

Unethical business

Lesley Pocock

Correspondence:

Lesley Pocock

Publisher and Managing Director

medi+WORLD International

Email: lesleypocock@mediworld.com.au



Cave painting from Altamira - a Paleolithic cave located in Santillana del Mar (Cantabria region), in the north of Spain, which was declared a World Heritage Site by the UNESCO in 1985. The cave was inhabited for millennia and, so it contains remains of the daily activities of the population. Most of the paintings and engravings of Altamira, ranging from animals to hands, are located in the polychrome room. The oldest paintings are located on the right of the roof and they include horses, positive and negative images of hands, and a series of dots; mostly drawn by using charcoal..

Paintings have been interpreted as depicting stone age man's respect and reverence for the natural world on which humans relied for survival.

Abstract

Argumentative essay on the causes of unethical business, extinction, genocide, destruction of the biosphere and global warming as a result of gross flaws in humankind which need to be overcome for the viability of the human species as well as the viability of all life on planet earth.

Please cite this article as: Lesley Pocock. Unethical business. Middle East Journal of Business. 2018; 13(4): 23-29 . DOI: 10.5742/MEJB.2018.93503

Background

In the stone age when there were only small populations of humans, and when animal species roamed the earth in huge numbers, like the other animals, there was justification for human hunting and gathering of the food stuffs and tools needed for survival. Even then, as evidenced by cave paintings around the world, there was respect and regard for those creatures, plant and animal, that sustained our lives and the lives of the hunted. I even suggest that humans were likely far more aware and intelligent as regards the viability of such species and the connection to their own lives. There was also no economy or property and land ownership for them to covet. Certainly they did not have Facebook and Twitter, Google and Wikipedia to tell them what to think and do - they had to work it out for themselves and start the great repository of human knowledge. Certainly they would have learned not to hunt pregnant females in order for them to raise the next seasons' game.

Now, when we are meant to have progressed in intelligence, we seem to have turned into total savages in regards to treatment of other life forms on the planet, as well as our own fellows. Too many ignorant humans consider the animals, loved

and respected by many of us, and therefore semi protected, are a free ticket for the ignorant and ignoble to make personal wealth from them and their slaughter to the point of not only causing species to become extinct but to the inevitability of destruction of all the vital ecosystems that sustain all life.

Some of us are eternally tormented by the assumption of some humans that every creature on this planet is there for them to kill and exploit; that the lives of other creatures have no value other than what value they can provide to humans and that other creatures have no right to a peaceful life for themselves. Who told the human species that they were entitled to kill, torture, destroy and make extinct everything on the planet in the name of personal riches? While other species disappear, humans are now in plague proportions and in their lifetimes taking far more than they ever give back. They destroy the lives of other humans as well - the weaker, kinder and less aggressive ones, like women and children. Indeed this malevolence seems to be the culture of the rich, though more likely it is the savages and uncaring in our midst who become rich due to their twisted mentality. Just look at the leaders of the countries of this world.

Those few humans who still need to survive from hunting and gathering, like our Stone Age counterparts, respect these food resources and are aware that their own ongoing viability is totally connected to the ongoing viability of these resources.

Humans too often seem to think that all that flies in the air, swims in the sea or walks on the land is for them to kill, eat and exploit and consequently the wild creatures that we do not eat are still killed for "sport" – for the pleasure that some humans get from killing something defenceless and unarmed. The more endangered the animal victim is, the bigger the thrill of killing one while you still can. It is not that these humans are hungry or that the world has any need for products made from endangered animals; the opposite is true in both regards.

We greatly need all members of the ecosystems to keep ecological balance or rats may end up being the only meat choice on the menu, the rat being the great animal by-product of human civilisation's choices. Wild animals are not something humans have manufactured, or nurtured or used their intellect to create. It is just evil exploitation – akin to sexual slavery of women and children.

