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Adjusting the Nation's Moral Compass
A New Investigation into Political Thought
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A new mantra seems to be emerging – “*Moral Compass*” – who has one and who doesn't! Well, at least it's better than the old worn out “Gravitas!” We all have a moral compass – too often spinning out of control because our spiritual gyroscopes have thrown a bearing. I found 577,000 “moral compass” hits on Google ranging from how to select a date to university sponsored studies into personal values!

Do we ever consider that a nation might have a moral compass? Few nations in history have ever been blessed with a definable one that doesn't lead to murder and destruction. A notable exception is the United States of America through its Declaration of Independence, Constitution and Bill of Rights. Beyond this foundation, what are the components of a nation's moral compass that guides its operating structure?

Moral Compass came up in a pleasant discussion I had with Howard, a fine older gentleman in the Emergency waiting room of our local hospital, and singer Harry Belafonte in early 2012 who said, “Barack Obama has no moral compass.” On the other side of the political spectrum, **Neil Cavuto**, popular host of the Neil Cavuto finance show on FoxNews and head of the Fox Business Network demonstrated a need to rediscover our national moral compass. I've heard the term at least a dozen times recently. How do we define it?

Neil Cavuto didn't mention moral compass specifically, but demonstrated its meaning in an interview with Senator Dennis Kucinich, D. OH. He was Cavuto's guest on 6/14/12. Kucinich, known for his non-mainstream libertarian views wanted to discuss the original Constitutional structure of our monetary system which was changed into tribute in the dark of night under Woodrow Wilson, with Herbert Crowley, the Father of the “Progressive” Movement. The Senator had a point to make about the way money and debt is created under the current Federal Reserve System. He wanted to demonstrate a way out of our debt crisis based on the original intent of the Constitution. Cavuto would have none of such a discussion and cut off the Senator with a snide remark. Cavuto's revulsion to discuss the issue is pretty typical. Sometimes I wonder if freshmen legislators and pundits get a phone call or a chance encounter in the parking garage where subtle advice on how things are run is quietly transmitted.

I may not help the Senator much except to point out how our national moral compass has flipped 180 degrees. It is only now, after 100 years, becoming obvious to even the most slow-witted viewer of the NBC evening news. We're about to sail off the edge of the “progressive” flat earth!

For starters, money has become a far more powerful master rather than the servant of society. Beauty has become an afterthought rather than the definer of an uplifting and broadly prosperous environment. There is a conundrum here because it takes money to hire artistic talent and acquire materials to create and maintain material things of beauty and utility. The circle of devotion can be found in the Beatitude, “***Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.***” A very rich man can be poor in spirit by his awe and wonder of God's creation and desire to share its fruits as he discovers or attains them. This is the antithesis of “progressive” “fairness and income re-distribution” that thrives on envy and coercion as its control methodology. The poor in spirit creates jobs, opportunities and things of utility and beauty. Money is applied as the servant medium of exchange, yielding both risks and rewards.

About 85% of Americans claim the Bible as their personal moral compass. How can we set course in a world of chaos where we have to measure and guide the work of our leaders in a “***Government of the People,***

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by the People and for the People?” We have a big and ongoing job to regain our bearings and get back on a steady course. Spouting Scripture verses doesn't cut it with the spiritually tone deaf.

The polarity of that giant magnet called “The Earth” has switched from north to south and back again over eons of time. The “progressive” movement has been nudging our Constitutional axis for some time and after 2008, our polarity flipped. The ship of state is lost in a sea of financial manipulation and select privilege, including Dhimmitude for Muslims in Obamacare. With an Islamic preference apparent in the White House, it is time to recognize that our Constitutional Republic under Sharia is an oxymoron and the violation of many elected and appointed perpetrators' solemn oaths. It's time for a course correction to re-assure a safe journey for all.

A National Moral Compass consists of three sets of three priorities that can be identified in applying the philosophical, political and religious priorities of a people and those who rule them. It breaks down to how we **Think, Act and Operate**.¹

How do we Think?

