonizers. This is most telling in their use of social media platforms that are biased against them, and especially in their lukewarm support of efforts to create alternative channels of communication – or modern-day *samizdat**. Put simply, they overestimate the strength of their position and underestimate the imminent and violent threats to their way of life.

GOING ON STRIKE

Within the Jewish records on their time as slaves in Egypt, their sages relate that some Hebrews tried to run away. However, they were confronted by Egyptian emissaries who warned them about the perils of the desert, which discouraged them and catalyzed their return to slavery. A similar dynamic can be seen in the present day, where the industrial economy is almost all-encompassing, every square foot of land on most continents is owned by someone, and living without money or access to the internet has become almost impossible.

It is within the contexts of this economic smothering that decolonized, Jewish, Afrocentric, and diasporic thinkers must convince their brethren that this cannot continue. The secular Jewish philosopher Ayn Rand, having escaped from Soviet Russia decades before her literary ascendancy, proposed a strike intended to

* Samizdat was a Russian term which referred to underground brochures, essays, and articles circulated by people who were part of the resistance against Soviet rule. It can be thought of as counter-propaganda.

establish a proper relationship between producer and consumer, and especially between rational thinkers and irrational thinkers²³. This kind of collective action, taken against the colonized and globalized political left by the faithful remnants of religious and diasporic groups in the West, could very well have the effect of bringing the left's colonial revolution to an immediate halt... yet not without risk to the strikers.

Indeed, as the world discovered from Canada's response to the trucker convoy, bank accounts will not be safe, old women will be trampled by horses, and police will visit your house in response to questions about the injections or "unacceptable views" aired on the internet. The first process of colonization – fear – is ongoing and will only intensify as the concessions demanded by the colonizers become more extreme.

THE INEVITABLE ENDGAME?

From Chapter 36 of *Ticket to Heaven*²⁴:

"As foretold by the Jewish sages and Biblical prophets, the world will one day approach a time of great trials and tribulations. Out of these birthing pains, it is foretold, a monumental individual will arise from the Jewish nation to bring about the redemption of not only the Jews, but all righteous non-Jews living around the world. This Messianic Era will be a time of world peace, abundance, joy, and of universal knowledge of the Creator. In other words, it is the promised – and perhaps original – utopia.

"... and they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift the sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore." (Isaiah 2)

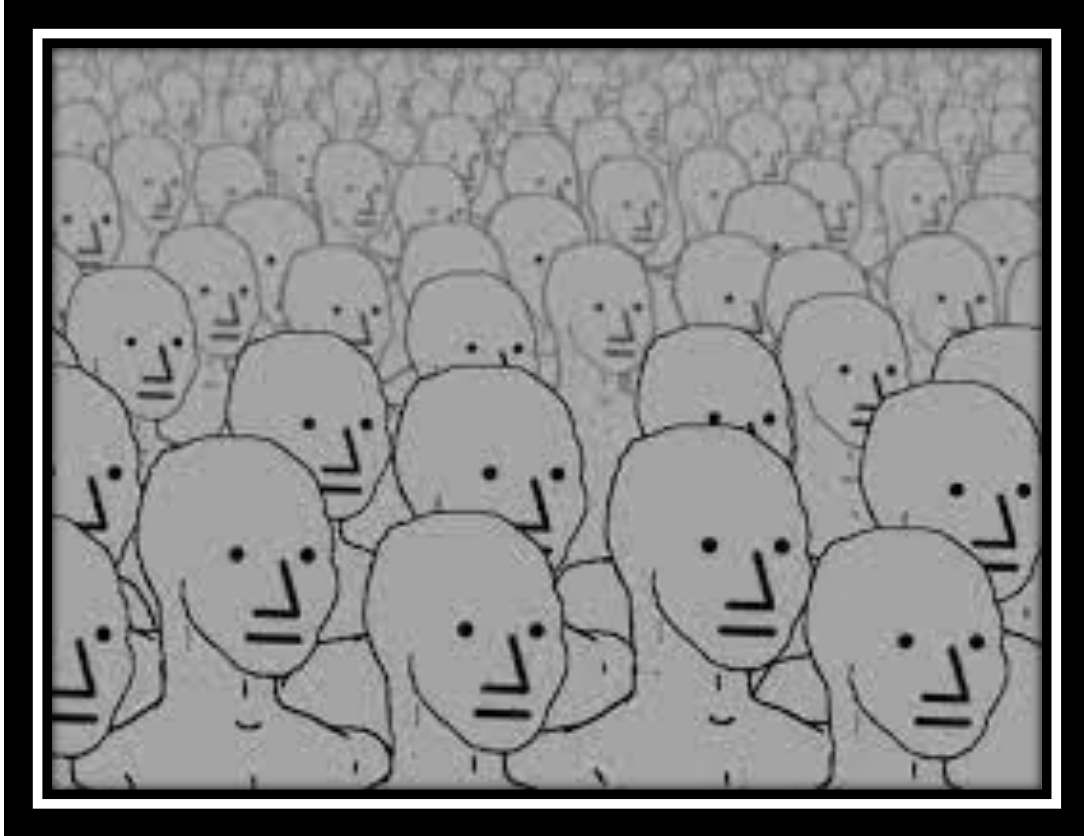
However, much like at the time of the Flood or the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, the world is at a critical juncture in its history – and the final one. In his lectures throughout the last decade, Rabbi Alon Anava related that prophecies in the Zohar foretold of events very much like the 9/11 attacks, and the consensus from many Orthodox rabbis is that a centuries-old prophecy about an apocalyptic ten-minute war is likely referring to nuclear weapons...

Prophecies also foretell that the Jewish people will be gathered back to the land of Israel, which has been happening over the past several decades since the formation of the Jewish state. Unbelievably, red heifers have been born and bred in Texas by evangelical Christians and have been shipped to Israel to be raised and inspected...

Even the apocalyptic war of Gog and Magog, Hebrew for *Roof* and *From-Roof* and possibly a reference to materialism and Marxism, is prophesied to destroy significant parts of the world's population in mere minutes. The ongoing escalation of the NATO-Russia conflict, which includes the deployment of tactical nuclear weapons to Belarus by Russia, suggests that the most likely path for this prophecy's fulfillment is for that conflict to spiral out of control."

Despite these dire warnings from the Jewish prophecies, however, the sages also teach that all negative decrees can be averted or mitigated through *teshuvah*, or a return to the true ways of doing things. For modern folk who are tired of the exploitation, frustrated with the injustice, and courageous enough to throw away the glittering prizes for the pearl without price, the only peaceful option is a strike.

May we find the courage to finally say "no" before the bombs drop, Heaven forbid that they do.



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