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LIBERALS AND CONSERVATIVES
VS. REGRESSIVES

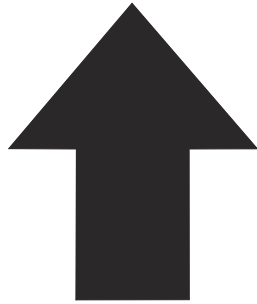
Considering the impact of the bankrolling versus the bankrupting of evolution on the course of events for our species, it's symptomatic of the strength of our national illness that the findings of so many thousands of relevant social scientific studies have been so effectively relegated to Never Never Land.

In contrast to what 300 years of science have actually shown us of the reality of our world and ourselves, it is as though an incredible number of us still think the sun is just some nice thing to have up there in the sky, but otherwise has little to do with our lives. Or in terms of social realities that the Mafia is nothing more than an exciting cast of characters for the movies.

In the case of progressive money, we've begun to see how it serves as a basic source of the necessary financial wherewithal in the drive of human evolution forward in space and time. But periodically overwhelming has been the drive of regressive money backward and downward.

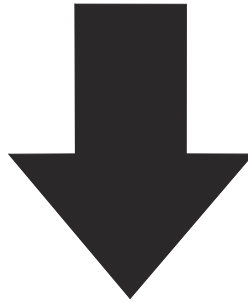
The relationship of these two basic evolutionary vectors is shown here in this graphic contrasting the thrust of progressives and progressive money with the thrust of regressives and regressive money in evolution.

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The feedback
weight of the
regressive past
and fear of the
unknown future

The feedforward
thrust of the
progressive past
and the hope for
the better future



***The Thrust of Progressive versus Regressive
Money in Evolution.***

In terms of evolutionary systems science and the psychology of ideology, this graphic indicates the vectoral force of what everyone who has ever hoped and strived for the better future has gone up against.

The downward vector indicates the antagonistic and long entrenched shove of all that has dragged our species down in the past, pressing against us, seeking to drive us down and under.

At the same time, in the upward vector we can see what impels us

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toward an ideal. We can see what, despite it all, relentlessly pushes us to try and try and try again.

We can see the eager, hungry, risking, venturing, joyful and devil-may-care feedforward drive of all that has succeeded in the past, with the active brain and mind and soul urging us again and again onward, however great the odds may seem to be against us.

In the history and the evolution of regressive money, first to gain a foothold in the books recording what is thought to be of enduring importance to us, came the financing of the gutting of the earliest attempts at democracy in Greece over 2,000 years ago.

Then came the underwriting of the iron hold of the Roman Empire on the world of its time. Next, of more immediate interest to Americans today, came the fortunes first thrown into keeping the Tories and the British in power. And then in trying to hold onto slavery and keep women “in their place.” And then, once the blacks were freed and women had seized the vote, came the juggernaut crunch of the regressive funding that provided the underwriting for the disastrous Bush years and now threatens the future for our species and our planet.

Still being shoveled into trying to check or obliterate everything that in the least smacks of progressive values, goals, and action is the regressive money spurred on by a mystique of legendary heroes.

Edmund Burke, Thomas Hobbes, Friedrich Nietzsche, the aging Plato, Metternich, Bismarck, as well as to some extent Alexander Hamilton among the “founding fathers” of the U.S.—these favorite philosophers and statesmen serve to anchor the writings and reports of the rightwing think-tanks of America. And behind every word and page advancing the cause of conservatism and regression lies anywhere from a gold piece back in the early days to perhaps as much as \$100,000 or more in regressive money by now.

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In considering the challenge for a psychiatry and management science of evolution it's vital now to untangle a matter of confusion evolutionary systems science can clarify. This is the distinction that must be made between *conservatives and conservative money* and *regressives and regressive money*.

