

Will Barkley comment: Thanks to Paul Rosenberg for the following article entitled "Sociopaths, They Walk Among Us." If even 2% of the U.S. population of 330 million are sociopaths ("have unusually small amygdalae") we have 6.6 million living among us. Since they migrate to positions of power and control over others we need to look very closely at those who occupy such positions, or seek to occupy such positions. (I have taken the liberty of **bolding** some of the text passages below.)

## **Sociopaths, They Walk Among Us.**

Dear Reader,

Welcome to my first issue as editor of The Room. As you'll soon learn, I take it as my job to write about things that are both interesting and important. I prefer not to write about politics and similar subjects du jour. But most of all, I want to help uncover and build a path to a better future. Short term, I see a lot to be pessimistic about. But if we can make it through the next decade or two, we have wonderful times standing in front of us. I want to get busy with that world, which, after all, won't come into existence by magic. **You and I will have to build it, stick by stick and brick by brick.** So, let's get started!

### **A FREE-MAN's TAKE with Paul Rosenberg | July 24, 2014 They Walk Among Us.**

Here's the bad news: Predators walk among us, and they are indistinguishable from normal people. These differently wired humans have a predatory advantage, and they use it. This is not a plot from a scary movie; this is real. I am deadly serious about this, though by the end of this column, I will also explain why there is also good news. These predators are called sociopaths (psychopaths in the clinical literature). They rather seldom damage our bodies, but they make careers out of bleeding our souls. I'm not trying to be dramatic, by the way. I was holding this subject for the next issue of my subscription newsletter, but the more I worked on it, the more I was convinced that I should publish some key points ahead of schedule.

**This is important.** So, before we go any further, I'd like to give you two essential facts that will allow you to protect yourself from sociopaths. If you can remember these, you'll avoid a lot of pain: 1 in 50 people are predators. At least 2% of the overall populace are sociopaths, and some estimates are double that. Perhaps 75% of them are male, though no one knows why. That means that at least every thirty-third man is a sociopath, and every hundredth woman. Most of us have a feeling that everyone has some goodness in them. This is generally a useful feeling, but it's only true for 49 out of 50 humans. That last one is a predator without a conscience.

I don't like the sound of that any better than you do, but it has been proven over and over and over. We need to face the facts, and we cannot treat these people like we do everyone else. You must pay **attention to inauthentic emotions.** Sociopaths have a "tell" that gives them away: Emotions that are not quite right. They don't have much in the way of positive emotions themselves, so they fake them.

But they can never fake them completely. Authentic expressions of emotions are very complex, involving dozens of muscles, increased or decreased blood flow and pressure, pulse rate, posture, tone of voice, and more. Normal people are deeply familiar with these complicated arrangements and innately understand their patterns.

The sociopath, on the other hand, doesn't feel them and can't grasp their patterns. He or she must mimic them. But because of the great complexity involved, the sociopath can never mimic them terribly well. So, you must notice inauthentic emotions, remember them, and not ignore them in an effort to be nice.

## The How and the Why

There are a lot of things to understand about sociopaths, and we can't cover them all in one column, but I will give you the basics, which are these:

- Sociopaths have a profound lack of empathy for the feelings of others. They lack the internal feedback system by which normal people monitor themselves. (Most people call this “conscience,” which is probably as useful a term as any.) Sociopaths do not have this and don't feel bad about abusing other people. It's not that they feel bad and ignore it—they don't feel it at all.
- Sociopaths understand that they are different from normal people and learn to mimic normal behavior. This mimicry has a purpose: It gets the sociopath what he or she wants.
- The sociopath hides his or her difference. After letting it show a time or two—and probably being punished by a parent as a result—the sociopath covers up the truth and keeps it covered. But the reason for hiding it is not embarrassment (the sociopath doesn't feel embarrassment), but because it hinders him from getting what he wants.
- Since sociopaths have no empathy for others, making use of normal people feels just fine to them. Likewise, they feel no remorse.
- Empathy, as viewed by the sociopath, is a weakness, and he considers himself superior, because he isn't burdened by it.
- Because they lack an internal feedback system, sociopaths are excellent liars. For example, they can often pass lie detector tests, since those tests register the effects of our internal feedback system, which they don't have.
- A sociopath is likely to maintain a group of people who believe whole-heartedly that he is a good, kind, honest person. He'll work in calculated ways to create and maintain that opinion in them.

Here is what Hervey Cleckley wrote about sociopaths in his classic text on the subject, ***The Mask of Sanity***: Beauty and ugliness, except in a very superficial sense; goodness, evil, love, horror and humor have no actual meaning, no power to move him.

