

Psychopathy Incorporated

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Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to provide a qualitative structural analysis of capitalism and demonstrate that it needs to be defined as a “*psychopathic system*.” Its inherent structural dynamics violently centralize and concentrate wealth and ideological and political power in the hands of a “*psychopathic ruling class*” with callous disregard for the resulting socio-ecological destruction. For epistemological clarity and clinical, criminological accuracy, global capitalism should be defined as “*Psychopathy Incorporated*.” Critical realism becomes a discipline of humane self-defense against psychopathy in power. Perpetuating capitalism proves to be demonstrably clinically and criminally insane. From a rational, humanitarian perspective, the radical solutions to our contemporary predicament are to fully acknowledge the trans-historical problem of psychopathy in power, criminalize capitalism and humanize socio-economic structures.

Keywords: *psychopathic incorporated, psychopathic ruling class, critical realism, socio-economic*

Introduction

The psychopathic mindset and pathocracy throughout history

The ultimate goal of “*the psychopathic mindset*” is (and has always been) full spectrum dominance and the enslavement and exploitation of human societies (de Batselier, 1988; Lobaczewski, 1992; Priels, 2022; Turchin, 2016). Psychopaths see themselves as superior, enjoy human suffering, and have no empathy or conscience (Baron-Cohen, 2012). Wherever they can, they will attempt to seize power and shape culture and social structures to further their egotistic interests of wealth and power accumulation. There is ample historical evidence for this process, and the anthropological science of “*cliodynamics*” (Turchin, 2016) can be seen through the lens of “*political ponerology*” (Lobaczewski, 1992), to reveal the operations of psychopathy in power throughout history. Tribal societies tend to be egalitarian until there are “*psychopathic upshots*” (Turchin, 2016) that society cannot regulate. This process of “*psychopathic capture*” or “*successful psychopathy*” is social kryptonite (de Batselier, 1988; Priels, 2022; Shiva,

2019; Turchin, 2016).

When we look at history, we see clear and repetitive examples of “psychopathic capture” resulting in “psychopathic empire-building.” I will give an example from Peter Turchin’s “Ultrasociety” (2016) that demonstrates how the exploitation by psychopaths in power always results in the exploitation and suffering of the population at large similarly throughout history. This brings the lens of “political ponerology” (Lobaczewski, 1992) to the science of “clio-dynamics” (Turchin, 2016).

“The image of rulers “eating” common people in archaic states crops up worldwide. To give another example, in ancient India, the king (raja) was called ‘the devourer of peasants’ (vishamatta).”

“But perhaps the most remarkable evidence of how common people viewed the ruling elites in archaic states comes from Shi Jing or the Book of Odes...

Large rat! Large rat!

Do not eat our millet.

Three years have we had to do with you,

And you have not been willing to show any regard for us.

We will leave you,

And go to happy land.

Happy land! Happy land!

There we shall find our place.

Large rat! Large rat!

Do not eat our wheat.

Three years have we had to do with you,

And you have not been willing to show any kindness to us.

We will leave you,

And go to happy state.

Happy State! Happy State!

There shall we find ourselves right.

Large rat! Large rat!

Do not eat our springing grain!

Three years have we had to do with you,

And you have not been willing to think of our toil.

We will leave you,

And go to happy borders.

Happy borders! Happy borders!

Who will there make us always groan?” (Turchin, 2016, chapter 7)

When we look at these historical trends, we see a repetitive zig-zag movement that goes between “pathocracy” and “democracy.” Agner Fog (2017) describes these polarities as “regal” and “kungic” and provides ample evidence.

“All through recorded history, we have seen extreme differences between different human societies. Some societies in some periods have been warlike and cruel beyond comprehension, while others in other times and places have been remarkably peaceful and tolerant.

