

No walls, no vested
interests, just
understanding the
world as a whole.

Cultural Problem Solving (Part 2)

November 24th 2021

Alex Misiaszek + Madison Westley

* In the weeks to come...



↳ Mehreen who is in Dubai will take us to World Expo UAE

Part One Review

- understand problem solving
↳ not just critical thinking

- looking at leadership
↳ today we will be discussing
centralized power



↳ rise in authoritarian governments

Centralized Power

- how should we deal with centralized power in government, businesses, etc.?

↳ in Canada + around the world

- gov. has a lot of money and businesses
CC and they have a lot of money too
↳ leads to powerhouses (regulated + not)

Money = Power

- gov. has regulations must follow
 - businesses no regulations
- } lots of \$ and power

- allowing the powerful to regulate our lives → societal norms

CC - personal responsibility

"keep your house in order"
- Jordan Peterson

- if you are able to change yourself
you are able to change the world

- make sure your ideas are correct before
bringing it to the "masses"

↳ social media plays large role



in this
- accountability

Power + Responsibility

- Small scale = accountability
- large scale = anonymity
- diversity is important to problem solving
- Power convergence → "soft power"
↳ influence of outside sources (i.e. social media)



Diversity + Power/Influence

- what do you think about centralized power + authoritarian gov. without regulations (i.e. businesses + social media)?

↳ religion plays role in authoritarian regime

↳ acceptance of the norm

↳ "it is what it is"



↳ still happening even with society today

Soft Power

- ex: media control
- turns peers into your adversaries

↳ instead of contacting source of the problem → turn to family/friends to make your point → leaves the powerful less accountable

(the powerful)



Soft Power + Social Media

- Sometimes standing up for what you believe in can be more harmful than positive → powerful systems can be deadly

- Sometimes the "majority" can have harmful thoughts



Looking at the Past

- the masses have overthrown the authoritarian gov.

Is power different now?
Is it really?



- advertising → everywhere (phones always on us)

History vs. Today

- different gov. have censorship over social media / tech.
 - ↳ ex: Peng Shuai the tennis player
- Censorship in media in US → CNN vs. Fox
 - ↳ media influenced by politics
 - ↳ ex: Trump + Twitter



What are the limits of Freedom?

- UN Declaration of Human Rights
 - ↳ came out of WWII
 - ↳ dignity of all people is respected

- dichotomy between freedom of speech + protection of the dignity of peoples



What are the limits to Freedom?

- freedom of speech + freedom of security → restrictions of freedom
↳ competing freedoms

- does the government restrict freedom?
↳ how does this play a role in the our beliefs?



- proper solutions = source of information

Corporations and Responsibility

- ex: Facebook / Meta

- how do we keep large corporations accountable?

↳ how do we decentralize these companies?



- using "The Matrix" as analogy for unplugging from the norm/influence

Personal Responsibility and Society

- small scale = accountability

- participate on individual level in society to make change (ex: shop local vs. Amazon)

- human fulfillment



Solutions to Centralized Power

- "My freedom should not cost someone else's dignity" - Andalib


- "how do you hold someone accountable if they have endless freedoms?" - Kris



- Should Mark Zuckerberg be able to make as much \$ as he wants without telling the truth?

Solutions to Centralized Power

- the more powerful they are the more accountable they should be for their actions
↳ ex: Elon Musk + world hunger
- greater freedom \neq less accountable


 - "The Narrative of Life of Frederick Douglass" by Frederick Douglass

Solutions to Centralized Power

- be thoughtful

- introspection

- knowledge = power

 - knowledge = freedom

CC