Why Humans Dehumanize Humans

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Abstract

Everybody is aware of the sordid history of humans dehumanizing other humans. It is weird that the most highly evolved creature on this planet, full of philosophy and wisdom, is the most lethal hyperkeystone species, threatening Earth's fragile biosphere. We have the virtually unused brain power to potentially understand why humans are so species schizophrenic. There are many lessons to learn from our successful failures.

As early as two million years ago African pre-humans were already apex predators living off meat.**[1]** Living where powerful other predators were everywhere, our pre-human ancestors could only do half of the fight-or-fight formula. Because there was often nowhere to hide locally, we had to learn how to fight. Lessons regarding immediate group preservation that we taught our early selves unknowingly helped launch the global biosphere on an arch of horror that is still unfolding. Note that every dynamic arch has both a beginning and an end.

The two weapons that were most helpful were hunting in groups, and using crude spears. Many other predators and prey use group offense and group defense strategies. Wild African dog packs with sharp canine teeth, for example, also excel at running after prey such as antelope until they are exhausted and easily dispatched. We humans developed the ability to run with light spears for great distances. Only a few prey animals could run fast and far, most notably wild horses fleeing wolves in America. Prehistorical humans with spears and flint knives were more efficient predators than even wolf packs.

Many species use natural intelligence to both hunt and avoid predation. The goal of each generation is to procreate and repopulate their local biome, to stay in harmony with their local food supply. Modern humans emerged some 200,000 years ago, equipped with quality weapons to dominate to the point that we could now procreate freely globally, without fear of predation from large non-humans.

Human societies have yet to fully figure out how to protect themselves from micro pathogens no spear can dispatch. We vastly underestimate the true masters of our planet: fungi, viruses, and bacteria. Direct and indirect mayhem from other human societies is overestimated. Furthermore, the classically obvious dangers, such as climate changes, are belatedly being understood, but not fully managed, mostly for political reasons. Whereas classical predation destroys bodies, human alienation and predation of other human societies eats souls. In the end, humans could eat socially weaker humans for calories, and not just to appease tribal gods in times of drought.

The global biosphere is a *limited cornucopia. Geometrically expanding human populations* already waste other plant and animal species when we spread everywhere. We are approaching linear limits to net food sources. The *Biblica*l command [*Genesis 1:28-30*] to procreate and dominate persists. Thus has emerged the modern dilemma where myopic success in seizing local resources is accelerating our global failures. *Thomas Malthus* **[2]** explained this ecological self-destructive potential in the late 18th century. Not surprisingly, British landlords in the mid-19th century used Malthus to dehumanize their Irish farming tenants, and thereby justify the great Irish potato famine.

What we have today is a variant of the old military saying: "If it can be done, it will be done." Apparently, doing "boom-boom stuff" can at first be fun. Armies parade in dress uniforms, and then blunder into war with God (or the gods) on their side. Eventually, *Murphy's Law* enters the dirty game, and somebody seriously loses. Does that mean their god was defeated too? Noncombatants typically suffer more casualties than do the gun fighters. From the hyperkeystone big picture, intra-species human hubris also yields indirectly many other species losing. When we make a "thing" of another human being, or sentient being, we thereby make a thing of ourselves.

System Theory Perspectives

In 1968 an ecological scientist, Ludwig von Bertalanffy, published his seminal study of feedback systems after forty years of research. His unique book is *General System Theory*.**[3]** I purchased and studied this book when it was published, and still consider it to be very wise and prescient, with broad relevance. General system feedback applies to *all types* of systems, organic and inorganic, local to cosmological. Experimental scientists in all fields of inquiry would do well to incorporate aspects of general system theory into their very specialized models.

Vicious scenarios can easily be described within general system theory. System theory also explains incremental ecological devastation that *initially appears to not be globally suicidal*, except for local populations first starving from climate change. Because *history is written by the victors*, global doom scenarios may be conveniently ignored until it is too late to easily correct.

Our rare Garden-of-Eden planet has hosted over billions of years many thousands of species (from microscopic to dinosaurs) that have emerged, prospered, and then vanished. Extinction and new species emergence is a normal theme as old as dialectical life itself on Earth. Why do so many people never see the obvious when they vainly look into their mirrors?

In most respects, our haughty modern societies are not fundamentally different from ancient losers who never saw it coming. We are space-age creatures with stone-age hominid brains. The key difference so far is that previous species would vanish, and then their slice of the nutrient pie would simply go to other species-in-waiting. There has never before been any emerging hyperkeystone species globally exploding in population, while *staying greedy* for all sorts of resources. That is our unique joy and shame.

In today's ecosphere we are wasting many charismatic food sources, which opens more expansion opportunities for others such as rats, ants, termites, ticks, wild pigs, jellyfish, cockroaches, and countless weeds. There may be in the near future few fleshy humans to occupy new nutrition niches. Future Earth could host AI robots and/or space aliens that eat solar energy, not green plants. Is devastation of our precious *human heritage* what we really want for our archaeological legacy? What will curious post-human archaeologists think when they dig up the garbage we have left behind?

Going from special paradigms to a theory of everything (TOE) will depend heavily on understanding general system theory: One example of this multidimensional synergy is the study of *minds*. Here we are talking about the *interactive synergy of neuronal hardware – with software thoughts, feelings, and values* emerging from our 100 trillion synaptic connections. In addition, *no mind or physical brain is isolated* from its historical birth, nor from ongoing social interactions with the existential world we recognize.

Several linear logarithmic size dimensions that we do not consciously recognize are fundamental for our human macro-system. Each macro-system shifts more toward the inorganic (increasingly less recognized), from our proximal organic, as 4D perspectives expand. The shift to vastly smaller dimensions, such as from classical to quantum, is equally outside our daily consciousness.

Furthermore, a great challenge remains when our best instruments cannot measure systems within most physics dimensions. Just because our tools cannot measure currently unmeasurable physics dimensions does not make these dimensions meaningless within experimental physics.

I recently wrote a special essay on why we have not yet located other sentient civilizations. A profound system theory model lies behind this science puzzle.**[4]**

References

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[3] https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/computer-science/general-system-theory

[4] https://astronomy-links.net/great.filter.theory.pdf