Societies that are warlike, hierarchical, and intolerant with strict discipline are called regal. Peaceful, egalitarian, and tolerant societies are called “kungic.” Many societies are something in between these two extremes.” (Fog, 2017, introduction)

When we look at the science of “political ponerology” (Lobacewski, 1992) and the more recent scientific findings on psychopathy in power (Babiak et al., 2007), we can conclude that psychopathy in power offers the best explanation for one of these societal polarities. Moreover, in the light of “Prosocial Orthosociology,” we can describe them as “healthy” (peaceful) or “unhealthy” (warlike) societies. Psychopathy in power, in such view of organic sociology, is a severe societal disease, comparable to societal cancer, as the psychopathic elites extract the lifeblood from the social tissue to serve their pathological accumulation of wealth and power, resulting in widespread “social necrosis” (Goerner, 2019).

With this historical introduction and basic scientific methodology, we can now address our current situation as a human species on a planetary level because this very problem of psychopathy in power that has been terrorizing societies throughout history has now reached rampant destructivity and corruption on a global level and a level of technocratic sophistication and wealth and power concentration that has become an existential threat to our very survival (Goerner, 2019; Hickel, 2020; Philips, 2018; Priels, 2022; Robinson, 2022)!

“We stand at a precipice of extinction. Will we allow our humanity as living, conscious, intelligent, autonomous beings to be extinguished by a greedy machine that does not know limits and is unable to put a break on its colonization and destruction? Or

will we stop the machine and defend our humanity, freedom, and autonomy to protect life on earth?" (Shiva, 2019, p. 181).

Findings and Discussion

Psychopathy Incorporated: how capitalism constitutes the biggest organized crime system on Earth

When we try to understand how the social world works, looking at the dominant systemic forces at work is crucial. Such a systems perspective reveals the actual operations of power and the flow of energies throughout the system (Goerner, 2019). The dominant operational strategy shaping social structures and energy flows world idealism, in which the structural instrument is *"the corporation"* (Bakan, 2012). The very root structural dynamics of (corporate) capitalism result in a violent, systemic centralization and concentration of wealth and political power and an innate drive for perpetual, and by definition unsustainable, growth of GDP (Czech, 2019; Goerner, 2019; Hickel, 2020; Priels, 2022; Shiva, 2019). Corporate profit (including compound interest) and the corporate, pathological pursuit of profit and power are the dominant, psychopathic, systemic forces shaping and harming global societies. The results are societal impoverishment, dehumanization, and ecological destruction because corporate profit constitutes a perpetual growth-driven, parasitic wealth extraction from the real economy (Czech, 2019; Hudson, 2015; Sayer, 2015; Priels, 2022).

The resulting system is multi-polar, there are several centers of power and wealth concentration, but all result in the political empowerment and enrichment of a single *"transnational capitalist class"* (Philips, 2018; Robinson, 2022) that I refer to as *"the psychopathic ruling class,"* because of its destructivity, murderous greed and callous disregard for socio-ecological well-being and human rights (Priels, 2022). Moreover, the system incentivizes a selection of psychopaths and sociopaths in authoritative positions (Babiak et al., 2007; Lobaczewski, 1992) and erodes empathy in the general population (Olson, 2013); it truly is a macrosocial disease (Lobaczewski, 1992). Marx famously stated that the ruling class's ideology became the dominant cultural ideology (Marx & Engels, 1845/1965). However, much worse is the case: the psychopathy of the ruling class becomes the dominant mental disorder. An integrated propaganda apparatus

normalize it: the institutions of the cultural status quo (de Batselier, 1988). Capitalism is cloaked in probably the most successful “*mask of sanity*” (Cleckley, 1951) and is the most successful “*pathocratic*” (Lobaczewski, 1992) system that the world has ever seen. The whole world is in the grip of “*psychopathic colonialism*” or “*psychopathic imperialism*” because of the rationalization and normalization of capitalism: it is a propaganda masterpiece.

