

Trust

The events of the past few years have brought new meaning to the word trust. **Who do you trust?** In past times we trusted the airlines, climatologists, food producers, government at all levels, health professionals, the intelligence community, law professionals, the military, the news media, the police at all levels, religious leaders, school teachers, tertiary academics, tradesmen, and others. Let's take a look at each in turn (they're in alphabetic order) and consider their current trustworthiness.

Airlines

In today's world, airlines arbitrarily inflict social norms on all of their customers without consulting those customers or seeking their permission. Most of these imposed conditions are not specified in law and, therefore, are purely capricious and without any substantial foundation. Yet to fly you must now wear a mask, you must submit to personal physical intrusion and humiliation, you must submit to the invasion of your personal privacy, if carrying a computer you must submit to the invasion of your data privacy without specified grounds or necessary warrants for such invasion, you must submit to providing proof of vaccination (a personal and private health condition), and you must submit to proving who you are for local travel.

How did we get here? Freedoms taken are almost never returned. Freedoms are stolen little by little, each under the guise of some excuse to protect or secure something. To protest makes the individual subject to ridicule and abuse, and accusations of various kinds – all negative. Most excuses are spurious and without any real evidence to support such usurpation of a specific freedom. Because it's only one small thing most folks do not object because it's small and because they do not want the ridicule and hassle, and carry on as if it were okay. Why? Why do we submit and comply so easily to a perceived authority? One explanation is that the perceived authority is or has traditionally been "trusted".

Do we still trust the airlines? Have you been abused on a flight or on the ground by airline staff? When there is a problem, large or small, does the airline inform you and keep you informed throughout the duration of the problem? There are more questions than answers. ***Just remember that the airline's imperative is to make money and to do so they will do whatever they can to reduce your comfort, safety, the reliability of their service to make a profit.***

Climatologists

These folks used to have credibility. However, which ones do you believe today? Some say that global warming will lead to our extinction. Others say there is no global warming (the Arctic ice cap is expanding in 2021 – how does that support the global warming forecast). Others predict climate change will lead to our destruction. They arbitrarily point to patterns of temperature change but conveniently choose a beginning date for their sample data that supports their thesis. Weather patterns exist and those patterns can be predicted based on the natural lifecycle of those patterns. Those cycles occur over thousands of years.

The notion of climate change has an attached opportunity for many to make a lot of money out of this and also for a lot of people to lose a lot of money too. So what's the agenda? Is it being pushed for those able to make money or is it real? How can we know? How can we decide which position is the honest and real position? ***Perhaps this is just another way to control the public and make the selected few very rich.***

Food Producers

In days gone by, we could all expect to have available to us, foods that were not tainted with chemicals, preservatives, other junk or fillers, induced hormones or other chemicals, vegetables that were naturally grown without any interference with their natural genes, meat that was grown in a natural environment where the animal's quality of life was not impaired for profit.

We take for granted genetically modified organisms (GMO) as a part of the food chain. The reason for creating these is usually profit but can also be resilience to pests or disease. No one really knows the long term effects of eating this rubbish – yet we do it without any resistance. How does it improve the quality of our lives? Too many questions and not enough convincing or persuasive answers.

Chickens are grown in crates, cannot go outside or ever see the sky, cannot walk around, cannot socialize with other chickens, and injected with hormones to make them grow faster and bigger. We eat them. Why? So the producers can make a bigger profit and we can pay less to purchase them. Who is at fault: the producer or the purchaser? Or is it just that these production measures have been introduced gradually and without any fanfare so the public becomes accustomed to eating what is produced over time. The taste is not appreciably changed and we gradually get used to any differences so what's the problem?

Is it too late to do anything about this situation? Perhaps. Most folks are apathetic about most things that do not directly affect them or cause them direct discomfort or harm. ***I guess the bottom line is we will accept exactly what we deserve – having done nothing to change it.***

Government at all Levels – Bureaucrats & Politicians

In order to become a politician one must be able to lie convincingly and successfully. There are no other real or relevant qualifications required. There is no minimum intellectual, educational, or other ability required. Most are without much in the way of life skills and are primarily grifters interested in themselves. Once elected, the incumbent has only one agenda: that is to get re-elected at almost any cost. The notion of a patriotic person serving the nation is just another lie. There are all kinds of opportunities for incumbents to make a little extra money. They can move legislation on behalf of a generous lobbyist or other kind of benefactor with an agenda – provided that they get theirs. And, there are all kinds of ways for them to get theirs. Even when there is blatant and provable evidence of graft by a politician, they are not at all likely to be prosecuted or even removed from office.

