

MAY-JUNE 2011

# STRAIGHT TALK

*"... this kind of human (the psychopath) is all too common ... they cause more damage in human society than any other single so-called "mental illness." (Laura Knight-Jadczyk)*

## AYN RAND, SOCIOPATHS & POLITICS

### "ATLAS SHRUGGED"

Russian Jewish immigrant Ayn Rand (*born Alisa Zinov'yevna Rosenbaum, 1905–1982*) immigrated to America and became a cult leader. Her philosophy is expressed in her 1957 blockbuster novel, *Atlas Shrugged*.

*Atlas Shrugged* claims to be the current second-best seller ... and arguably the second most influential book in America ... second only to the Bible. Why does Rand's philosophy enjoy such popularity ... especially since her books' characters and plots appear rather comic bookish ... distorted and overstated?

*Atlas Shrugged* seems to impact immature minds the most ... readers less experienced in how the world works. Add to that the fact that the world, and especially Americans, are gratified to find any systematic philosophy, no matter how sophomoric, that appears to justify their narcissistic, selfish mindsets. In short, Ayn Rand's mind apparently never matured beyond childish narcissism. She proudly admitted that her motives never changed since she was eight or nine years of age. Hers was a morality based upon a childish narcissistic self-absorption ... and she appeals to narcissistic minds.

One of her publications was titled: "The Virtue Of Selfishness" wherein she called altruism "a basic evil."

*Atlas Shrugged* was recently made into a movie ... timed to hopefully affect the upcoming elections in 2012. The producers hope to implant the randian philosophy of "self interest" championed by the "Tea Party" faction of the Republican Party. Ignorant Americans will never notice that the common themes of both Ayn Rand's philosophy and the Tea Party's philosophy are based upon mankind's worst proclivities: namely, greed and self-absorption.

In my opinion, Ayn Rand was a textbook sociopath. In her notebooks, she admired the notorious serial murderer-dismemberer, William Edward Hickman, and used this psychopath as an early model for the type of "ideal man" she called "a superman" – an archetypal model for hero figures in her more famous books.

Her ideas were later picked up and put into action by major Capitalist figures of our times, including the key

architects of America's recent economic catastrophe, former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan (early and continued devotee and supporter) and SEC Commissioner Chris Cox, along with other notable right-wing politicians such as Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, Rush Limbaugh, South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford, and Republican Representative Paul Ryan, and many others.

Among Ayn Rand's acknowledged devotees are some names that have become well known. Several Republican and Libertarian pundits as well as "conservative" publications (like *Christian Science Monitor*) openly admire Rand. The Cato Institute, FOX puppets like Sean Hannity, as well as John Stossel, and Representative Ron Paul and his son, Senator Rand Paul all express high esteem for Ayn.

Other Objectivist publications include *Fountain Head* (made a movie in 1949, with Gary Cooper), and collections of newsletters and periodicals advocating her philosophy.

Her writings, and Rand herself, provide us with an opportunity to study the phenomenon of psychopathy (also called "sociopathy") molded into a polished systematic philosophy. Its effects and encroachments upon the public mind are worthy of one's attention to gain insight of one of the larger elements that are causing the downfall of our poor, degraded and confused society. In fact, Rand garnered a large following of "Objectivists" ... a movement that continues today long after her death. The "Tea Party" Republicans and the Neo Cons both borrow from Rand's Objectivism.

Nathaniel Blumenthal (renamed "Nathaniel Branden") was Rand's star disciple (and co-adulterer). It seems they both championed a freedom of ethics based on self-absorption. Satiating self was, according to them, the highest morality ... not unlike Aleister Crowley's philosophy: "*Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the law.*" Branden and Rand openly had a temporary mutual adulterous affair with the consent of both Rand's husband and Branden's wife. They revelled in open and arrogant self absorption.

Branden continued Rand's legacy through The Nathaniel Branden Institute, an organization formed to

often called "the psychology of self-esteem."

Self-esteem was the central doctrine of Rand's and Branden's teachings. It just so happens that these beliefs fit perfectly with the twisted and damaged mind of the psychopath/sociopath ... which leads to the logical conclusion that Rand, her movement, and groups that promote that philosophy (like the Tea Party and the Neo Cons) are collections of brain-damaged sociopaths ... both natural-born and/or proselytized sickos.

Psychopaths are not necessarily physically violent like serial killers. Many psychopaths (sociopaths) are brilliant, charming and inventive. Many become heads of state who assign their lessers to do their dirty work for them. Ayn Rand, herself, detested the idea of being forced or constrained ... which gave impetus to her hatred of moral conventions. She espoused mental aggression, mental superiority, and viewed compassion as absurd. Altruism of any sort was near the top of her list of immoralities ... as if she, herself, could have managed to survive without the unselfish help of others. This was a person who lived the last eight years of her life on social security and medicare ... availing herself of the very social programs and social philosophies she claimed were the worst evils of society.

As one man put it, *"In the end, Miss Rand was a hypocrite, but she could never be faulted for failing to act in her own self-interest."*

Ayn Rand was the progenitor of a sweeping "moral philosophy" that justifies the privilege of the wealthy and demonizes not only the slothful, undeserving poor but the lackluster middle-classes as well. She condemned Christianity for advocating love and compassion for the less fortunate. She advocated "The Virtue of Selfishness" (in her book of that same title) calling altruism "a basic evil."

She classified all people into two groups: the "producers" and the "looters." The "producers" were brainy inventors: shakers and movers who went after what they wanted, thought things into existence, built factories, and amassed fortunes and success.

All others were "looters" ... leeches, stupid, self-defeating parasites who despised the virtues of thinking and creating. To her, this class of worthless eaters survived only by conspiring together to repress and milk the creators.

