



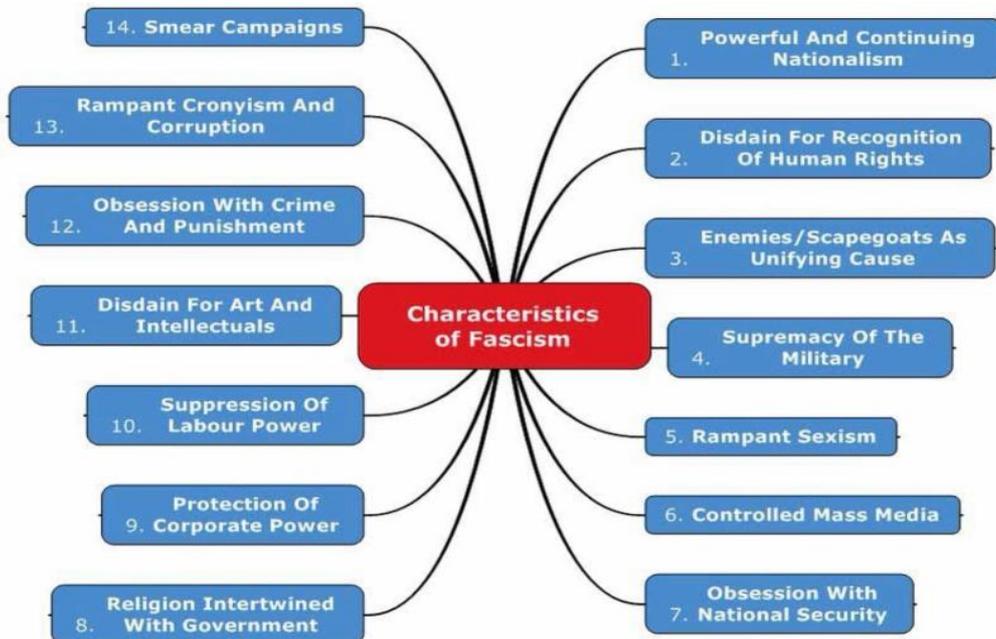
The Rise of the Troglodytes



David Kindon
(recovering
from detached
retina).

I recently read "Einstein's Dreams" written in 1993 by Alan Lightman. It contains 30 fictitious dreams experienced by Einstein as he worked towards his general theory of relativity. In each dream, time behaves differently. One of his dreams observes a world with no memory of the past. I feel we have just entered that world with the lurch towards democratically-elected fascist-leaning right-wing governments around the world. Australia is a fully-paid-up member of this new "post-truth" Club. I have written on the subject "[The Political Theology of Conservative Post-Modern Democracies: Fascism by stealth](#)". We seem to have lurched out of Huxley's Brave New World of perpetual indulgence into Orwell's authoritarian arms (see <http://www.davidkindon.com.au/Orwell%20and%20Huxley.pdf>).

Some time ago I summarised an article by Lawrence Britt (2003) "The fourteen characteristics of fascism" and assembled them into this mindmap.



Prepared by David Kindon from Lawrence Britt article in 2003

Does this trigger alarm bells with you? It does with me.

I had intended this email to be a catalogue of ethical advocacy services. I think I will leave that to another day as I have a couple of other issues to get off my mind! If any of what I write strikes a chord, you can find more information on the services I offer at my website www.davidkindon.com.au, by email (david.kindon@gmail.com) or Twitter @dakindon.

Cheers

David Kindon
6 December 2016

Post Truth - The New Reality Trump has disrupted the Disrupters

In my current studies towards a Masters in Applied Innovation and Entrepreneurship (Uni of Adelaide) the word "disrupt" has become part of my staple diet. It describes how the old world is succumbing to the new era of "agility and nimbleness" with its time-honoured stable industrial environment under continual disruption. What Donald Trump seems to have achieved is to create a narrative around this process and to offer a return to the "great" old days "again".