Threatened and endangered species

Whales



After centuries of whaling these magnificent and gentle creatures were greatly endangered after being hunted to near extinction due to human lust for their oil content. Due to protection by some countries and the International Whaling Commission, some species of whales have started to restore their numbers. This has not stopped citizens of several countries trying to reinstate these practices or just ignoring the Commission and the consensus of the world community. In Iceland whaling of endangered blue fin whales is conducted by a millionaire, wanting to make even more money for himself. The following photo shows just one of 125 endangered fin whales Icelandic millionaire Kristjan Loftsson killed this year. Loftsson is the last man on the planet still slaughtering these gentle giants for profit, often while they're pregnant, when he has no ownership rights to them at all.

It is reported that on being advised his whaling and slaughtering activities were harming Icelandic tourism which is based on people wanting to see the pristine wilderness and living whales – he reportedly said – Let them look the other way.

Sadly this reflects the behaviour of too many humans who always choose to look away rather than doing something decent, especially the rich, powerful and ignorant who to this day are happy to conduct cruel and destructive processes, such as wars that kill the human species, and who think they can kill anyone or anything in this world for personal wealth and power. These brutal misanthropes know they are destroying civilisations and an entire planet - they just don't care. Sadly that is the case of far too many humans and the rest of us have to live among them. No wonder there is an epidemic of depression in the world, though probably just among the good and sane people.



The endangered Blue Fin whale was shot with an exploding harpoon, then the foetus hacked out of her, and trashed.

It is not just these anachronistic whalers. Destructive fishing practices by super trawlers that will scrape up anything out of the depths and breadth of the oceans, are causing death of species; those to be marketed (even though the fish of the oceans of the world were never their fish to own and market in the first place) and those other sea creatures netted because they were 'in their way'. They are also destroying ocean floors, habitats and ecosystems. Long line fishing also destroys incidental life forms like the beautiful, wandering albatross. They mate for life, and it seems it is mainly the female albatrosses that are being killed as they have different hunting techniques to males; but the danger of losing these noble and dignified creatures does not cross the minds or excite the sense of the human exploiters. They just rip their endless dead bodies off their long lines of hooks and rebait the hooks for something they can sell.

Couple this with the omnipresent dumping of poisons and chemicals and trash into the ocean by other parties and there will soon be no edible fish left. The destruction of biodiversity and food resources destroys humanity as well, but in our case we only have our own aggressive and cowardly behaviour to blame.

Then we have 'factory farms' where domestic animals which are human foodstuff are no longer let live out their short lives in any form of the pleasure of natural existence but are kept without sunlight and fresh air and wind and sky and grass in cramped concrete enclosures. i.e. they miss being born to live and learn alongside their mothers, to spend their young lives roaming in meadows, or wallowing in mud, or scratching

through the undergrowth. They are now born and live encaged their entire lives and usually in cramped torturous conditions so they 'don't harm their meat', or any other human resource they represent. The battery hen spends its life in a small cage in which it cannot even spread its wings, see the sunlight, or scratch in the dirt.

Puppy farms encage female dogs on a never ending breeding cycle, where they are constantly inseminated, and give birth endlessly until their poor bodies and minds are destroyed.

Ducks and geese are force fed certain foods to give them fatty liver (disease) so they can be better made into pate.

And it is not just animals and birds now seen as resources, humans (especially small defenceless ones like children) and non meat-producing mammals are also marketable for the various non-necessary commodities they can be turned into.

It is about time we openly acknowledged this about the human condition and put in strong measures to minimise the harm some of our kind endlessly cause. Amazingly none of these exploiters are in jail.

Those who think this is just the 'march of progress' should open their eyes to reality. It is an endless battle to try and retake any moral ground.

Safari tours/hunting paraphernalia/killing and torturing endangered animals as a pleasurable human pursuit

The big cats



No words are necessary to caption this recent image except to ask what sort of society bred this thing, pictured left, smiling and dressed in her fashionable camouflage gear, having shot a noble and endangered animal and then uploaded the photo to boast about her slaughtering of it, to her own kind, on social media.

Rhinoceros



Some environmentalists cheered when Viagra came onto the market, as they thought it may see the end of witch doctors and fraudsters grinding up endangered animals' horns to sell as "potency" drugs to silly men, but sadly the rhinoceros horn is still seen by some to have magic properties even in this century and rhinoceroses are even more endangered than the elephants; the white rhinoceroses' numbers are now down to single digits.

