

Understanding Attachment, Stages of Adult Development and Terrorism to Promote Peace

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Introduction

- Attachment and Terrorism
 - Attachment is crucial in understanding terrorism
 - Evidence from various studies have shown that exposure to severe psychological trauma persists to later life
 - Causing changes in physiology
 - This lasting effects of unresolved childhood trauma in the society that praises violence is often overlooked
 - We will use attachment theory as a framework to understand terrorism
- Stages of Adult Development and Terrorism
 - These are stages of adult development from the Model of Hierarchical Complexity (MHC) that have to be achieved to have peace replicated (1980, 1997, 2007, 2008)
 - This section is how to get the stage change so that we have peace without terrorism on the scale it now exists

Attachment

- Attachment is a deep and enduring emotional bond that connects one person to another across time and space
 - It is characterized by a tendency to seek and maintain closeness, especially during times of stress (Ainsworth, 1973; Bowlby, 1969).
- Attachment influences many bio-psychosocial phenomena, including
 - Social functioning
 - Coping
 - Stress response
 - Psychological well-being
 - Health behavior
 - Later morbidity.

Early Negative Attachment and Terrorism

- Severe trauma and lack of conceived protection and availability of caregiver results in inability to form secure attachment
 - There is a lack of open emotional communication
 - The child has difficulty forming social relationships later in life
 - There is increased behavioral problems with a tendency to seek belongingness
- We argue that terrorist attacks are often attachment related
 - It is driven by the need to matter and seek belongingness
 - They share a common faith and similar interest by assuming radical values
 - Attachment becomes so important that it distorts perceptions
 - They feel obligated to perform terrorist activity out of loyalty to a group
 - They see their actions as justified
 - They see acts of violence as noble because of their love of their own group
 - They see their acts as heroic and honorable

Transmission of the Impact of Early Stress Across Generations

- Early distress always leaves a child changed
- Sahlev, Moffitt, Sugden, Williams, Houts, Danese, Mill, Arseneault & Carpel studied the effects of exposure to two or more kinds of violence during childhood
 - Its relationship to DNA (telomere erosion) (2013)
 - Sahlev et al. found that children exposed to violence showed significantly more telomere erosion
 - There was significantly more telomere erosion between age- 5 baseline and age 10- follow-up
 - This was even after adjusting for sex, socioeconomic status and BMI
- Franklin, Holger, Weiss, Isabelle, Johannes, Natacha, Aubin, Sandor & Mansuy studied the effects of psychological abuse across generations in mouse and rodent (2010)
 - Chronic and unpredictable maternal separation induced depressive like behaviors in rodents
 - It altered the behavioral response to aversive environmental in the separated animals when adults
 - This also altered the profile of DNA methylation in the promoter of several candidate genes in the germline of the separated animals

Evidence of Bad Attachment and Resulting Violence in Later Life

- National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START) based researchers examined the effects of early childhood trauma
- It predicted entry in the violent extremist groups (Siml, Bubolz, McNeel, Sporer & Windisch, 2015)
 - By conducting extensive life interviews with 44 former violent white supremacist white group members, the researchers found that:
 - 45% reported being physically abused as a child
 - 21% reported being victim of childhood sexual abuse
 - 46% reported being neglected as a child

When Childhood Trauma Leads to Terrorism: Charlie Hebdo Attackers' Path to Radicalization

- Chérif and Saïd Kouachi attacked the offices of Charlie Hebdo, the satirical newspaper, killing 12 people (Park, Peçanha & Giratikanon, 2015)
 - Kouachi brothers were abandoned by their Algerian parents and Raised in the French system
 - The brothers were introduced to radical Islam in 2003
 - Benyettou was a 22 year old janitor-turned-preacher
 - He set up a pipeline for young French Muslims to join Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's Al Qaeda network in Iraq
 - In the words of their defense lawyer, the brothers in 2003 before being part of the radical terrorist group were:
 - “Apprentice losers, clueless kids who didn't know what to do with their life and, overnight, met people who gave them the feeling of being important” (Champon, 2015)
 - The brothers seems to have found a kind of family in radical Islam
 - A cause in life they have been seeking, eventually leading to the bombing attacks

How To Win The Peace?

