

A Culture of Lies

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Western society, birthed by superiority-driven imperialism, cannot grow beyond the lies it is founded upon.

Our society operates on the following beliefs, all of which are lies:

- **Some people are inherently superior to others.**
- **People need authoritative leadership or else they are chaotic savages.**
- **The truth is knowable, and the leaders are the keepers of it.**
- **Progress is inevitable and always good.**
- **Success is a reflection of personal merit.**
- **The individual is separate from the collective.**
- **Scarcity is inevitable.**
- **Violence is necessary to maintain peace.**
- **Human beings are separate from nature.**
- **Suffering is noble and necessary for success.**

While our society claims to be based on science and reason, none of these positions are defensible scientifically. On the contrary, there are positions opposite of each that are much

more readily supported by science.

There are countless more falsities that pass as "common sense" in our twisted world run by twisted people. And I do not say that to permanently vilify them- the rulers of the world today are hopelessly dishonest and mentally ill, *right now*.

I have no problem with ceasing to treat the situation as such when they prove differently.

But for now, let's run down each of these lies, talk about why they actually exist, and explore what a different belief could be.

Some People Are Inherently Superior to Others

Rooted in: Hierarchical systems like classism, racism, patriarchy, and ableism.

Manifestation:

- ~ Justifications for unequal distribution of wealth, power, and opportunity.
- ~ Myths of "natural order" where certain groups (based on race, gender, class) are framed as more deserving or capable.

Effect:

- ~ Perpetuates systemic oppression and dehumanization.
- ~ Creates self-fulfilling hierarchies where disenfranchised groups lack access to resources to challenge their position.

Why It Exists:

- ~ Hierarchical thinking was a tool for organizing societies, especially during periods of resource scarcity, conquest, and empire-building. Class systems, racism, and patriarchy justified unequal power structures, ensuring stability for those in control.
- ~ Superiority myths made exploitation palatable: kings ruled by "divine right," colonizers claimed to "civilize" others, and the wealthy claimed to be more industrious or moral.

Alternative Belief: *All people have equal intrinsic worth, and diversity enhances collective progress.*

- ~ Implication: Systems would prioritize equity and inclusion, acknowledging that different strengths and perspectives contribute to shared success.
- ~ This shift would require restructuring resource distribution, dismantling biases, and redefining “value” beyond status and wealth.

People Need Authoritative Leadership or Else They Are Chaotic Savages

Rooted in: Hobbesian philosophy (state of nature = war of all against all) and the fear of human nature as inherently destructive.

Manifestation:

- ~ Justifications for authoritarian power and violent enforcement of laws.
- ~ Myths of the “noble ruler” or “benevolent dictatorship.”
- ~ Policing and surveillance framed as necessary for order.

Effect:

- ~ Suppresses autonomy, self-governance, and mutual aid.
- ~ People internalize distrust of themselves and others, relinquishing agency to external authorities.

Why It Exists:

- ~ Early societies feared disorder and relied on authority to enforce cohesion. From Hobbes' *Leviathan* to religious doctrines, humans were portrayed as inherently selfish or violent.
- ~ Authoritarian systems benefited elites by creating dependency on centralized power, legitimizing coercion and violence.

Alternative Belief: *Humans are capable of cooperation, mutual aid, and self-governance when empowered and supported.*

~ Implication: This would foster decentralized systems, participatory democracy, and community-driven problem-solving. Trust in collective agency would replace dependency on hierarchical leaders.

~ Greater emphasis would be placed on education, empathy-building, and cultivating shared responsibility.

The Truth Is Knowable, and the Leaders Are the Keepers of It

Rooted in: The Enlightenment belief in universal truth and the rise of institutional authorities (e.g., the church, state, science).

Manifestation:

~ Leaders—political, academic, religious—claim epistemic superiority and control over “truth.”

~ Dissenting voices are marginalized as ignorant, deviant, or dangerous.

Effect:

~ Consolidates power by presenting a singular, “absolute” truth.

~ Limits the recognition of emergent, pluralistic, or context-dependent truths.

Progress Is Inevitable and Always Good

Rooted in: The ideology of linear progress and technocratic advancement.

Manifestation:

~ Societal advancements (e.g., technology, economics, medicine) framed as universally positive, ignoring harm or trade-offs.

~ The erasure of indigenous knowledge and sustainable practices under the guise of “progress.”

Effect:

- ~ Justifies environmental destruction, economic inequality, and exploitation.
- ~ Creates blind faith in systems that prioritize growth over well-being.