Elephants



There are very few elephants left in the world and those that are, are in constant danger of being killed – not for food or habitat, but because their tusks can be used to make useless little ornaments favoured by the rich and vacuous. Recently carcasses of about 90 elephants were found in Botswana – their tusks hacked out.

Decent people have worked hard to save elephants, including donating to research to identify sources of ivory, sold. The simple way to save elephants from total extinction would be for humans to stop buying ivory products but it seems not all humans have sufficiently progressed despite such horrors as these photos



Which are the civilised creatures on this planet? Animals themselves only kill for territory and food or fear of being killed. The killing for sport has to be the most abominable outcome of wealthy human societies. Of course some terrorist groups do the same to other humans under pretexts of nationalism or religion, when the root cause really lays in barbarism.

Extinction is now one of the great moral indicators of our time along with genocide – another form of extinction perpetrated by men on men. Meanwhile national leaders are planning their neo-colonialism and world economic supremacy games as well as their war games and military exercises – to threaten the lives and livelihoods of others worldwide. They are building at great expense their ridiculous planet destroying atomic weapons and other weapons of mass destruction AND at the same time expecting to be admired by their own citizens and international peers and fellow miscreants when the enemy of all people is on our doorsteps, lurking silently. What is wrong with these people? What is wrong with us? How can such evil and stupidity be tolerated? Or are the good just not brave or equipped enough in the face of such merciless, and obscene behaviour.

Human victims of man also abound. 45.8 million people were slaves in 2016; 33 per cent of our slaves are children; 49 per cent (nearly half) of our slaves are women. This means only 18% of global slaves are men. The historical view of slavery was men in chains, forced into hard labour. Now it is women and children in rape houses or domestic or industrial servitude. The world's most cruel, dirty and toxic work is now the domain of female and child slaves. (The Business of Slavery, MEJB July 2016, Volume 11, Issue 3).

Unethical business destroys the habitats of all other creatures, including human, through dirty, destructive, polluting 'industry' in the pursuit of personal wealth. Leaving the topic of evil to the sociologists and religions, and just dealing in total stupidity, ignorance and malevolence, the attitudes of these miscreants have already killed numerous species. Data reveals a rate of 100 to 1,000 species lost per million per year, mostly due to human-caused habitat destruction and climate change (National Geographic). The air is being poisoned and befouled for all humans, but especially the poor who are forced to live in slums in big cities as they literally have nowhere else to go.

Air pollution levels are dangerously high in many parts of the world. Data from the World Health Organization (WHO) shows that 9 out of 10 people breathe air containing high levels of pollutants. Updated estimations reveal an alarming death toll of 7 million people every year caused by ambient (outdoor) and household air pollution. Over 3 billion people, most of them women and children, are still breathing deadly smoke every day from using polluting stoves and fuels in their homes.

Organised crime now operates at national (dictatorship and democratic) government levels and aids and abets the destroyers through either direct complicity or fear or favour.

Internet based scams and fraud are prolific, usually robbing the unsophisticated and elderly who have few monetary resources and protections. Technology has given criminal elements, corrupt business and dictatorial governments the means to spread their net of lies, frauds and scams to most people on the planet. It has become the plague of modern society. Governments have often gone along with the giant technological companies which are now even used to aid and abet aggressors in wars and spread wartime propaganda. Organised crime has robbed us of the very advantages the technological age has brought us.

There are so many unethical businesses in today's society it would take a book to cover all. Once market forces and supply and demand tended to either eliminate or quickly destroy corrupt businesses but now Organised Crime has infiltrated the top political levels.