Liberals, Conservatives, and Regressives

However reluctant liberals and progressives may be to concede that conservatives could play a positive role in evolution, the fact is they do. The history of our species over thousands of years, as well as modern experimental studies, makes evident the essential role—by whatever name they may be called at the time—of conservatives as well as liberals.

As I explored in *The Leadership Passion*, in terms of the dynamics of human evolution progressives or liberals act as the *norm-changers*, who advance evolution by decrying the gap between whatever presently exists and the ideal they can see is both desirable as well as distinctly within human capability.

These goals can be seen, for example, in Abraham Maslow's ideal of "the Good Person" and "the Good Society." By contrast, the "true," bona fide, morally oriented and sensibly functional conservatives act as *norm-maintainers*. Leery of change, fearing that it can make things worse rather than better, they dig in to keep in place whatever, however imperfect it may be, presently exists.

In this regard, they serve an evolutionary function in preserving the investment of thousands of years of evolution for our species to get this far.

Thus, conservative money goes into schools, hospitals, the Boy Scouts, the Girl Scouts—whatever was earlier seen as a radical move

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when first pushed by progressives, but which evolution and “getting used to it” has now established as vital to the happiness and well-being of our species.

Progressive money, by contrast, ventures boldly into the controversial, potentially “leading edge” areas of politics, economics, science, morality, spirituality, etc., etc., etc.

As historians know in detail, the American Revolution is a fascinating example of the way liberals and conservatives—or norm-changers and norm-maintainers—successfully worked together to meld revolution into evolution for our species.

In its best years, this has been the strength for America, as well as all other societies around the world that in the past inspired or, in turn, have been inspired by the American example, or that have modeled themselves after it.

The *regressives*, however, march to a different drummer. This is where our analysis differs from that of psychologist George Lakoff. Lakoff’s analysis is vital, excellent and overdo for a research-grounded and action-oriented comparison of liberal and conservative differences. The perspective of evolutionary systems science, however, forces one to see politics within the larger picture of history and human evolution.

It reveals the importance of seeing conservatives not only as polar opposites to progressives. It reveals that the actual polar opposite—and virus most fundamentally threatening our future—is the truly radical, blind, power-mad drive of the *regressives*.

To the regressives, prototypically, the words “cooperation” or “bipartisan” are seen as nothing more than the smoke screen behind which the smart operator moves in place one’s political and economic Gatling guns.

It’s no longer a secret known only to journalists and disruptive social

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scientists and activists that throughout the higher levels of government and business during the Bush years in America the game became, and remains, the same.

Smile, smile, smile, and then the moment the other drops his or her armor, bang, bang, bang.

What becomes confusing to both conservatives and liberals is where precisely in this war of “survival of the fittest” are the conservatives in evolutionary reality as well as political stereotype.

The situation is confusing because conservatives are by nature and by nurture primed to conform, to bow to authority, swallow their reservations, and support whoever or whatever most effectively caters to their fears.

Rather than this nature/nurture picture of conservatives being just a biased progressive perspective, this is a single line summary of an enormous amount of long established research, a fraction of which is entered here in the notes

Just as some of us are more than others genetically (i.e., by nature, born out of a particular family line) or situationally (i.e., by nurture, growing up in a particular family, country, or social strata) predisposed toward obesity, strokes, schizophrenia, or specific forms of cancer, being predisposed toward conformity and obedience to authority either genetically and/or situationally is why conservatives are more susceptible to regression.

This is why—for example, within this complex relationship that has required many studies and books to begin to understand—out of the random shuffling of genes that predisposes us one way or another one finds both liberals and conservatives in the same family.

This is also, most importantly, why new ways must through education specifically to this end be found to inoculate conservatives

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against invasion by the virus of regression.

All this indicates why to whoever or whatever promises order so many conservatives will automatically pledge their loyalty and their money. And thereby the pathology of leaders, enablers and followers gains power up to the point of the overwhelming expose—as in the case of U.S. President Nixon and the “Nixonians,” of whom scores were returned to power in government during the Bush years.