Beauty, Ethics and Logic (The equally important normative sciences of Philosophy applied in this order idealize a world view that has succeeded in our Constitutional Republic.) *Seek Beauty first, then Ethics will be defined and Logic will protect it.*

How do we Act?

Subsidiarity, Solidarity and Chaos (First we take personal responsibility, expect the unity of “*e pluribus unum*” and enjoy unexpected opportunity and challenges of the chaos of unexpected opportunity.)

How do we Operate?

High-Touch, High-Tech and High-Finance (Intuition, Reason and Enablement). *It defines how we are inspired, how we resolve problems and gain the means to execute.*

No one Point is more important than the others. For example, Logic, Solidarity and High Finance would seem to be more important than say Beauty, Subsidiarity or High Touch. Each is as important as the next. They are meant to build on one another - for good or evil. The key is their priority of application in human discourse.

¹ Thomas Sowell, in his book “A Conflict of Visions” © Thomas Sowell, Basic Books, 2002, he refers to these, in my opinion, as Unconstrained and Constrained visions. Unconstrained visions deny a moral order yet stress strict plans for social order by a few.

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The Declaration of Independence – the moral, philosophical and spiritual basis of the Constitution

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Polar Opposites of a Nation's Moral Compass

Compass of “Progressive” Political Correctness with Motive (Left)	Action	Compass of “Beautiful Correctness” with Motive (Right)
High Finance - Power, Control & Usurpation through creation of debt-based money based on the labors of the people. This is called “Tribute” because we are charged interest on our own labors.	Think 1	Beauty - Endowment by our Creator – Highest level of human discourse, structural beauty, art, music and literature The Declaration of Independence
High Tech - Vehicle of Progress and Domination by misapplying the creative work of a prosperous people. Eugenics and euthanasia for control	Think 2	Ethics - Define Moral, Ethical and Political Boundaries The Constitution of the United States
High Touch - Perverse and left-brained art; drab and geometric “big box” architecture, spirit-numbing music.	Think 3	Logic - Defend Beauty – Define Logic from Multiple Inferences The Bill of Rights
Chaos - Class Warfare – Entropy Destroying or not appreciating the creativity and labor of others.	Act 1	Subsidiarity – Self Reliance, Levels of Help with Time and Involvement Limits on Government
Solidarity - Us versus Them Rich vs. poor; union vs. management Racial and Ethnic Conflict	Act 2	Solidarity - One Nation Under God, love of country, appreciation of natural beauty and resources and their care.
Subsidiarity – it’s opposite - Entitlement Total dependence on government	Act 3	Chaos - Unexpected Opportunities Presented – spontaneously exploiting opportunities to create and serve.
Logic - Based on One often Unprovable Idea or faulty premise. Denial of alternatives with loss of normal discourse	Operate 1	High Touch - Key Component in Design, Construction and Maintenance, Music, Art, and Literature.
Ethics – Legislate and enforce One-Idea Logic via Regulations, Fines and Harassment. Send agents to “eat out the people’s substance.	Operate 2	High Tech - The Whole Process of Discovery and Development “Subdue the earth, be fruitful and multiply...” Be in awe!
Beauty - Not a Factor except as usurped by ruling elite – No new things of beauty created. Great works of art stolen or purchased to satisfy normal human hunger for beauty.	Operate 3	High Finance - The Enabling Servant of all the Above. Money spent – not loaned - into existence per Founders’ intent - each dollar circulating 9x in the economy “Blessed are the poor in spirit.”

No one Point is more important than the others. For example, Logic, Solidarity and Finance would seem to be more important than say Beauty, Subsidiarity or High Touch. Each Point or element is equally important as the next as they tend to build on one another - for good or evil.. The key is their priority of application in

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human discourse. Think it through! Try to live it! Develop a political campaign from a “Beautifully Correct” National Moral Compass.