Just ask yourself: would buy a used car from a politician? Do you trust that they are working for your best interests? What have politicians done for you lately? Can you trust that the elected officials will spend within their tax revenues and spend carefully and responsibly? No... When they want more money they just raise taxes. The claim is that we have elected them and, therefore, they have a mandate to represent us. We can always vote them out of office in the next election. But can we? Those who contribute to political campaigns are the ones who get people elected. The electorate is guided by the media – which costs money and who in some cases have their own agenda.

Bureaucrats, in general, are dull colorless individuals who cannot make it in business. They thrive on exerting their minimal power which makes them feel important. We all need to feel important. They tend to do whatever is necessary but nothing more. If you endeavor to make them feel important and demean yourself before them, then you might achieve your objective in their domain. They do not like change and will do whatever is necessary to avoid it. It is impossible for any of them to think outside the box. Can they be trusted? As long as you are able to discern their agenda, then you may be able to trust to their self-interest to provide relevant assistance to you. ***So the question remains: can you trust anyone in government (no matter what the level) – probably not.***

Health Professionals

In these days of pandemic, we naturally look to the health professionals to guide us in protecting our health and providing proper professional health care when needed. On the one hand, we are told that we must be vaccinated and wear protective masks to ensure that we do not succumb to the pandemic. On the other, there is no dispute that the vaccine is an experimental drug, the current and future side effects are unknown, and that contrary to the common understanding of vaccinations, it will not make us immune to the pandemic. We are told that old long proven drugs with well documented minimal side effects cannot help those who contract the virus. By others (doctors in particular who have treated pandemic patients) we are told that various known and proven drugs have helped mitigate the effects from the virus and speed

recovery. Who do you believe: the politicians, elected or appointed health officials, or the doctors who actually treat patients? Who is credible? The two factions have different and opposing agendas and those are not immediately apparent. On the one hand, the vaccine manufacturers are making lots of money from vaccines to treat the whole world. On the other, old and proven competing treatments cost pennies per pill and have proven miniscule side effects – no money to be made there.

To make it all worse, the politicians have inserted themselves into the mix deciding to force, by various means, all citizens to be vaccinated. The agenda for that is a mystery to me. Politicians are not altruistic. What is their objective? One can conclude there must be some way for them to receive money for doing it. It might be to condition their citizens to become more compliant or to obey without question. Totalitarian governments demand compliance without question. Those who object to this political interference with their private health decisions are left to be ridiculed, ostracized, and/or penalized in various other ways. ***The question remains: who's advice do you take regarding these and other health issues – who do you trust?***

Intelligence Community

The intelligence community encompasses a number of interested actors and agencies. They wield enormous powers and are there, presumably to provide their respective governments with accurate, ***unbiased***, and timely information about situations and issues related to or that may impact national security. They are supposed to focus on foreign and international targets of interest and are usually forbidden to act within their country of origin. However, these huge powers have recently been directed inwards toward citizens within the country and intelligence gathered used politically against the people.

The issue is not about tradecraft skills or intelligence gathering competence. Governments use information gathered and analyzed to make better more informed decisions on behalf of the country – or that is how it is supposed to work. These actors are not supposed to be political and are usually directed by their formation charters to always remain apolitical. It seems counter productive to appoint political hacks to administer these actors. These appointees will always have a biased agenda and that will influence how intelligence advisories are generated and often what the content may hold. They may also abuse the powers afforded to the agency to achieve some political objective.

