Carnegie - Thoughts on First Chapters

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**Thoughts on Chapter 1**

After reading chapter one of the book, I came away with many remarkable notes from the text. At first glance the comparison of Adolf Hitler to Martin Luther King Jr was jarring to say the least. I immediately was prepared to be skeptical of everything I read after that. It was only after I kept reading that I realized I’d done exactly what Carnegie was explaining, I hadn’t buried my boomerang. My wrongdoing was precisely the reason I chose to write about chapter one. I had my arm cocked and ready to throw my outrage, criticism, and disapproval before I even gave Carnegie a chance to explain where he was going. To me, chapter one is an important insight into where our society has gone. Carnegie provides an in-depth analysis into why the direction we are headed- while promising on the surface- may lead to our social collapse.

The chapter later goes to outline some of what I mean by social collapse, “Many are accustomed to holding a sword called the First Amendment in one hand and a shield called the Fifth in the other—all the while forgetting that to do so is to deem human relations a battlefield. In many ways this culture of criticism and complaint is the unfortunate reality”. I find this quote important because it touches on the fragile reality that is human relations in the age of globalization and connectivity *is* a battlefield. Warring cultures, old vs new, left vs right, west vs east, rages on with each passing day. Each clashing to find the fault in the other, boomerangs at the ready. With each clash, either side escalating a rather small interaction from tame to tense.

What I found most compelling about the chapter though, may have been its conclusion. The advice to save personal rants to in-person meetings rather than worldwide platforms seems obvious enough but I thought it could not be overstated enough. Of all that was said though, what stood out to me most is the solution, “If I am the problem with the world, and you are too, then we can stop worrying about who is right and get on with the work of making our world better.”