- These are stages of adult development that have to be achieved to have peace replicated
- This section is how to get the stage change so that we have peace without terrorism on the scale it now exists
- What causes stage change?
 - It is the long term cultural and societal attractors
 - Direction of stage change is fixed by these attractors
- Long-term attractors
 - Increased safety
 - Increased justice
 - Political participation for all
 - Rights and Responsibilities
 - Due Process
 - Increase wealth of societal members

Why We Fail

- The reason our present policies fail is that we assume that
 - Governments are just organization that may be set up by anyone
 - Here, it is asserted that culture determines what happens in countries
 - The attitudes of people determine everything
 - Western ideas are either considered better or imperialistic
 - People want and understand democracy
 - Democracy is about voting and not justice
 - Individuals attachment is not taken into consideration
- All societies have to go through each development stage
- The higher stages depend on achieving the lower stage skills and understandings
- There can be no stage skipping
- There is no difference in the stage sequence across cultures
 - Most of all People want to be safe
 - Even many people who were enslaved felt safe

There will be just four stages discussed

- Concrete Stage 9
- Abstract Stage 10
- Formal Stage 11
- Systematic Stage 12
- At each stage, there is
 - Less violence, corruption
 - More fairness and participation
- The situation starts at the concrete stage when a king or dictator is thrown out
 - Presumably some modern society was indirectly or directly involved
- So that those modern societies do and should create stage change

The Government Has Fallen***

- If we over throw a government, we will need
 - Many more military police than what we had in Iraq
 - This is to insure that there is no anarchy
 - They should be trained work with people not to use much force
- Many people have to run power, water, cell phones, health, supply food
- Usually the expert involved is an outsider
- Institute public health right away
- Have to have more than most people think
 - They should not be involved in operations
 - This should collect data
 - This should include information on possible terrorists
 - Pay informants but not at exorbitant rates
- Government may reduce terrorism by enabling would be terrorists to have a voice

Concrete Stage

- First, at the concrete stage, the rulers runs everything
 - One has kings, despots, dictators
 - They rule the government by decree
 - The army and often the religious establishment keep the government in power
- The goal is when that government falls to move the society into the abstracts stage
- Loyalty is very local
 - Government and companies protect the organizations they work for
- There is factionalism between the sub groups in any society or organization
- To meet the needs of the society, there has to be a shift from use of force to sense of alliance between the factions

Attractors Drive Stage Change

- What drives the transition to the Abstract Stage 10 are the attractors
- These are
 - Increased wealth
 - This is due to the peace and harmony in the society
 - There is a large increase in investment when there is peace and stability
 - There are peaceful ways to do politics and commerce the follow social norms
- These gains are the engine for stage change
- These reinforce actions at this next stage

In The Transition To The Abstract Stage Do Not Disband Army Or Any Militaries

- In the transition to the Abstract Stage 10
 - First, do not get rid of the people working in any of the bureaucracies
 - This includes the army and the militias
 - Take them over
 - Install leaders loyal to the new government
 - Train the people as to how they are to behave
 - They are bureaucrats
 - Bureaucrats know their roles and will almost all take orders
 - They are necessary to keep the society running

Abstract Stage 10 Harmony

- One overall goal of Abstract Stage 10 is to bring harmony
- Characteristics of harmony
 - Clear notion of the in group and out group -- want to foster that at the national not local level
 - Tolerate bad practices of subgroups for the sake of unity
 - e.g. caning people. sharia law at least for the short term
 - Do not tolerate
 - Factionalism, terrorism and lack of respect for diversity
- Bring all tribes, all religions and regions into the government
- One of the main goals of abstract stage is to develop nationalism instead of tribalism or regionalism
- Promote the view that everybody is a good guy

Abstract Stage 10 Dictators

- Why there are dictators
 - Most groups are too primitive so the leaders are needed to help creating nationalism
 - They act as “stars”
- But dictators have to pay attention to what people want.
- The three main goals will be:
 - To transitional to formal, where ones begin to have real bureaucracies
 - To insure safety of citizen will be number one priority
 - Second goal is an environment that is safe for investment and participations
 - All this will attract foreign investment
- There is a dictator who works to be popular
 - The dictator takes polls
 - Knows what the people wants
 - The dictator depends on a small group of people to stay in power
- There should be a legislators but it will still not be democratic but advisory
- There should be elections but they only have one party

Training

- At the Abstract Stage 10, people are told what to do
 - They imitate others but do not understand the rules that given positions (e.g. a Walmart clerk is Abstract Stage 10)
- Have an extensive training program at running bureaucracies consisting of
 - Secretaries, book keepers, data collectors, survey collectors
 - a) What people want?
 - b) Have to ask what is going right and what's wrong?
- People who might serve are similar to those living there
 - They may have to come back to the country
- At first outsiders (ex- pats usually) will man the key positions for which they have experience and training
 - Then they will train the locals
 - They have the skills