In recent times, we have seen various actors that have been politicized advise government, and others, to take actions that may not actually be in the country's interest. They have also become involved in political matters by making public pronouncements and by surveilling various political targets that would not normally be in the purview of the intelligence community. Their powers have been abused to meet some political agenda. Once they were trusted but their performance in recent years has shown that they can no longer be trusted to perform their function without having an overriding political agenda. ***The bottom line here is that our governments are receiving politically biased intelligence with which to make decisions.***

Law Professionals

The law profession has long been lauded as being the bastion of integrity and honesty. They have been touted as only seeking truth and justice. After taking a closer look, we find that none of that is any longer true. Lawyers are the only profession that gets paid for either success or failure - failing to achieve the objectives set before them. They are the only winners in this big money law game. It is really a game of who holds the best cards and has the most money to spend and has little to do with actual justice. We continually see dangerous criminals released into the public arena only to commit further crimes. That is not justice. That is a perversion of legal authority. So who can be trusted in this space? Do you trust the judge? Do you trust your attorney? Before answering those questions, you must first know what their agendas are. Do they match yours? Are they political actors dressed up as officers of the court? The answers to those questions cannot always be determined. In general we are left to the mercy of these people. If you are lucky or you can pay more than your adversary, the outcome of your circumstance will be positive. However, it is pretty much a crap shoot. There is no way to know whether you will receive

justice or whether your adversary will prevail. *Where we used to look to the courts for justice we now see political judgments rather than legal judgments. The rule of law¹ no longer applies equally.*

The Military

The military has long been the unbiased arm of the government that enables the pursuit of international political agendas by means of force – including self-defense or national security. Except for special circumstances, these military forays are not allowed to happen within the country and are focused on foreign targets and objectives. The military is there to carry out the orders of the commander and chief – whoever that might be. They are or have been in the past admonished to be apolitical. Times have changed and political agendas have become entwined within the military. Appointments and promotions at the highest levels have become political.

These appointments have incorporated political correctness and wokeness into the previously professional military. Instead of focusing on matters central to military activities, this madness has been superimposed on previously stable rules and norms observed by the military. The reality of this situation has a couple of results. In the first instance, discipline and order has and will continue to be disrupted. In the second instance, morale and esprit de corps will suffer because the apolitical military (usually the lower ranks) cannot depend on a strict non-changing set of rules to conduct their activities by. Instability, caused by the impreciseness and volatility of wokeness and/or political correctness does not inspire respect for authority. When top general officers openly commit treason, defy the chain of command, insert themselves on the political scene and not be punished, how can anyone rely on them to carry out direct orders and thus on the military generally to provide the best protection for a nation when it is needed?

We are left with an unpredictable and in-cohesive military that cannot be depended on to carry out the orders of their commander and chief. *We are all less safe and secure from any future aggression.*

The New Media & Social Media

Journalists historically have been taught to be apolitical and unbiased. They have been taught to report facts without color of opinion or prejudice. There is always room for editorial opinion but that should be clearly identified to be opinion and not fact. The reason for this is to afford the public who read or hear these reports the opportunity to interpret and form their own opinions based on simple accurate facts.

Journalists are not taught that there are many truths. They are taught that there is only one truth. Variations of the truth are not the truth – any variation is a lie. There used to be six core principles of journalism: truthfulness, accuracy, objectivity, impartiality, fairness, and public accountability. All you have to do today is look at the published material from any journalistic source, to see that most journalists no longer ascribe to these core principles.

The news no longer provides objective, impartial, and accurate facts. There is always an overarching opinion that colors what we receive. The term for this is propaganda. This dissemination (*comprised of facts, arguments, rumors, half-truths, and/or lies*) to the public is purposely designed and colored to influence public opinion – *NOT to inform*. For a nation to prosper, the people need to be involved by learning of events without color of bias or subterfuge. *Most of the so called “main stream media” have betrayed the trust of the public and are now blatant propagandists – a page taken from Paul Joseph Goebbels and his Ministry of Propaganda (Nazi Germany - 1933-45).*

Social media on the other hand, are merely service platforms that distribute posted material. In other words, they are distributors of data. For that service users pay the price of privacy – users give up all rights to any privacy that they might want or need or feel entitled to or that might be covered by law – you have to sign away that privacy right/expectation when you enroll with the social media site. Your information (and that is very extensive) is collected, analyzed and becomes the property and main revenue stream of the social

¹ **Rule of Law** – It codifies the core values of the people... Rule of law is a principle under which all persons, institutions, and entities are accountable to laws that are: publically promulgated, equally enforced, and independently adjudicated.

media provider. When was the last time you received a royalty check from your social media platform for their use and/or sale of your private and personal information?