What is often ignored and actively obfuscated by the immense propaganda machine of capitalist media and education is that capitalism is historically rooted in violence and brutal expropriation (Hickel, 2020). The start of the current “*capitalist world system*” (Wallerstein, 2008) is generally put in the late fifteenth and sixteenth centuries with the initialization of globalist colonialism by Christopher Columbus. As a matter of anecdotal confirmation of the propaganda in the West, I can witness that we were taught in school that Columbus was a great adventurer that brought knowledge to the West and civilization to the primitive native population of America. I am still disgusted by this level of indoctrination, as Columbus was a brutal murderer and enslaver. He was an obvious psychopath and offered a clear example of the psychopathic mindset. Consider his own words about the native people he met:

“They do not bear arms and do not know them, for I showed them a sword; they took it by the edge and cut themselves out of ignorance. They have no iron. Their spears are made of cane. They would make fine servants. We could subjugate fifty men and make them do whatever we want.”

This example is so utterly telling in its honesty; it demonstrates how the psychopathic mind works. This mindset is institutionalized by global capitalism but is now much more disguised and, thereby, more dangerous. The same attitude gave rise, in 1600, to the true pioneer of the global corporatocracy: “*The East India Company*” (Shiva, 2019, p. 41). There, we see the first merger of state and corporate power, the actual rise of global fascism. Moreover, with it came the rise of capitalism’s ideological “*hegemony of psychopathy*” (Brons, 2017).

“The poverty created by corporate colonialism was then essentialized and separated from its causes, and, over the centuries,

the disease has been offered as the cure. A myth has grown that only corporations can run an economy and only they can write the rules of the economy, trade, and commerce.” (Shiva, 2019, p. 41)

Indeed, from a critical realist perspective and a human rights perspective, the whole world is captured by a system of legalized and normalized “*organized crime*” (de Batselier, 1988; Collins & Rothe, 2019; Rothe & Kauzlarich, 2016) that by now, poses an existential threat to the future of humanity (Philips, 2018; Shiva, 2019). This system, often referred to as “*global capitalism*” (Philips, 2018; Wallerstein, 2008), is increasingly capturing state and regulatory power and thereby further eroding democracy as it drives the centralization of wealth and power while systematically destroying socio-ecological wellbeing, human empathy and human potential (de Batselier, 1988; Olson, 2013; Shiva, 2019). It empowers a small minority and disempowers the vast majority of the population. The problem with defining this system as merely “*capitalist*” or “*neoliberal*” (Collins & Rothe, 2019) is that this disregards the psychopathic mindset and thereby underestimates the enormous destructivity and demonstrably malicious, tyrannical, and exploitative intent of the “*transnational capitalist ruling class*” (Robinson, 2022), that is striving to regress our world back into another dystopian era of the “*God-kings*” (Turchin, 2016, chapter 7), where human rights would be a thing of the past. We should know its dehumanizing instrumentality, dark authority, and clinical pathology (Alečković-Nikolić, 2014; de Batselier, 1988).

To fully understand the scope and reality of “*Psychopathy Incorporated*” and its structural capture, I strongly recommend an interview of former UN executive director Calin Georgescu by lawyer Reiner Fuellmich. This insider information brings an eye-opening validation of the scientific observations in this paper. It fully describes the “*psychopathic capture*” of the United Nations by “*the psychopathic ruling class*,” the capitalist oligarchs currently primarily organized in the World Economic Forum. As escribed in “*Murder by Usury and organized denial*” (Priels, 2022), the WEF can best be defined as “*World Economic Fascism*” because a global, corporatocratic, technocratic, totalitarian fascism is exactly what these financial plutocrats are attempting to realize, by organizing or capturing all kinds of transnational agencies like the UN, the World Bank, the WHO, and many others. A map of this “*public-private partnership*” (de facto fascism)

was composed by Davis (2021).

The elephant in the room, awareness of *“the psychopathic mindset”* (Baron-Cohen, 2012; Lobacewski, 1992), is profoundly lacking in mainstream consciousness, and this poses an existential threat to all of us, as large amounts of people, often well-educated, remain cumberingly ignorant of this existential threat, or, if they are at least aware of the danger, they seemingly remain in the dark about its systemic causes. Fortunately, there has been a surge in critical awareness. Some well-known mainstream academics, such as Aseem Malhotra (2022), now carefully suggest that very harmful policies may result from psychopaths in powerful positions. Malhotra refers to the pathological lies of Anthony Fauci and his scientific misconduct, resulting in massive deaths and suffering. However, in the mainstream media (read: corporate-state propaganda), Fauci is still presented as a moral authority. Moreover, that is a fine example of how mainstream *“sociopathic mass delusion”* is perpetuated by a *“corporate-state psychopathic propaganda machine.”*