I follow with a list of unethical business as many of our great leaders don't seem to be able to distinguish between right and wrong. Industries that are morally bankrupt and should be avoided by all include:

Tobacco industry (big business) Deforestation (big business) fossil fuels (big businesses) whaling and over fishing (big business) safari tours (if you cut off the animals' heads and attach them to pieces of wood and hang them in houses it is a commercial commodity to some apparently); prostitution, pornography, child sexual exploitation, sexual slavery and rape (very big business these days) offshore drilling, onshore drilling, drug trafficking, arms supplies and wars for economic gain (huge business) fossil fuels (coal fired power - we have plenty of sun, wind and thermal activity on our now overheated planet BUT humans have yet to devise a means of owning wind, sun and water - hence all the hysteria in some quarters about moving to renewable energy) lead in petrol, duck shooting, items that use vital resources (to make trinkets) and so many more.

Either we have myopic world leaders, they are cowards, they are ruling under fear or favour, they are corrupt or they are stupid. There are no other categories.

A simple rule is if business destroys lives, animal or human or plant, or leaves unsafe by-products it should not be occurring.

Global warming - the bigger picture

Global warming affects every single creature on the planet, plant and animal. It is caused by man as a result of greedy and destructive practices. The IPCC and the world's scientists have created several global warming scenarios, projections based on human behaviours. In their best case scenario the world population growth slows, economies shift priorities, and the world unites to battle environmental issues. (IPCC)

We are collectively facing a catastrophe but most humans are choosing to ignore it. The forests and all they provide home to, are rapidly disappearing. Thousands of species go extinct each year. Pollution floats around the oceans and poisons the air. Natural resources are being depleted. Populations grow in places that cannot sustain them. We humans seem to have a problem facing the result of our behaviours and we deny the undeniable.

Every one of these issues affecting life on earth is capable of being addressed and solved. They just take a bit of work and sorry, money, directed toward the problem. Part of the problem is because we have greedy, despotic and ineffective governments too afraid of losing their power by speaking the truth. I think they underestimate people. Most people have nothing but contempt for their useless and self serving governments. Rather such governments ensure we fill our time fighting each other, not the man made problems facing us collectively. Of course starting a war tends to keep people occupied trying to survive so there is less time for focus on poor and corrupt leadership.

And of course it is not just the fault of the powerful and corrupt. How can we all have got everything so wrong? How can we have been so stupid and so cowardly to have the world's bullies and thieves in charge? Okay so they murder and torture those who try to stand in their way - but if they didn't sway their fellow corrupt and their cowardly lackeys they could not exist on their own.

We accept the science when it comes to things we like - technology, electronics, manufacturing, food chemistry etc but are happy to be idiots when it comes to things that may curb our trivial pursuits.

The recent cyclones have just dumped thousands of tons of more waste and debris into the ocean. For many years now in some Asian countries you cannot see where the sea ends and the land begins as they are covered in huge heaps of waste. Covering more than 70 percent of our planet, oceans are the earth's most valuable natural resources. They govern the weather, clean the air, help feed the world, and provide a living for millions. They also are home to most of the life on earth. The nature of water is that all streams and rivers eventually flow into the ocean. Many rivers around the world have been dead for many decades and every second of every day spill their poisons and debris into the seas.

The land is depleted, destroyed, polluted over-farmed, lacking in diversity. People are in plague proportions and as with all plagues they eventually die out due to destroying their environment and depleting their food resources.

It seems decency, responsibility and intelligence remain 'so last year', 'so old school' – but in truth it has been in short supply since the realities we bravely faced in the stone age.

Instead of being afraid of change, and afraid of missing out on something, if we wake up to ourselves and attain some values we will find that life improves when we are no longer thinking about ourselves all the time - and not just environmentally. We will learn things like peace of mind, justified self pride and dignity and true value and so much more.

The world would be fairer, no child would die unnecessarily from disease or hunger.

Actually working together for a common benefit (survival), for the first time in the history of humankind, could actually help to bring peace on earth – you never know!

What we are living through here is a horror story, a nightmare. We all know what needs to be done at the top level. Some countries do have enlightened policy and good practices but their efforts alone won't sort the problem. It is one of proper national and global leadership and proper societal education. Everyone has learned to drive on the correct side of the road to avoid accidents, it should be as simple as that. All that is stopping us is greed and unethical business.