Following his success at the polls, and using my retrospectometer, I discovered the obvious, which seems to have eluded most political commentators:

- We now live in a global economy, national borders have been breached.
- This has required a drive for greater local economic efficiency to face the global challenges.
- This led inevitably to cost-cutting and lay-offs.
- Jobs were exported to offshore low-cost destinations.
- Where local skills shortages occurred, they were filled (in Australia's case) by lower cost, imported skills under the 457 Visa scheme.
- Eventually this has led to the local manufacturing base being gutted and the closure of some major industries.
- Those workers displaced by these events are angry and frustrated.
- The failure of the major political parties to recognise and address these issues has led to a voter backlash and the rise of minor, single issue parties as well as a shift to right wing populist candidates in the major parties.

There we have it, and the whole mess is tied up in a red ribbon of national security, terrorism and xenophobic fear. The response by people such as Trump is to call a halt to these disruptions and to return to "old" values. **Cleverly, he achieved this outcome through his own disruption of the political system, getting away with saying and doing things which historically would have derailed his campaign efforts! He has also opened Pandora's Box exposing the rancid underbelly of white supremacy.**

How does the new landscape look? Well it's pretty clear from what Trump has promised that America and therefore the world will respond through a range of potential actions:

- Island fortresses
- Tariffs and the abandonment of multilateral trade agreements.
- Trade wars
- Border security as a major priority.
- Migration controls - inwards and outwards.
- Increased militarism
- Abandonment of multiculturalism
- Support for local employment (at reduced wages).
- Political repression and authoritarianism.
- Creeping fascism.
- Rise in racism, sexism, xenophobia and bigotry.

Welcome to 1984 folks!

The fallacy and critical failure of social media

Like many, I have become addicted to social media - in my case Twitter. My first task every morning after putting the kettle on is to go through the overnight tweets and "mentions". I have built up to 660 (almost the Devil's number!) Followers most of whom are unknown to me personally. During the day, I repeatedly check on Twitter traffic. In most cases I end up feeling angry and frustrated about what I have read.

Having become disaffected with the bias of newspapers, the dumbing down of television news and current affairs I have sought refuge in social media. **In the aftermath of the US Presidential election and Trump's predilection for disruption using social media an awful set of truths have dawned on me.** The algorithms and logic behind Twitter encourage users of like minds to clump together resulting in:

- The reinforcement of personal beliefs by "following" those of like minds;
- Groups form supporting and encouraging the trend towards strong fixed views;
- Having reached and reinforced a fixed position on a given issue the Groups (with some notable exceptions) seem unable to do anything other than mutually complain;
- As each group solidifies, its political support becomes hardened and embedded within the group;
- Political Parties are pushed to adopt the views of these hardened supporters;
- The political parties are unable to satisfy the demands of these supporters because of party platforms and democratic internal processes;
- The incumbent party, to retain power, begins to pander to some of the more extreme supporter demands;

- The Opposition is also compromised being forced to adopt safe unity ticket positions on populist issues such as border control and immigration.

Conclusion? Social media entrenches current positions, but fails to provide any effective means to bring them into effect.

A more effective use of social media would be to infiltrate the groups with whom you disagree and use that as a base to disrupt their intentions - just like Trump did.

About me

I retired from advocacy a few years ago and moved to Merimbula after having worked with the following Canberra-based industry and professional associations over a period of 40 years:

- Associated Chambers of Manufactures
- Australian Institute of Urban Studies
- Royal Australian Institute of Architects (Education and Information Director)
- The Pharmacy Guild of Australia (National CEO)
- Australian Association of Pathology Practices (Founder/CEO)
- Australian Diagnostic Imaging Association (Founder/CEO)

Before all that I was in the Navy and served as Captain of Patrol Boat HMAS BARRICADE.

In 1984 I became a partner in the Canberra lobby firm Macintosh Parkes which later became The Rowland Company. In 1989 my wife and I set up Client Solutions where I was until my recent semi-retirement!

My academic qualifications are:

- B.Ec. (ANU 1975)
- M. Communication (Griffith 2014)
- Master of Applied Innovation and Entrepreneurship (Adelaide in progress)

I hope some of the above strike a chord. If they do please email me at david.kindon@gmail.com and we can take things from there.

Sincerely,



David Kindon

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