Beauty, Ethics and Logic - From the works of America’s greatest philosopher, Charles Sanders Peirce – 1839-1914, I learned the prioritization of the normative sciences of philosophy – Aesthetics (Beauty), Ethics and Logic is the ideal order of these equally important norms. By seeking beauty first, an ethic to define its range and limits can be protected by sound logic. (See Appendix for other world views based on priority of order) **“Beauty, Ethics and Logic** are the ideal order for **“How we Think.”**

Subsidiarity, Solidarity and Chaos – It is apparent that the principles of Subsidiarity and Solidarity are keys to societal success if applied together². These succeed only in an environment that has often unpredictable chaotically open windows to ideas and associations and the freedom to rise above one’s station in life - even to fail and try again. Personal responsibility far exceeds entitlement. It is most fruitful where the means to act it out is available to all. As Americans living in a Constitutional Republic, we have enjoyed human progress and enrichment by even unconsciously living and working in a society with a moral compass – except when its polarity is reversed by the “progressive” agenda. **“Subsidiarity, Solidarity and Chaos”** are the ideal order for **“How we Act.”**

High-Touch and High-Tech and High-Finance - complete the necessary threesome or trinity of values. One of these equally important elements must dominate the others with predictable results. **“High-Touch; High-Tech and High-Finance”** are the ideal order for **“How we Operate.”**

Why is High-Finance at the bottom of the priority list? Is it the least important in the National Moral Compass scenario? Not at all! No more than Logic is less important than Beauty or Ethics. However, High-Finance, rather than dominating the life of the nation and its people, especially through unproductive and dishonest speculations and debt-based tribute, it must again assume its position as the willing servant of all... as a medium of exchange and long term security. Sadly the love of money is a terrible aphrodisiac. It lures the greedy and the innocent into a web of intrigue that leads to the death of a nation. It stifles the highest levels of creative and intelligent discourse.

Rioters in the streets scream for anarchy of any kind to replace “the evils of capitalism.” Capital is only evil when its purpose is perverted – when money is loved above the things of substance and meaning it is designed to nurture.

The true definition of Capitalism is in High-Finance’s role as the servant of commerce, investment in vision and courage, rejoicing in personal and family savings and philanthropy!

- Capital always had a role in commerce as traders began leaving valuable trade items in a strong house whereby they traded their receipts for convenience and safety. The strong house became the bank.
- People with earned (or stolen) resources are often wise, even cunning stewards of their earnings just as Jesus instructed his disciples in the Parable of the Talents. In the parable, each man was given responsibility for a portion of their master’s money with differing results.

² Pope Benedict XVI encyclical letter, “Caritas in Veritate” – Charity in truth

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- Capital is deserving of a return on investment – not only for planting the seeds of progress, but in sustaining the rewards. Today’s financial manipulators are creating fiat money at zero interest rates. This is a hopeless attempt to shore up a corrupt monetary system.
- A major side effect is that savings of responsible savers, charitable foundations and future entrepreneurs are destroyed because their accumulations of money for rainy days, education or retirement have been reduced by about 40% during the last 5 years and reasonable interest income anticipated for sustenance has disappeared. This achieves the desired “progressive” goal of creating absolute dependence on government.
- The concept of a rich man being “poor in spirit” includes his willing distribution of his wealth to needs and purposes he chooses to support. Government has no capacity for love and should stay as far away from tending to individual and community needs as possible. The exercise of the corporal and spiritual works of mercy falls to individuals of means – talent or money – often through community and religious institutions to meet them. This is the reason donations to these causes are always tax deductible. Only a despot would feel he must meet the people’s needs. He will always move to discourage the support of subsidiary institutions – by fiat or removal of charitable tax deductions. The despot’s vehicle is perverted social justice.

Money made by monetary speculations as a vehicle for fruitless gain or control will always be the root of all evil.

