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Sociocybernetics and World Governance

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Cybernetics is concerned with the study of the guidance and control processes which determine thefunctioning of animals and machines.

So sociocybernetics involves the study of the hidden guidance and control processes which control the operation of organisations and society and the design of better ones.

Strangely enough, I have not found too many studies of the latter.

Yet the need for them has been underlined in two videos that have crossed my screen since our conference.

David Brooks: World On Fire: The Root Causes of Populism, Authoritarianism and The Whole Global Mess https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oDdssTQG6Vc

Tucker Carlson (@TuckerCarlson) posted at 6:08 pm on Tue, Jul 02, 2024:This is how they take your country away. https://t.co/PhlKmT2DLM (https://x.com/TuckerCarlson/status/1808186033982353502?t=dfOIqX0ju9vHmwaCsWUB0w&s=03)

Years ago, before I had heard of sociocybernetics, we attempted to map (i.e. generate a causal loop diagram of) the interacting network of social forces which corrupt, and lead to the dysfunctional operation of, most of the "educational" systems. Or, stated more narrowly (to take account of the observation that it actually functions very well to achieve sociological objectives), why the system functions in ways which do not result in the achievement of its manifest objectives.

I summarised some of this work in the first of my talks to our recent conference.

But, more importantly, I raise the question of how this work can be applied to the questions raised by the above authors.

How are we to understand (map) the network of social forces that lie behind the wave after wave of ideologically based mass movements that have engulfed us over the centuries (and resulted in endless destruction) … with several in full swing at the present time?

I give some more examples of the problem in the second part of the above-mentioned paper and would be more than interested to hear of other work that might help us to move toward an answer to the question.

As to David Brooks' repeated references to the devastating effects of hierarchy, my second paper was devoted to trying to understand the inexorable onward march of hierarchy which Bookchin shows has, despite the observations of acute observers and the demonstrable negative consequences for the lives of those concerned and the sustainability of the plant, continued over endless millennia.

References

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