

Harry Potter instead of Karl Popper here and Symphonia there:

Mani was something like the Joanne K. Rowling of late antiquity. And the Manichees were his readers and hearers. When the Manichaean Augustine of Hippo became a Christian, he brought the dualism and gnosis of the Manichaeans into the western attitude to life. Augustine would have been a fan of Joanne K. Rowling. This Manichaean virus mutated with Luther, Calvin, Melanchthon and Zwingli from pre-Reformation to Reformed Christianity. Gnostic dualism remained. And after the secularization of the western world, the virus mutated again and now manifests itself as evangelical creationism in North America and postmodern constructivism in Europe. What remains is the old Manichaean gnostic dualism of the fight between good and evil and all those who are affected by this virus and its mutants are of course the good guys and victory over the others is certain for them. That is why evangelical creationism and postmodern constructivism are so similar in their sense of mission, in their intolerance and rejection of naturalism, critical rationalism, evolution and open society (freedom of expression, majority voting, patchwork technology, reducing suffering instead of increasing happiness). They are Manichaeans.

*From the mid-1970s to the present, irrationalist or anti-rationalist ideas have become increasingly prevalent among intellectuals in America, France, Britain, and Germany. The ideas are referred to as deconstructionism, deep hermeneutics, sociology of knowledge, social constructivism, constructivism, or science and technology studies. The generic term for these movements is (post)structuralism or postmodernism. All forms of postmodernism are anti-scientific, anti-philosophical, anti-structuralist, anti-naturalistic, anti-Galilean, anti-Darwinian, and generally anti-rational, dualistic, Manichaean, and Gnostic. The view of science as a search for truths (or approximate truths) about the world is rejected. The natural world plays little or no role in the construction of scientific knowledge. Science is just another social practice that produces narratives and myths no more valid than the myths of pre-scientific epochs.*

The pre-Reformation East Roman world never suffered from this Manichaean, Gnostic, Calvinian virus. But she suffered and suffers from another virus. This is the Eastern Roman virus of symphony between church and emperor.

All together they have an enemy. This is Karl Popper and his open society (freedom of expression, majority voting, patchwork technology, reducing suffering instead of increasing happiness).