It is important to underline that *“the psychopathic ruling class”* is not a monolithic bloc. From the science of *“clio-dynamics”* (Turchin, 2016), we understand that, historically and actually, there is always some *“inter-elite competition.”* Sometimes, elite interests align, and sometimes elites fight among themselves. However, the fighting is mostly done by the masses, and both sides of the conflict profit from increasing military spending and tighter control of their population. The current Ukrainian war is a prime example: it serves the US and Russian capitalist classes, as both are integrated entities within the *“transnational capitalist ruling class”* (Robinson, 2022). *“Psychopathy Incorporated”* is a conglomerate of de facto criminal organizations united by the capitalist bottom line.

Thus, it is a very defensible hypothesis that without the dominance of *“the psychopathic ruling class,”* there would be no major wars. In primary school, toddlers are taught to *“use your words”* when they have conflicts. This works out pretty well. Consequently, healthy adults are very capable of dealing with conflict disputes peaceful manner. This is always a result of psychopathy in power and profit-driven (corporate) capture of governments. If international politicians were psychologically healthy, there would be no wars in a healthy socio-economic order, and a well-functioning United Nations could settle all conflicts diplomatically. This is a rational conclusion. The dominance of *“psychopathic rulers”* and the systemic dynamics

of “*psychopathy incorporated*” provide the only logical explanation for the insane militarization of our planet and perpetual wars (Robinson, 2020, 2022), as only the “*psychopathic ruling class*” benefits from this misery and existential threat. Indeed, the dominance of “the psychopathic ruling class” is holding humanity down, underdeveloped and sabotaging all attempts toward humanizing and democratizing structural reforms (de Batselier, 1988).

In sum, the systemic dynamics of “*Psychopathy Incorporated*” best explain underdevelopment, war, poverty, widespread criminality and human suffering. The “*psychopathic system*” is the main cause of global socio-economic inequalities, and these inequalities’ harmful and escalating societal and ecological effects are very well documented (Hickel, 2020; Wilkinson & Pickett, 2019). We should not be deceiving ourselves: without radical systemic change, things will only get far worse, as the outcome of given systemic dynamics is predictable:

“The money machine is programmed to bulldoze, destroy, aggregate, accumulate, externalize, and excavate. Like the cancer cell which does not know where to stop growing, convergences, mergers and concentration are the only logic the money machine understands. Moreover, just as the cancer cell ends up destroying the host organism, the money machine, too, will destroy our planet and our societies from which it draws its support.

We must reclaim our intelligence and creativity to resist the money machine and create non-violent alternatives.

Will the ‘end game’ for humanity be the domination of the ONE power of Big Money, or will we, in our Oneness -as one earth community, one human community- shut down the “Operating System” of domination and extermination, to allow our potential for self-organization and creativity to seed another future?” (Shiva, 2019, p. viii)

The basic structure and systemic dynamics of Psychopathy Incorporated

The following graphic shows the basic power structure of “*psychopathy incorporated*,” the corporate-state design of “*the capitalist*

system," wherein the government is increasingly captured and shaped by the "psychopathic ruling class," often referred to as "the transnational capitalist class" (Robinson, 2022).

It is important to understand that the system has structural dynamics, but is also somewhat unpredictable because it gives occupational opportunities to specific agents within the system. Its harmful effects are thus threefold.

First, the system violently centralizes wealth and power by compounding interest and corporate profit, empowering a minority and disempowering the vast majority. This results in an unsustainable, socio-and ecocidal growth-imperative. Second, the system favours selects and empowers psychopaths by systemic incentives: a profit over people empowers psychopathy over humanity. Third, the system provides criminal opportunities to psychopaths in power to commit heinous crimes and atrocities and to get away with them unpunished, because of the ideological dominance and legal protection that the system provides (de Batselier, 1988). Very harmful policies and activities are whitewashed and provided with legitimacy under a "mask of sanity" (Cleckley, 1951). This is only possible so that the system can capture and coopt political power and institutions.

