

What I believe in one page, two with notes

The redistribution of wealth; universal child, hospital and elder care are things that I believe in. We should not have a single homeless person; most in prison should not be there. I believe our economic system exploits and marginalizes. We work for and the government protects the corporate kleptocracy.¹

We are called to take part in a great transformation. Our survival is threatened by global warming, over population, and an ever-increasing gap between rich and poor. These threats offer an opportunity to awaken us as an interconnected community.² I agree with Aldous Huxley when he says "Growing poverty in the midst of growing population is a permanent menace to peace; democracy and personal liberty. Overpopulation is not compatible with freedom."

Any decision about the value of an idea should answer the question; is it democratic, co-operative and egalitarian; with a yes. I believe in the Mondragon Co-operative.

I share the belief of Denis Diderot French philosopher and writer who stated. "If exclusive privileges were not granted, and if the financial system would not tend to concentrate wealth, there would be few great fortunes. When the means of growing rich is divided, wealth will also be more evenly distributed."

In both capitalistic and totalitarian countries where economies are based on growth ultimately both devour the natural world, just like an untreated cancer devours its host. In either case opposition, liberal or radical will be silenced by a police state. ³

"If one sees oneself as dedicated to reform, the first step is education of oneself and others. There is little hope for progress unless there is an enhanced network of local media who do not bend to power. As activities undertaken in such domains including political action extend in effectiveness and popular engagement it will provoke state violence, one sign that it is becoming truly significant. ⁴

"Is God willing to prevent evil, but not able? Then he is not omnipotent. Is he able, but not willing? Then he is malevolent. Is he both able and willing? Then whence cometh evil? Is he neither able nor willing? Then why call him God?" ⁵

"Heresy" comes from the Greek: *haireisis* (αἵρεσις; *haíresis*). Its original meaning is 'selection', either concretely (e.g. 'election' of an official), or rather abstractly (e.g. 'decision'). Today heretics decide for themselves what to think; historically they were burned at the stake for their efforts. My Fathers family was Mennonite they believed in the New Testament, they were heretics and more than 10,000 of them were burned at the stake for reading and thinking. My mother's family was Huguenots in France; they were protestant Calvinists and were also killed in great numbers. In the St. Bartholomew's Day massacre⁶ tens of thousands of French Huguenots were brutally massacred. In both cases Mennonite and Huguenot the persecutor was the Roman Catholic Church. Apparently I am hard wired to be a heretical polemist.⁷ So be patient with me, I am bred to rant.

References

¹ Inspired by Abbey Hoffman, There was a time when the left was different from the right in terms of policy and action. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abbie_Hoffman

² In the 80's Desmond Tutu spoke at my father in laws United Church; afterwards he had lunch with our family at my father in laws home. *See Lunch with Desmond Tutu.pdf*, quote from Desmond Tutu https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Desmond_Tutu

³ From Remaking Society; by Murray Bookchin (1921 – 2006) was an American social theorist and political philosopher. A pioneer in the environmental movement Bookchin formulated and developed the theory of social ecology and urban planning, within anarchist, libertarian socialist and environmental philosophy. I briefly met Bookchin in Toronto in 1990 at a Green Party conference; he encouraged me to write. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Murray_Bookchin

⁴ Hacked from the last 3 pages of “Turning the Tide” by Noam Chomsky (born 1928). He is a philosopher, cognitive scientist, and political activist. Chomsky is also a major figure in analytic philosophy and one of the founders of the field of cognitive science. He holds a joint appointment as Institute Professor Emeritus at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Laureate Professor at the University of Arizona, and is the author of more than 100 books on topics such as linguistics, war, politics, and mass media. Ideologically, he aligns with libertarian socialism. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Noam_Chomsky

⁵ Ascribed to Epicurus (Greek philosopher, BCE 341-270) who was an ancient Greek philosopher and sage. His school "the Garden", taught:
 -eat simply and discuss equally with women and men
 -be self-sufficient and you will be happy and tranquil; free from fear.
 -Gods do not care about us, our death is the end, no body, no soul, no worry
 -People should behave ethically to avoid guilt and avoid unhappiness
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epicurus>

⁶ The Bartholomew's Day Massacre in France (French: Massacre de la Saint-Barthélemy) in 1572 was a targeted group of assassinations and a wave of Catholic mob violence, directed against the Huguenots (French Calvinist Protestants) during the French Wars of Religion.

King Charles IX ordered the killing of a group of Huguenot leaders, and the slaughter spread throughout Paris. Lasting several weeks, the massacre expanded outward to other urban centres and the countryside. Modern estimates for the number of dead across France vary widely, from 5,000 to 30,000.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Bartholomew%27s_Day_massacre

⁷ polemist <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polemic>