Why It Exists:

- ~ Enlightenment ideals and industrialization created faith in linear progress. Economic and technological growth was framed as the ultimate measure of success.
- ~ This narrative justified colonization, environmental destruction, and systemic inequalities as “necessary costs” of advancement.

Alternative Belief: *Progress should be measured by well-being, sustainability, and equitable benefit.*

- ~ Implication: Societal priorities would shift toward regenerative systems, balanced living, and quality of life rather than unchecked growth.
- ~ This would challenge industries, governments, and cultures that equate growth with success, fostering a healthier relationship with innovation and nature.

Success Is a Reflection of Personal Merit

Rooted in: The myth of meritocracy, which has manifested as metricocracy in the reductionism era

Manifestation:

- ~ “Hard work” and “personal responsibility” are framed as the sole drivers of success.
- ~ Poverty and failure are stigmatized as individual moral failings.

Effect:

- ~ Obscures systemic barriers like generational poverty, racism, or unequal access to education.
- ~ Shames those who “fail” and absolves those who succeed of accountability.

Why It Exists:

- ~ Meritocracy offered a moral justification for inequality by framing success as earned and failure as deserved. It maintained systemic power structures while discouraging critiques of privilege or systemic barriers.

Alternative Belief: *Success is shaped by both individual effort and systemic conditions; society thrives when everyone has access to opportunity.*

- ~ Implication: This would shift focus toward dismantling barriers like poverty, systemic racism, and educational inequity.
- ~ Success would be redefined as collective flourishing, and “failure” would no longer be stigmatized but addressed systemically.

The Individual Is Separate from the Collective

Rooted in: The emphasis on individualism over communal interdependence.

Manifestation:

- ~ Systems frame self-interest as natural and moral (e.g., capitalism).
- ~ Collective well-being is often seen as less important than individual gain.

Effect:

- ~ Erodes trust, cooperation, and solidarity.
- ~ Ignores the interconnectedness of human life and environmental systems.
- ~ Limits emergent interpretations of human behavior within complex socioeconomic systems

Why It Exists:

- ~ Individualism emerged as a reaction to feudalism and oppressive collectives, enabling personal freedom and autonomy. However, it also fueled capitalism, competition, and alienation.
- ~ The illusion of separateness masked interdependence, allowing systems to exploit both people and the environment.

Alternative Belief: *Individuals and collectives are interdependent; healthy societies balance personal autonomy with communal well-being.*

- ~ Implication: Policies and practices would center collaboration, shared resources, and mutual care without erasing individual agency. Passive income much more heavily taxed.
- ~ This shift would reinvigorate community bonds and reshape economic models to prioritize collective success.

Scarcity Is Inevitable

Rooted in: Economic systems built on competition and artificial scarcity.

Manifestation:

- ~ The myth that there isn't enough for everyone drives hoarding, exploitation, and inequality.
- ~ Wealth and resources are concentrated in the hands of a few, while the majority compete for leftovers.

Effect:

- ~ Reinforces zero-sum mentalities that pit people against one another.
- ~ Obscures the abundance created through cooperation and sustainable practices.

Why It Exists:

- ~ Scarcity narratives justified competition, hoarding, and resource inequality. It benefited those with power by framing inequality as natural and unavoidable.
- ~ Economies structured around artificial scarcity (e.g., housing, food) maintained control and profit.

Alternative Belief: *Abundance is possible through cooperation, sustainability, and equitable resource distribution.*

- ~ Implication: Shifting to abundance-focused systems would reduce inequality and competition.
- ~ Emphasis on regenerative economics, circular systems, and sharing resources would reframe how societies address needs.

Violence Is Necessary to Maintain Peace

Rooted in: The justification of war, policing, and punitive justice as means to ensure security.

Manifestation:

- ~ States use force and coercion to enforce laws or expand power.
- ~ Militarization and carceral systems are presented as solutions to conflict.

Effect:

- ~ Perpetuates cycles of violence, trauma, and inequality.
- ~ Suppresses alternative approaches like restorative justice, mediation, and peace-building.

Why It Exists:

- ~ The state justified violence (military, policing, punishment) as a tool to enforce order. This narrative stems from fear-based views of human nature and the need for control.
- ~ It perpetuated cycles of harm while legitimizing war, punitive justice, and state power.

Alternative Belief: *Peace is sustained through justice, mutual understanding, active deterrents and addressing root causes of harm.*

- ~ Implication: Resources would shift from militarization to restorative justice, education, and community-building.