Once social media imposes editorial oversight, they become publishers and censors. It's that simple. When you use any given social media site, there is much information posted there and readily available to any user. Nothing guarantees that anything found there is truth – **NOTHING**. As users, we should all know that.

In today's world, these sites have begun censoring materials posted there. Of course there is room to remove objectionable materials from such platforms. These normally take the form of child pornographic, sex, horror, crime, cruelty, violence, and other similar objectionable materials. No one is likely to object to these materials being blocked or removed from social media platforms. However, social media censorship has stepped beyond protection from objectionable material and taken on the role of selection based on political motivations or other bias of various kinds. The question here is: who on behalf of social media decides what is objectionable? Who has usurped your right/expectation to see what is posted? And, more importantly, what is their agenda. The agenda contributes to propaganda since only one point of view is now available. ***Points of view (materials) are blocked based on a political motivation to aid influencing what you the public think. That is the definition of propaganda.***

In my humble opinion, social media is junk technology deceptive from the very beginning and has no merit. I have never used it and never will.

The Police at all Levels

Police have the hardest job. They get to see things that you just cannot un-see. There is a powerful negative effect and personal cost. The vast majority of police are professional in every way and perform their service "to protect and to serve" with integrity and pride. The media only exploits stories about rogue police officers and neglects everything else (the good stuff) about police. However, they also neglect the real stories about police (politically inspired) abuse at the highest levels. Yes, politics has invaded and in some cases corrupted police agencies in various jurisdictions and at the highest levels. Mostly we're talking about the administration and management levels where policies are also initiated. Using law enforcement to inflict humiliation on a target is not unusual in today's world. There are many public examples of this particularly when serving warrants and making arrests for non-violent crimes. What is the purpose for these kinds of behavior? Is law enforcement being used to intimidate or frighten suspects for some political purpose? It would appear so. It is clearly time to have a close look at the activities of police top management and administration, local and national, and bring them back to the basic principle of protecting and serving. Those at the top who have abused the trust placed in them need to be gone and in some blatant cases they need to be prosecuted. There simply is no room for politics in law enforcement. ***The public deserves and is entitled to be able to trust law enforcement rather than fear them.***

Religious Leaders

This is always a sensitive subject however, it needs to be said, that Religious activities should remain within the bounds of religion. Some factions of various religions seem to think that they must change with the times. Are their beliefs so shallow as to be influenced by such things as political correctness or wokeness? For Christians, the Bible is the basis for their belief. To my knowledge, the Bible has not been re-written. If one ascribes to the beliefs put forward there, then to me it seems fixed. Nothing has changed the basic principles written therein. Yet many Christian denominations have changed their view or interpretation of the scripture, and therefore what is preached and what is condoned, based purely on the popular trends and the popular lunacy of the day. What does that say about hundreds or thousands of years of devoted and committed belief? Can they so easily be changed to accommodate whatever special interest of the day that gets the most press? I wonder; do other religions do the same thing? Christians of various denominations have different ways of putting forward their beliefs, however, they all pretty much follow the same dogma and rules and that is based on the Bible. Taking a life, no matter how it is dressed up, is still taking a life and the Bible deals with that very succinctly. Moral values espoused by the Bible are not

optional or fluid. They are succinct and clearly stated. Without moral values society falls into anarchy and chaos.

It seems common for perverts in the clergy, when their crimes are discovered, to be protected by their denominational hierarchy. Every sector of society has perverts and the clergy is no different, however, most other sectors do not protect the perverts when they are exposed. How can we trust in religions that are quick to succumb to social pressures and modify their long held beliefs as wells protecting perverts in their midst? ***Their credibility and worthiness of trust has been lost.***

School Teachers

Teachers have one of the most important responsibilities of any sector of society – that of helping to shape the intellect and character of our youth – to prepare them to become adults. It is not and never has been their role to “indoctrinate” their wards to believe any given political or social narrative. It is their role to teach basic skills for life: reading, writing, arithmetic, history, geography, science, art, biology, economics, and to foster attitudes of respect for authority and for others.