Now we come to the question of why sociopaths are this way, and we do have some answers. Recent brain scans indicate that sociopaths have unusually small amygdalae (the part of the brain associated with emotional reactions, decision making, and memory processing). A region of the brain's frontal cortex, called the orbitofrontal cortex, seems problematic as well. This region, which communicates with the amygdala, is also involved with decision making. So, the cause of sociopathy is almost certainly organic.

Someday it should be curable with genetic engineering, but for now, there is no cure at all. That means that you have zero chance of talking a sociopath into behaving well. Trying to repair a sociopath tells him that you're a ripe sucker, and nothing more. He'll play along, tell you what you want to hear, fake the emotions he thinks you'll respond to, and bleed you dry, emotionally and physically. And he'll never feel a moment's remorse as you finally contemplate suicide. Yes, I know this is dark stuff, but it's better to be forewarned than to learn through harsh experience.

### **Why This Is Actually Good News.**

Considering that sociopaths make up 2% of the total population and considering that a sociopath is responsible for several times more damage than the average person (I'd guess at least five to ten

times as much), then... training people to recognize and avoid sociopaths would eliminate a serious percentage of human suffering. And it gets better.

Aside from natural causes like diseases, the number-one source of pain on Earth is political systems. For today I'll pass up the argument of whether states are necessary or not; instead, I'd like to make a simpler point: Governments, like all hierarchies, are havens for sociopaths. And governments have, over the last century, killed approximately 260 million people. **(See *Death by Government*, by R.J. Rummel.)**

So, what would happen if millions of people, because they were able to recognize sociopaths, stopped empowering and obeying them? I'm trying to think of any single thing that would eliminate human suffering better than sociopath recognition, and I'm not coming up with much. Furthermore, it would be easy: websites, billboards, tiny radio and TV ads, flyers, handouts, and just about anything else could be used. The concepts are simple and potent, and the motivation to avoid pain is inherent in human nature.

For far less than corporate charities spend, something like this would change the world... more, better, and faster. Something to think about.

**A Free-Man's Take is written by adventure capitalist, author, and freedom advocate Paul Rosenberg. You can get much more from Paul in his unique monthly newsletter, *Free-Man's Perspective*.**

### **No Matter Who Wins, a Sociopath Is Elected Doug French, Contributing Editor**

The midterm election season is upon us, and it's a tossup whether the Republicans will win the Senate, or if President Obama, seemingly oblivious as conflict flares up around the world, will, through his continuous campaigning, keep Harry Reid in his majority leader seat. **The only thing we know for sure is that sociopaths will be elected.** The electorate must by now recognize they are electing incompetents at best, and at worst, crooks, but the constant, naïve, pro-democracy mantra is, "We just need to elect the right people." But, the "right people" aren't (and won't be) running for office. Instead, we will continue to have "the average American legislator [who] is not only an ass," as H.L. Mencken wrote, "but also an oblique, sinister, depraved, and knavish fellow." The Sage of Baltimore had it correct that to be elected and stay elected in American politics to any full-time position requires the suspension of any ethics or good sense a person may possess.

Even those who begin political careers with the best intentions and have measurable abilities that would make them successful in any field soon realize that the skills required to succeed in politics are not those required outside politics. Lew Rockwell explains that, while competition in the marketplace improves quality, competition in politics does just the opposite: The only improvements take place in the process of doing bad things: lying, cheating, manipulating, stealing, and killing.

The price of political services is constantly increasing, whether in tax dollars paid or in the bribes owed for protection (also known as campaign contributions). There is no obsolescence, planned or otherwise. Politicians clearly don't seek office for the money. Most are already wealthy by most people's standards. The Center for Responsive Politics reports that more than half of Congress people are millionaires; the median net worth of House members is just short of \$900,000, and for Senators, it's \$2.5 million.

What makes the wealthy and successful want to hold office? Is it, as Charles Derber describes in ***The Pursuit of Attention: Power and Ego in Everyday Life***, that politicians since "Caesar and

Napoleon have been driven by overweening egos and an insatiable hunger for public adulation”? The work of psychologist Abraham Maslow provides an understanding as to why people seek public office. **Maslow is famous for the “hierarchy of needs” theory** you learned in your college psychology, management, or marketing class.

The theory is generally presented visually as a pyramid, with the lowest or most basic human needs—physiological needs—shown as a layer along the base of the pyramid. Maslow’s Hierarchy of Human Needs Maslow’s view was that the basic human needs—thirst, hunger, breathing—must be satisfied before humans can accomplish or worry about anything else.

The next tranche within the pyramid, shown on top of the physiological need, is the safety need. After satisfying thirst and hunger, humans are concerned about their continued survival. If a man is constantly worried about being eaten by a tiger, he doesn’t concern himself with much else.