- ~ Violence would be reframed as a symptom of systemic issues, requiring proactive care rather than punishment.
- ~ Active deterrents for corporate fraud- things such as verifying compliance to accept payment

Human Beings Are Separate from Nature

Rooted in: The Western dualism of humanity vs. the natural world (Descartes, Bacon).

Manifestation:

- ~ Nature is seen as a resource to be exploited rather than a living system to be respected or an extension of our living bodies.
- ~ Environmental destruction is justified for economic growth.

Effect:

- ~ Ecological collapse and climate crises.
- ~ Disconnection from the systems that sustain human life.
- ~ Unnatural effort to avoid our savagery and mortality

Why It Exists:

- ~ Western dualism (mind/body, human/nature) justified exploitation of natural resources for economic gain.
- ~ Framing nature as “other” enabled control, extraction, and the destruction of ecosystems.

Alternative Belief: *Humans are part of nature, and our well-being depends on the health of the planet.*

- ~ Implication: Societies would prioritize ecological harmony and sustainability, shifting from extractive to regenerative practices.
- ~ This would require redefining progress, wealth, and success to include environmental stewardship.

Suffering Is Noble and Necessary for Success

Rooted in: Religious and cultural narratives that frame suffering as a moral test or a prerequisite for achievement.

Manifestation:

- ~ The glorification of overwork, self-sacrifice, and "hustle culture" as indicators of worthiness.
- ~ Systems justify poverty and exploitation by claiming that hardship builds character or discipline.
- ~ The myth that enduring suffering leads to eventual success, while those who prioritize well-being are seen as weak or unambitious.

Effect:

- ~ Perpetuates cycles of exploitation and burnout, particularly among the working class.
- ~ Makes people tolerate unjust conditions under the belief that they're earning future rewards (e.g., wealth, salvation).
- ~ Shames individuals who seek rest, healing, or alternative paths to success.

Why It Exists:

- ~ Religious and cultural narratives glorified suffering as morally redemptive, tying hardship to spiritual or material rewards.
- ~ In capitalism, this belief justified exploitation and normalized overwork as a pathway to success.

Alternative Belief: *Well-being and success are best achieved through balance, support, and sustainable effort.*

- ~ Implication: Workplaces, institutions, and cultures would prioritize mental health, rest, and equity over relentless productivity.
- ~ The glorification of burnout would be replaced with systems that value care, joy, and fulfillment.

Transitioning To Honest Leadership

The foundations of Western society are rooted in lies of inherent superiority, the necessity of authoritarian control, and the possession of absolute truth.

These and all the other lies have shaped leadership structures that are fundamentally incapable of addressing the challenges of our time.

These systems have produced leaders who maintain their power by perpetuating division, exploitation, and hollow notions of progress, all while masking systemic failures with superficial claims of equality, progress, and justice.

As humanity faces existential crises- ecological collapse, economic inequality, cultural fragmentation, and the erosion of trust- it becomes clear that leadership built on outdated hierarchies and false moralities cannot guide us through the turbulent times ahead.

Leaders who rely on lies to sustain control are not equipped to foster the cooperation, imagination, and collective care required to navigate an interconnected, uncertain world.

We need a new morality, [a new way of thinking](#) and a reimagined foundation for how we treat one another—one that transcends token gestures of equality and actively embraces genuine equity, interdependence, and shared responsibility.

This morality must reject hierarchical thinking and instead recognize the intrinsic worth of all people, valuing diversity not as a threat but as a strength. It must prioritize collaboration over competition, compassion over coercion, and sustainability over short-sighted exploitation.

Such a shift demands leadership that emerges not from claims of superiority or control but from a deep understanding of humanity's interconnectedness- leadership that facilitates, rather than dominates.

To build a future that works for everyone, we must collectively unlearn the lies that have shaped our past and replace them with principles that honor equality, justice, and the shared dignity of all life.

This is not merely an intellectual exercise; it is an existential imperative.

If we fail to redefine our foundations, we will remain trapped in systems incapable of delivering the leadership we need.

But if we embrace this opportunity to rebuild on truth, equity, and care, we can create a world where leadership is not a position of power but a practice of service- one that nurtures humanity's full potential and stewards our collective future with wisdom, humility, and grace.

The time has come to lay down the scaffolding of the old world and embrace a vision where equality is not just proclaimed but practiced, not just imagined but embodied.