



You and your unconscious political stance.

August 10, 2020 | Mehran Ali Ansari - @emehrawn

Personality is a pattern of collective character, analysis of one's psyche, temperament and how they perceive and choose to act in this world. How should one conduct itself in the world? remains a profound question to be answered. To think of personality as partly engineering isn't futile at all, as it implies that one builds something by using theory. Fundamentally, the theory is development of the perfect human, that guides us how to act in this world. Deriving ethics and rules from the meta-stories found in religious texts. But that's a cultural/historical perspective. But to be able to understand oneself from a scientific and psychoanalytical perspective, we study psychometrics (a study of psychological measurements). Unconscious mind plays a vital part, as It merely displays itself on the surface, Consciousness is like the tip of an iceberg, and unconsciousness is the vast area below. As Freud observed, "the unconscious is a particular realm of the mind with its own wishful impulses, its own mode of expression and its peculiar mental mechanisms which are not in force elsewhere." We can only get in touch with the unconscious by interpreting what it seems to be indicating in our dreams, waking fantasies, "slips of the tongue," and so on. We are occupied by ideas and dramas deep in unconscious accompanied by inherited biological traits.

In modern democracies, political attitudes, among other factors, influences vote choice (Carmines & Stimson, 1980; Key, 1966; Rabinowitz & Macdonald, 1989), and public policy (Erikson, MacKuen, & Stimson, 2002; Key, 1961). Hence, in order to explain part of the outcome and functioning of modern democracies, we need to know how citizens' arrive at their political attitudes. An attitude can be defined as a "psychological tendency that is expressed by evaluating a particular entity with some degree of favour or disfavour" (Eagly & Chaiken, 1993, p. 1). In psychoanalysis, there is model used to assess the personality of an individual called BIG 5:

1. Openness (Curious, creative, open to new ideas)
2. Conscientiousness (Organized, achievement oriented and dependable)
3. Extraversion (Sociable, outgoing, talkative)
4. Agreeableness (Tolerant, sensitive, kind and warm)
5. Neuroticism (Anxious, temperamental and moody)

Generally, the literature suggests that Openness is positively associated with liberalism, whereas Conscientiousness is positively associated with conservatism (Carney et al., 2008; Mondak & Halperin, 2008; Riemann, Grubich, Hempel, Mergl, & Richter, 1993; Trapnell, 1994; van Hiel, Kossowska, & Mervielde, 2000; Van Hiel, Mervielde, & De Fruyt, 2004; Van Hiel & Mervielde, 2004). Carney et al. (2008, p. 825). Of the Big Five trait dimensions, the one that is the most plausibly related to the acquisition of political information is openness to experience. Individuals with high levels of openness exhibit a general curiosity about the world, one that often manifests itself in a thirst for information on all subjects. Openness to experience and conscientiousness yield strong effects, again in opposing directions, on measures of moral traditionalism and moral judgment and attitudes regarding social, economic, and security issues (Gerber et al., 2010; Mondak, 2010). Extraversion, agreeableness, and neuroticism are also sometimes significant correlates of political views. Also, what do you see in agreeableness in relationship to political beliefs is the proclivity for people to divide the world into "Defenseless Infants" vs "Predatory oppressors". And that unquestionably is blasted forward to the political landscape too and things are conceptualized accordingly. Also orderliness that comes under the trait conscientiousness is highest predictor of conservatism and disgust sensitivity (Preference for Order and tradition).

We have witnessed same patterns in all these ideologies For example, Hitler was very high in Orderliness. Therefore, when pushed to the edge of his psychological tendencies to restore the glory of German state. He demonstrated his traits of intense disgust sensitivity by killing countless innocent Jews and establishing Auschwitz camps to “Clean” the German society based on their ethnicity. Hence, the idea of **ethnic superiority** was put under the rubric of societal rules. Well, that’s arguably Identity politics, extremely awful idea that individuals should be classified in terms of their group identity. But, wait... let us switch the perspective and examine the issue from a leftist point of view. They already lost when soviet state so self-evidently revealed as a catastrophe. They also played the same game of Identity politics and introduced their cherished notion of **class guilt**. So, for example, when Soviets collectivized the farms, they almost wiped out, raped and froze to death all their competent farmers. They called them Kulaks. And attributed class guilt to them because they were successful peasants, also defined success as oppression and theft, Established the Gulag archipelago that was as bad as Auschwitz. They killed them and shipped them off to Siberia and froze them to death. Millions died of starvation, as they killed all their competent farmers. We have classified people based on their identity and made them guilty member of that category, and all of them are judged as a single unit. It’s catastrophic when pushed to the extreme.

You’ve to move forward in your life towards something valuable. We all do, otherwise you just suffer and die. While moving towards something valuable, we create a value hierarchy and act it out in a social environment. As soon as you start to act things out, you inevitably produce a hierarchy. No matter what you are acting out, some people are way better at it than others, it could be anything like engineering, medicine, football etc... Thus, there’s always a hierarchy fundamentally embedded in our societies. The hierarchy can get corrupt and rigid, and might reward criminality instead of competence. We need the hierarchies and we should abide by them for the proper functioning of the society, But, the Hierarchies can get corrupt and because some people are better than others, It will leave a large number of dispossessed people at the bottom, that actually threatens the whole hierarchy. Therefore. there’s a space and necessity for constant dialogue between left and right to keep the hierarchies stable. ([Dr Jordan b Peterson. \(2018, July 2\). Joe Rogan Experience](#)

#1139 - Jordan Peterson. Retrieved from
<http://https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Xc7DN-noAc>

We need hierarchies of competence. We need equality of opportunity, But...Why don't we have equality of outcome? Because not everyone is a neurosurgeon, So, if your father has a brain tumor, you probably want a hierarchy of competence that allows you to pick and choose the best, so that he might not die. We need the best people to run the world and not everyone is best. When most competent people are rewarded, so that they keep being the best. It creates an unequal distribution of wealth defined by Pareto Principle (an observation that roughly 80% of the effects come from 20% of the causes.) So, if you are in the bottom of the hierarchy, develop your personality and improve you competence and see where it takes you, instead of playing the victim card and blaming the whole system. Sometimes, we have to rise against oppression and demand fundamental rights when the system gets corrupt; But Individual responsibility is of paramount importance. You, your personality and your political beliefs have shaped the society we live in. Our minds are complex and diverse. As a consequence we have come up with different solutions to live in this world with peace, equality of rights and harmony. Some solutions were absolute mayhem and others are yet flawed, but we keep making the society better by not letting the hierarchy get corrupt, with our differences in psychological traits and opinions. How should one conduct himself/herself in the world? Yet remains a profound question to be answered, because you could be swept up in great ideologies like communism, fascism. Maybe you even start following them blindly, that strips off your individuality and you just become mere marionettes. World is much bigger than that.