The next layer presented within Maslow’s pyramid is the belonging need, which lies just above safety need. After the satisfaction of the two lower needs—physiological and safety—a person seeks love, friendships, companionship, and community.

Once these needs are satisfied, according to Maslow, humans seek the esteem need. These first four needs were considered “deficit” needs. If a person is lacking, there is a motivation to fill that need. Once the particular need is filled, the motivation abates. This makes these needs different than the need at the top of Maslow’s pyramid, the need for self-actualization.

The need for self-actualization is never satisfied, and Maslow referred to it as a “being” need, or the need to be all you can be. Thus, humans continually strive to satisfy their needs, and as the more basic needs are satisfied, humans move up the pyramid, if you will, to satisfy higher-level needs. Of course, different humans achieve different levels, and it was Maslow’s view that only 2% of humans become self-actualizing.

Maslow studied some famous people along with a dozen not-so-famous folks and developed a list of personality traits that were consistent with people he judged to be self-actualizing. Besides being creative and inventive, self-actualizers have strong ethics, a self-deprecating sense of humor, humility and respect for others, resistance to enculturation, enjoyment of autonomy, and solitude instead of shallow relationships with many people.

They believe the ends don’t necessarily justify the means and that the means can be ends in themselves. One quickly notices Maslow’s self-actualizers have nothing in common with politicians in a democracy. But a step down from the top of the hierarchy of needs pyramid is the need for esteem.

Maslow described two types of esteem needs, according to **Maslow expert Dr. C. George Boeree**, a lower esteem need, and a higher one. And while the higher form of esteem calls for healthy attributes such as freedom, independence, confidence, and achievement, the lower form **“is the need for the respect of others, the need for status, fame, glory, recognition, attention, reputation, appreciation, dignity, even dominance.”** “The negative version of these needs is low self-esteem and inferiority complexes,” Dr. Boeree writes. “Maslow felt that Adler was really on to something when he proposed that these were at the roots of many, if not most, of our psychological problems.”

Today we see these qualities displayed by virtually all politicians in democracy: the constant need for status and recognition. The ends—compensating for an inferiority complex—justify whatever the Machiavellian means. Because democracy is open to any and all who can get themselves elected, either through connections, personality, or personal wealth, **it’s a social system where leadership**

**positions become a hotbed for sociopaths.** Maslow's self-actualizing man won't have an interest in politics. In contrast, those stuck on the need for esteem are drawn to it like flies to you-know-what.

**What Doug Casey calls the "moral rot" in Washington, DC, and every statehouse around the country is due to, as Casey writes, "a certain class of people—sociopaths—[being] fully in control of major American institutions. Their beliefs and attitudes are insinuated throughout the economic, political, intellectual, and psychological/spiritual fabric of the US."**

**Religious philosopher Saint Augustine** was pessimistic of human nature, believing men weren't inclined toward righteousness, but instead had a tendency toward doing evil "as the result of Adam's fall, pride, vanity, and **libido domini—the lust for domination**—entice men towards waging wars and committing all manner of violence," explains John Mark Mattox in *Saint Augustine and the Theory of Just War*.

**Fox News' Judge Andrew Napolitano** has made the point many times that libido domini is the thing in human nature that attracts people into government, in order that they may dominate their fellow man— **that the same men who founded the United States government wrote laws as repugnant as the Alien and Sedition Acts.** Those wishing to get elected and stay elected must be prepared to break every moral rule they have ever known, if the end justifies it. **Economist Frank Knight noted that those in authority "would have to do these things whether they wanted to or not: and the probability of the people in power being individuals who would dislike the possession and exercise of power is on a level with the probability that an extremely tender-hearted person would get the job of whipping master in a slave plantation."** And so, this election season, remember that it's become "a psychic impossibility for a gentleman to hold office under the Federal Union," as Mencken wrote. **Democracy makes it possible** for the demagogue to inflame the childish imagination of the masses, "by virtue of his talent for nonsense."

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I hope that the viewers of my blog, "**Stand For Freedom**", can now understand why I created the acronym SNOTS, **S**ocialist. **N**azi. **O**ligarchy. **T**otalitarian. **S**yndrome, for the mindset of the Multi-headed Beast that has conquered humanity using incessant media and internet "news" to induce constant and overwhelming FEAR in the minds of billions of people. Create enough FEAR and the people **will kneel to tyranny**. This is why I am motivated to develop Virtual Reality Learning Games (**ExL Games Trust**) to **vanquish fear and teach the principles of freedom** to the youth of America and the world. I welcome your support in whatever manner you are able to give it. Your children and grandchildren will thank you for it.

See my eBook PDF "**Why?...So Our Children May Know Freedom.**"