The regressive mastermind of what rigorous research indicates were the stolen presidential elections of 2000 and 2004, Karl Rove, for example, got his early training in the infamous “dirty tricks” operation for Richard Nixon’s political campaigns.

As a matter not of polemics but of amply documented fact, regressives are distinguished at the low end chiefly by ignorance and depravity, as with the stealthy brutality and bombing of the racists, sexists, psychopaths and sociopaths of the ostensibly Christian or Islamic rightwing in our time, which Morris Dees’ Southern Poverty Law Center so effectively tracks and exposes.

But far more dangerous is the high end for evolutionary regression—for here one finds thousands of seemingly intelligent and often charming people, in our time good golfers, ostensibly good parents, good managers, good hosts and hostesses, adroit in social, economic, and political skills. As in the case of both the outright and borderline regressive American presidents and their well-dressed and supposedly well-educated enablers and followers, they deplore the low end regressives as sub-humans with whom they would sooner rot in hell than be in any way associated.

Psychologically, however, at both the high end and the low end all are captives of what cultural evolution theorist Riane Eisler’s work identifies as the multidimensional “dominator model.” A particularly

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destructive minority is also just short of or falls within the psychiatric category of the power-mad “borderline” personality—of which we caught a glimpse in chapter one.

Harbingers of costly disasters for the higher ranks of government, business, and unwary nonprofits, at times genuinely charismatic and conventionally highly intelligent, “borderlines” also more than customarily display the conservative tendency toward the paranoia that automatically looks for The Enemy.

They are also, as noted by scores of clinicians, usually distinguished by a remarkable ability for lying and getting away with it—all of which is put to use in the seemingly endless revival of the dynamics that the early history of Greece and Rome reveals.

In terms of political science the pattern is of the insatiable drive for power of the potential leaders, enablers and followers of the oligarches. Posing as the defenders of democracy, like clockwork they bring an end to republics and democracies—as well as huge corporations today.

First comes the phase one shift to the rule of the many by the avaricious but still semi-responsible few.

This foray, however, if not checked and pushed back, generally leads to phase two. Here, via military and economic conquest, comes the rise of empire and tyranny, or the brutal rule of the many—*as well as* brutal rule of the now aghast, dismayed, and displaced oligarches, as happened in Germany with Hitler—by the brutal and disdainful few.

Step by step again now ominously hovers in and out of possibility that future completely contrary to the thrust of human evolution that intelligent, sensitive, and alarmed men and women catch sight of and fight to try to keep from arrival. The great poet William Butler Yeats wrote of that day when “the best lack all conviction, while the worst are full of passionate intensity.”

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That day when “a shape with lion body and the head of a man, a gaze blank and pitiless as the sun, is moving its slow thighs, while all about it reel shadows of the indignant desert birds.”

That day when the question shudders within the heart of “what rough beast, its hour come round at last, slouches towards Bethlehem to be born?”

Could there ever be a more compelling reason for conservatives to stop and take a good look at themselves and at the virus of regression, which periodically infects them.

And for liberals to do the same in regard to the danger of lock step seeing conservatives as Satan’s own, beyond reclamation.

And on the behalf of both our species and sanity, for both sides to make common cause against the high end as well as the low end *regressives*.

Again, in how we are to forge the renewal of a transcendent sense of common cause against the threat of this recurrent sickness out of the deep past we’re looking at the challenge for a new psychiatry and management science of evolution.

For the question is not just how do we recover from this latest epidemic, but how do we keep it from coming back again—and under the pressure of a new exploitation of our mounting fear of the future worse next time.

Can something grounded, ideally, in progressive science to help identify where and how one might best bankroll evolution be developed?

Some kind of scientific yard stick, or check list, or other guide for investment?

In Part IV we’ll look at the story of the construction of and reassuring uses for such a measure for determining how, why, and where to bankroll evolution *now*, before it’s too late.