

The Society of Fear

Hadrian Ferran

Foundation 1

Form

As society progresses from state to state the forms of social control change accordingly. The Society of Fear grips around us but we must not forget it has been with the State and its social organization since its inception. Its form has changed only in the measure of prevalence and importance of social control. It adopts and engorges into itself all that it can use for its continued existence. Its methods are in constant flux. When one method loses its functionality it will disappear from the field of activity only to return when it's functional and necessary again. Its regenerative capacity exceeds even that of Capitalism itself.

Facts

The Society of Fear doesn't need facts and is not bothered by facts. When facts are present, they become fictions. When facts are absent, fictions fill their void. Facts will be ignored, buried, burned, discovered, and fabricated as fear progresses. In the Society of Fear only fear creates truth.

Feelings

What the popular philosophers have never understood is that fear feeds on feelings. In the society of fear love is not the opposite – antidote – of fear but its precursor. As fear grips around it it absorbs all feelings into its antecedents and makes causes out of cures. The fear of losing that which fear destroys is what drives the Society of Fear. Every positivity becomes tentative and every negativity certainty.

Foundation 2

Fascism

The Society of Fear lives both dependently and independently of power. The powerful will use the Society of Fear as readily as the Society of Fear uses the powerful. In times of high excitation of fear – the Society of Fear moves in waves; it rises just as it ebbs – branches and axe-heads will form new fasces of fear. The Society of Fear has no emotions – it is free of such trivial concerns – and serves only its own need for growth. It flies like the wind around us but can't enjoy the bowed and frightened heads and flowing rivers of blood it has brought forth.

Force

The Society of Fear needs force for its formation and perpetuation. The Society of Fear brings forth further force but risks deteriorating with it. The powerful can create greater methods of force using the fear forged in the minds of their ruled masses. This force is necessarily enlarged in the Society of Fear for this Society creates the wish for protection at the point where the State must cut in. Yet, when their force becomes too forceful – divisive to the false unity between the masses and the powerful – then this force becomes the enemy. This is the elementary paradox of the Society of Fear.

Fight

The Society of Fear is paradoxical in its weakness. It's strong in its power to move the hearts and minds of people yet it's weak when these minds are unmoved by fear. Yet, minds are easily moved and the Society of Fear protects itself against dissidents and apostates. The greatest fear of all is the fear of stepping out of the Society of Fear.

Recommended Reading

- [1] Guy Debord. The Society of the Spectacle. 1967.
- [2] Edward Herman. Manufacturing Consent: the Political Economy of the Mass Media. New York: Pantheon Books, 2002. ISBN: 9780375714498.

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I hope you have enjoyed this text and will enjoy future texts :)
Best, Hadrian