

Tribalism and the delivery pains of the New Society

The new tribalists use the term "tribalism" not in its traditional, derogatory sense, but to refer to what they see as the defining characteristics of tribal life: namely, an open, egalitarian, classless and cooperative community, which can be characterized as primitive communism. New tribalists insist that this is, in fact, the natural state of humanity, and proven by two million years of human evolution.

Tribes may be egalitarian, but they are not open, and are the cause of warfare, as the concept of tribe implies, necessarily, the concept of belonging, in a similar way that the idea of Jew and Christian religio (tribe, religare: Union of a group of people) derives from the concept of "sin".

The open society is, on the contrary, open to any person and living being. As the experiment of the European Union proves, we don't need tribal ideas to prosper. Actually tribalism is what maintained warfare among Europeans for over 1500 years.

For Spaniards French were devils, and viceversa. As soon as we are in the union, we belong to the same group. The same is perfectly possible for the whole world.

Non tribal society derives its stability not on the power of a boss, a king, a god, but on the commonly accepted rules of the law. In a non tribal society each person may carry its own independent life, as long she/he does, not obey the customs, but simply does not violate the laws. Is a 180° change of perspective: In a tribal society you must follow some arbitrary rules. In an open society you can do what you like, taking care simply of not trespassing rules. You don't need to follow trails, simply you need not to cross fences.

We are on the way to this new global non tribal society. But to enter it we need to overcome the birth pangs of any new situation.