The notion that everyone is a winner is a false narrative and sets a child to up to be hurt when they fail. We all fail in a lifetime. We need to learn to come to terms with that natural condition of living. In real life, there are winners and losers. Children need to learn that lesson and that cannot be done by awarding trophies for failure or for losing. Children need to be encouraged to think for themselves and to strive for excellence and yes; excellence is winning. Work begets reward. Failure to work should never be rewarded nor excused – not ever. Children are not mature enough to deal with exposure to sexual issues in the school educating process. Sexual education is and should only be the domain of parents. This is not an academic subject.

The responsibilities outlined here are specific and unambiguous. And yet, today’s teachers push various agendas that are definitely not in line with their important responsibilities. Teachers fail to educate but rather they focus on indoctrination according to some political or social agenda. Adolph Hitler saw the indoctrination of German youth as essential to achieving his objectives. Children grow up and pursue what they have been taught when they are young – in this example the Nazi way. Are teachers universally indoctrinating children in the American way? I don’t think so. They don’t even make them say the Pledge of Allegiance any more. That issue has been fought out in the courts and the nut cases have won – America is the loser for it. Patriotism is not something that you can buy. It must be learned and sound reasons that will instill patriotism must be demonstrated. School is where these principles begin being taught. ***You have to ask yourself: are our children being well served by teachers or are the teachers merely serving their own interests? Can we trust them to provide the best education of our children?***

Tertiary Academics

Academics also have a great responsibility for helping young people shape their intellect and character and to prepare them to take up a profession or find suitable work. To repeat: it is not and never has been their role to “indoctrinate” these young people to believe any given political or social narrative. It is to help them learn to think and to analyze for themselves. It has also been said that universities exist to foster open discussion and the free exchange of ideas. Unless your topic is political science, there is really no place for political or social indoctrination. Teachers are there to teach facts, truth, concepts, theories, and to do that objectively and without color of bias. Every teacher is entitled to have their own beliefs – social, religious, and political. In today’s universities teachers push whatever the current scam/fad is regarding politically and socially correct dogma. They have become indoctrinators and propagandists and have forsaken their role of fostering free thinking and the exchange of ideas. Some even penalize students who do not comply or conform to their particular point of view. ***Teachers are not entitled to inflict their beliefs on their wards. Can they be trusted to observe this responsibility?***

Tradesmen

Traditionally, tradesmen have been conservative and stable and apolitical. They have sought to make their living by applying their craft without regard to whatever the current politically correct scam/fad happens to be. I expect that they continue in this vein. However, greed seems to have taken over. It is really hard to find a tradesman that will actually do a proper job in spite of the fact that they charge more than a brain surgeon for their work. They take shortcuts and use substandard materials and in general do a merely passable job (and sometimes not). The pride of workmanship seems to have evaporated. Why is a question that I cannot answer. However, when employing such people you are expected to trust that they will do a proper professional job. ***Our trust in these folks, no matter how well placed, ends up being a crap shoot.***

Political Correctness/Woke

FEAR!!! Being woke is not based on any rational assessment. It is based on fear. This fear drives those who adhere to woke ideas and agendas. Integrity is not involved. Honesty is not involved. Intelligence and rational thought is not involved. The party line changes from day to day and those who do not comply with it must be punished or destroyed. They must not be ignored. There is no room for any other point of view. The propaganda does not allow for any other set of values nor does it foster or even allow rational discussion of differing views.

We live in times of turmoil. That turmoil is pervasive around the world. So far I have observed and described issues of trust and the lack thereof. What can we do about them? Fear separates people. It is difficult if not impossible to mobilize people around an idea or philosophy when they are all afraid. When people are afraid of each other and of some overarching entity making judgements of them, cohesion of an idea is all but impossible. Will you mobilize against the failure of trust? Probably not in most cases. ***What is left is to endure this madness until it passes and pass it will. "Time brings all things to pass" – (Aeschylus - Greek playwright 455 BC).***