The Abstract Stage Might Be Predominate For 10 Years

- Minimum of 10 years
 - But plan for 20 years
 - Many people should be trained as secretaries, bookkeepers, sales clerks, data enter
 - There is a socially acceptable normative way of doing the work
 - It is not just personal style that dominates
- Along with the occupiers, these managers need to develop reasonable and achievable short term objectives
- Managers must function at 2 stages:
 - Formal Stage 11 or Systematic Stage 12
- At abstract stage actors have to really penetrate the media
 - The outsiders who have been brought in have to be extreme good at doing this

- Armed forces may be reduced dramatically after 10 years
 - Size of remaining forces have to be at least size of what is currently being planned in Syria and Iraq
- What to do with troublemakers (bad apples) is to bring them into government and supervise them
- If a civil war breaks out, it has to be stopped
 - The faction has be brought into the army and society

Transition To Formal Stage 11

The Formal Stage Retains All Positive Qualities Of Abstract Stage 10, But Add New Capabilities

- At Abstract Stage 10, there still was nepotism because regulations against it depend on logic
 - But at Formal Stage 11 can get rid of it
- Not only are secretaries recording the activities of meetings, but they have standards to follow as to what is an adequate record
 - Meeting themselves become logically ordered by following Roberts Rules or the like depending on culture. Etc.
 - Because there is logic people can tell if regulations are being followed or not
- The standard regulations that apply to bookkeeping are also understood
 - This leads to a great increase in transparency
 - This encourages investment
 - This leads to a dramatic drop in corruption
 - But not in abuse of power
- In the military, people know their roles

- At the Formal Stage 11, organizations have all the bureaucratic characteristics
 - Tight regulations
 - Rule books
- People can assess risk
 - They have empirical and logical notions of cause
 - They can understand and calculate probability
- Separately they can assess value
- They cannot multiple the two together
- They solve simple one variable equations so can do simple repairs, etc

- Governments begin to have elections
 - It is OK to be in the minority, as long as the rules are followed and whoever wins you are loyal to the state
- People can tell if something is broken and fool around to fix it
- The society is the same way
 - But they do not understand multiple variable causes
 - They only understand single variable causation with only one possible cause
- Dictatorships change to committee structures
 - Instead of cronies there are people who have designated roles
- They are beginning to get a clear understanding of roles
 - Therefore there is a beginning understanding of the structure of organizations

- At the Formal Stage 11, people do not understand the inter-relationships of the roles and therefore a beginning understanding of the structure of organizations
 - They do not understand the inter-relationships of the roles
- They understand the up and down nature of roles but not how they interrelate sideways
- Alternatively, understand how to relate to other people in the organization but are blind to where they are in the hierarchy
- They can tell if someone is cheating on the books
- They can tell if the notes of meetings meet regulation

- They have political bureaucratic committees because they have the goal of harmony/collegiality from abstract stage and the mechanism of having roles to address such goals
 - That allows making decisions with dissent
 - But it does not allow one to achieve organizational; goals
- A lot of politics is carried out where they generalize from specific examples to laws
 - e.g. Meghan's law:
 - They take concrete experience that is casual and use logical means to generalize them to laws
- But they cannot understand that just because it is logical does not make it true

Formal Stage 11 Failures

- One does not understand the basic issue that if one pays attention to rights without coordinating them with responsibilities there will be massive failures
 - E.g. a gay person who is for gay rights
 - But what are there responsibilities?
 - The civil liberties movement it is all about rights.
- Even when the societies and government move into the systematic stage, then there are systems of rights
 - But rights are still not coordinated with responsibility
- They are risk averse

Transitioning Into the Systematic Stage 12

- Most government operate at Systemic Stage 12
- Stage 12 promotes nationalism
- Judgement is exercised wherein risks are multiplied by benefits to give utilities
- There is not an understanding of unintended consequences
- This is the last nationalist stage
 - Only in the anti form is there any terrorism
 - But such terrorism is always associated with attachment issues
- The main way terrorism is fought is by making sure all groups experience inclusion
 - Discrimination is actively opposed
- Individuals become universal at Stage 13

Find Terrorists Before Their Action

- Tracking potential terrorists is efficient
- Think of how complex NAS is
- The failure is not dividing information collection from operations

- If we do not pay attention to stages, the intervention will not be effective
- We often pitch high intervention – Systematic Stage 12
- The intervention should start to move societies to Abstract Stage 10
- After mastery of the Abstract Stage 10, the intervention should move to the Formal Stage 11
- Everyone is going to fight for themselves
 - Question is, how to use that towards unification?

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