These main structural and systemic dynamics of "Psychopathy Incorporated" are simple:

- 1) The violent centralization of wealth, political and ideological power, causing socio-ecological devastation: Compound interest and corporate profit are extremely efficient for centralizing wealth and power. Consequently and equally important, are the systemic money flows within the system and the "systemic incentives"! Those who comply and operate in line with the system's bottom line (however cruel or socio-ecologically harmful), are rewarded. Those who do not are marginalized or harassed, and excluded. In totality, the system operates as an organized criminal cartel and increasingly captures political and ideological power. The psychopathic mindset becomes culturally dominant but operates under "a mask of sanity" (Cleckley, 1951; Brons, 2017). This is the primary difference with an organized street crime: "Psychopathy Incorporated" operates under a mirage of legitimacy and always seeks to legalize its operations by expanding its institutional influence (de Batselier, 1988). This is extremely dangerous, as the harmful dynamics of the system become lawful, are enforced by captured states and regulatory agencies and normalized by a vast propaganda machine, including mass media

and education (de Batselier, 1988; Philips, 2018)! A basic example is the usury banking system and its *“ideological justification”* (Hoffman, 2013; Priels, 2022). Considering empirical reality, this system is exploitative and dehumanizing, but also utterly unsustainable and is destroying the planetary ecosystem (Hickel, 2020; Raworth, 2017; Shiva, 2019). Perpetuating this system is clinically and criminally insane (de Batselier, 1988).

2) The system favors, selects and empowers psychopaths: As the bottom line of the system is a systematic increase in GDP and corporate profit, regardless of the socio-ecological consequences, it has an inbuilt selection mechanism for psychopaths, or at least, sociopaths with seriously reduced empathy and consciousness (Babiak, et al. 2007; de Batselier, 1988). More recently and as a perfect example, corporate-state concocted Covid-19 policies demonstrated these systemic dynamics in action, as laws were changed and perverted by increasing *“psychopathic (corporate) capture”* of politics and regulators (Deruelle, 2022; Thorp et al., 2022; Shiva, 2019). From a clinical, sociological perspective, the Covid-19 pandemic offered another revealing, real-life demonstration of the systemic dynamics of *“psychopathy incorporated”* and the expansion of a psychopathic bureaucracy, exactly according to the laws of *“political ponerology”* (Lobaczewski, 1992).

3) Criminal opportunity for specific psychopaths in power: Because of increased capture of political, ideological and regulatory power, harmful acts become protected by law and/or obfuscated by mainstream propaganda, whereby specific psychopaths become empowered to commit the most atrocious crimes against humanity and get away with them. This results in a *“positive feedback loop”* and causes a downward spiral of increasing violence and human rights violations. *“Democide”* (Rummel, 1998) is a prime example: pathocratic governments have murdered hundreds of millions of people, completely supported by psychopathic capture of the legal system and ideological dominance (Brons, 2017). *“States of emergency”* (van der Pijl, 2022) may be invoked for increasing legal capture. Similarly, corporate capture of regulatory agencies enables corporate psychopaths to murder people for profit and get away with it (Gotzsche, 2019). Examples are numerous, but a typical and recent example are the crimes of Antony Fauci (Kennedy, 2021; Thorp et al., 2022).

People in authority, supporting and expanding a psychopathic

system, are ALL sociopaths. However, some are just “*functional psychopaths*” who are not “*essential psychopaths*” (Lobaczewski, 1992) and may suffer from “*sociopathic delusion through propaganda and/or an identification with the aggressor*” (Alečković-Nikolić, 2014), whereby they follow orders from the higher ranking superiors in the system, who are eventually more and more likely “*essential psychopaths*” (Babiak et al., 2007; Lobaczewski, 1992). This hypothesis can be tested. Compliant people may suffer from “*cognitive dissonance*” (Festinger, 1962) and/or “*wilful blindness*” (Heffernan, 2011). Alternatively, they may be more aware, but are in it for money and status, do not care about the consequences, and/or rationalize the system as “*normal.*” Importantly, in a troublesome sense, we are all functional psychopaths to some degree, as our consumption sustains the system (Collins & Rothe, 2019). This makes us a fortiori collectively responsible for changing the system (Young, 2010). Indeed: psychopathy in power results in a “*psychopathological syndrome*” (de Batselier, 1988) of the whole society.