How to Maintain a Legislative and Bureaucratic Moral Compass

Five important questions should be consistently asked, truthfully answered and applied with integrity when writing legislation and running any resulting bureaucracy:

- Will this new law help or hurt initiative or personal responsibility?
- Does the legislation or the bureaucracy it authorizes equally benefit the wider community?
- Will this legislation put people or regions in a creative or entrepreneurial strait jacket?
- Will the legislation encourage and maximize private enterprise and employment without requiring major government oversight?
- Are the legislation less than 100 pages in length, devoid of selective privileges and unrelated attachments and riders?

The writer is well aware these guidelines will be seen as simplistic and probably unattainable in the normal course of political gamesmanship. However, it is important that this “Government of the People...” have a definable means to measure the performance of those entrusted to the care of the Republic. If the politician or bureaucrat can’t explain these simple points relative to his duties, the citizen will know and make course adjustments before allowing us to sail off the “**progressive flat earth!**”

Appendix

I. Philosophical Hierarchies Compared³

This is a quite experimental tool of discernment – not judgment. The BEL ideal is not fully attainable in this life. It is to be sought after and strived for. The other lesser priorities are more the “norm” for how I believe most of us unwittingly set our world views. As a national moral compass, we the people can test our country’s direction and the quality of its leaders. See also “Guide 25 – 25 Constitutional Values...” © 2010 Gerald V. Todd www.lulu.com

PRIORITY OF WORLD VIEW	INTERNAL PRIORITIES	EXTERNAL PRIORITIES
LBE Selfish Collector DESPOT	Criminal or Despot with palatial surroundings, life style and often stolen art. The worst of state rulers, create a two class society	Steals library books as others don't appreciate them enough. Collects people to use and discard Like the BLE, needs to live in beautiful surroundings
BLE Art Pretender	Defines beauty and art in even the most perverse e.g.: Crucifix in urine, whip in anus, fecal art, violence, etc.	No ethical foundation or propriety, drawn to beauty. Prefers living in only idyllic surroundings – coastlines, woods, etc., but cares little for them.
ELB FUNDAMENTALIST Religious or Secular	Strict Legalism and Literalism Scrupulous of others if not oneself.	Guilt bearer Justifies oneself - blames others
EBL CONSERVATIVE	Moralist – Time binder - Strict sense of propriety, right and wrong;	Traditionalist, Seeker of Stability Strives to maintain moral standards Declaration of Independence/ Constitutionalist
LEB “PROGRESSIVE”/ LIBERAL Two Class Society	Politically Correct Eugenist - Seeker of Knowledge stifled by Cartesian thought process	Totalitarian of left and right - Environmentalism; Feminism; Racism, Socialism; Victimism; ACLU, SEIU, Radical Islam. Low regard for human life
BEL CHILDLIKENESS the Key to the Kingdom of God The sought after ideal of freedom and liberty	Beautifully Correct Appreciation of humanity and creation. - God seeker Seeker of Wisdom Lover, Healer, Steward of Creation	High positive creativity Shares discoveries and knowledge Truly compassionate for the helpless (Ongoing trait only found in the unassuming. For most it must be imbued in our hearts daily)

II. Real time cost of an upside down compass

The helpless have always been cared for in the exercise of the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Individuals, social groups, churches and foundations have always provided for the helpless. The more “progressives” interfere with the process, the more restrictions are placed on the corporal works of mercy, skyrocketing costs. Paraphrasing a 1973 National Life Underwriters Association study; \$100 given to an individual’s need = \$100. Moving up the subsidiary ladder, costs to deliver that \$100 tend to rise dramatically:

Direct assistance - \$100 - Community Aid - \$120 - State - \$200 - Federal - \$400

Someone – you and other taxpayers – must pay the extra \$300 plus interest for Federal “help.” With the federal government driving up costs through corruption, extra layers of government and distance from real world hands on practical solutions that are normally with a well-directed Moral Compass..

³ Based on the theories of American Philosopher Charles Sanders Peirce