Nazi Germany can serve as a prime example of a technocratic “*pathocracy*” (Lobaczewski, 1992) in an escalated condition and recent history, but so can the US empire (Ganser, 2022); the similarities are plenty and so are the corporate interests behind these pathocracies (Pauwels, 2017). The current globalist tendencies are heading in the same direction, but this time on a planetary level. We are witnessing a globalist, totalitarian, eugenicist, inter- and transnational corporate-state power grab, and the pandemic policies constituted another huge increase in the capture of political institutions by this system (Deruelle, 2022). Time and again, “*psychopathic capture*” of societies proves to be THE fundamental transhistorical problem, for at least the last five millennia (de Batselier, 1988; Goerner, 2019; Lobaczewski, 1992; Priels, 2022). The constellation changes over time, but always, upshots of “*psychopathic elites*”, manage to become dominant and to organize “*master-slave*” structures that become increasingly totalitarian and oppressive as wealth and power are polarised (de Batselier, 1988; Hudson, 2015; Michels, 1993). History shows a pattern of continuous struggles by the population, to organize more egalitarian societies... yet psychopaths repeatedly and violently manage to re-seize power (de Batselier, 1988; Michels, 1993; Priels, 2022; Turchin, 2016). As a primary existential challenge, humanity has to learn how to recognize and avoid the systemic empowerment of psychopathy.

I have documented how the dynamics of compound interest on credit and corporation profit accumulation result in an unsustainable and anti-social concentration of wealth and power (Priels, 2022), and how violence and military power are equally basic instruments for psychopathic oppression and exploitation. The control over finance and violence by psychopaths are the core elements of pathocracy (Turchin, 2016). Finally and also fundamentally important is the role of propaganda, deception and manipulation, whereby psychopaths can hypnotize the masses into compliance with systems that are organized schemes of mass exploitation. If the hypnosis by propaganda does not work, they use violence (de Batselier, 1988).

Conclusion

A radical solution by criminalizing capitalism

Realistically speaking, our world, anno 2023, is in a dangerous situation, as the systemic inflation of "*Psychopathy Incorporated*" has reached the levels of an existential threat to the future of humanity and even our planet. Our challenges are enormous: We need radical structural reform to eliminate psychopathic structures and organize prosocial structures that nourish and protect sustainable socio-ecological well-being. We must eliminate corporations and usury, the main structural instruments that empower systemic psychopathy. The radical solution is to criminalize capitalism as a socio-ecologically destructive, hence, criminal, system! This should be a common-sense conclusion in a world where justice functions and is humanitarian. The fact that this solution seems "*radical*" or even "*utopian*" is in itself evidence of the ideological and institutional dominance of "*psychopathy incorporated*."

To understand the difficulties of necessary structural reforms, the knowledge and science of psychopathy in power and "*political ponerology*" (Lobacewski, 1992) are crucial, because we should not underestimate the severe mental disorder of those in power, their destructivity and their talent for deception and obfuscation. Human beings suffer a worryingly mainstream and debilitating blindness to the harmful operations of those in power and to the destructivity of the psychopathic system. This results from trans-generational psychopathic indoctrination and an enormous cultural propaganda machine. As Professor Steven de Batselier (1988) already concluded,

two things should be our primary mission: raising consciousness and taking social responsibility. We need to cooperate as a human species, towards our common cause: the survival of a flourishing ecosystem and humanity as a spiritual, empathic species. Because that is what is really at stake: “*the psychopathic ruling class*” will try to sabotage all necessary reforms toward socio-ecological well-being and planetary fairness. They are actively striving, lobbying and capturing politics to consolidate their dominance and wealth concentration and to organize a global, Orwellian, totalitarian, technocratic police state.

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