Her books provided wide-ranging parables of "parasites," "looters" and "moochers" using the levers of government to steal the fruits of her heroes' creativity. In the real world, however, Rand herself received Social Security payments and Medicare benefits under the name of Ann O'Connor (her husband was Frank O'Connor).

Her championing of production made her popular with arrogant rich folks who liked to think they acquired their positions honorably and honestly ... never mind that it is nearly impossible to be a wealthy industrialist in today's world without participating in despicable practices like usury, cheating, manipulating and lying ... as in the fields of advertisement and the stock market, for example.

Ayn, herself, publicly advocated the complete annihilation of Palestinians and most Arabic factions. She considered them hopelessly violent, stupid, and destructive. You

could say that her attitude fit nicely with the Zionism of the U.S. Government.

Indeed, Ayn Rand's "Objectivism" seems to be the enabling philosophy of the Neo-Cons (Bush, Cheney, Wolfowitz, Perle, etc.), the "Tea Party" ... and not only the Republicans, but the Democrats as well. Most Libertarians unashamedly admit to being inspired by her ideas. Hers has become the philosophy of Wall Street in general which says that the pursuit of capital (wealth) should have no regulation. Democrats camouflage themselves behind the fake mask of socialistic altruism, but in truth it depends upon Capitalism as well to finance its greedy government.

Understanding "self worship" is the key to understanding the modern world of religion, politics and banking. Start there, and the rest will begin to reveal itself to you.

We live in the age of "me, me, me." Self interest is the motivating power behind nearly all thinking today. Sociopaths run rampant in society ... and they dominate the fields of political and religious leadership because their mental makeup equips them perfectly to be CEO's of super corporations, leaders of mega churches, and lifetime incumbent politicians.

True sociopaths/psychopaths have no consciences. The wannabees who admire and emulate powerful sociopaths may still have consciences, but they are suppressing them and trying to learn how to be more like their twisted mentors and idols.

Psychopathy (sociopathy) can occur either as an embryonic prenatal malformation inside the womb, or as postnatal brain damage caused (or learned) from exposures and experiences in a sociopathic environment. There is little if any documented proof that the condition is inherited genetically. Psychopathy seems to be an aberration of nature that occurs in a small percentage of births. Of course, there is the possibility that certain toxins or prenatal diseases, or even vaccinations could contribute to it. But who knows? Typical conventions of our day are such that children brought up in this society are encouraged to admire and emulate sociopathic behavior instead of seeing it as a disease ... because sociopaths can be charming, tricky, manipulative, and adept at winning at social games ... especially in the social competition of power and finance. These qualities (if they can rightly be called "qualities") are the ones that seem to attract Americans. "Winning" and "getting ahead" against the competition at any cost are the most coveted talents of modern Americans. Winning is everything! In war, in beauty contests, in sports, and in business ... winners are admired, and losers are despised. It is taught in universities and churches.

I have watched the movie "The Fountainhead," watched trailers for "Atlas Shrugged," and I've seen several personal interviews where Ayn explained her philosophy. The premises and story lines seem childish and of comic book genre where the heroes or heroines make a stand for self-aggrandizement and self-gratification while demonizing all motives of humility, self-effacement or altruism.

As pointed out in one review, the "Atlas Shrugged" movie's premise comically misses reality. Atlas' Randian

individualist heroine, Dagny Taggart, is a determined builder of supertrains who faces an endless parade of corrupt bureaucrats, politicians and unions obstructing her from achieving her goals.

In reality, supertrains were part of Obama's stimulus package, which the Randian right savaged with a vengeance. Republican governors across the land turned down billions of federal construction dollars, with high-speed trains one of their favorite targets for destruction. Even before taking office, Wisconsin's Scott Walker killed an \$800 million high-speed rail grant, a move estimated to cost the state around \$100 million in preexisting commitments.

Contrary to Atlas' model, randians hate supertrains.

Who does like supertrains? Socialist Europe and Communist China, that's who! Europe began building them in the 1970s, and China started following suit two decades later. China now has almost 5,200 miles in service as of January 2011, with speeds ranging from 120 to 220 miles per hour. Another 11,000 miles are under construction funded by the Chinese government. They're building supertrains about 100 times faster than Tea Party Republicans are killing them here in America.

Again, Ayn Rand's models used to showcase her "Objectivism" were based on poorly contrived examples and mythical characters so unreal they are laughable.

Ayn Rand, and her contemporary Capitalist sycophants, espouse a bankrupt morality that laughs at God and worships men (and women). Not too smart!

## THE SOCIOPATH NEXT DOOR

Laura Knight-Jadczyk (publisher of the groundbreaking book, Political Ponerology) quotes from Martha Stout's excellent book *The Sociopath Next Door* (both books are available from Amazon.com) documenting the fact that psychopaths/sociopaths not only exist unnoticed all around us, but probably account for most of the "leaders" among us. Sociopaths naturally rise to the top of America's narcissistic society. They naturally have "the right stuff" to carry them to the top of a system built on avarice. Sociopaths are ruthless, conscienceless, and unencumbered by the conscience and ethics that limit normal people. The quintessential sociopath among us is usually giving or taking orders to undermine and/or destroy others of lesser station. Sociopaths "just do their jobs" no matter who it hurts. And their subordinates "just do their jobs" as they are ordered.

*"Imagine - if you can - not having a conscience ... none at all, no feelings of guilt or remorse no matter what you do, no limiting sense of concern for the well-being of strangers, friends, or even family members. Imagine no struggles with shame, not a single one in your whole life, no matter what kind of selfish, lazy, harmful, or immoral action you had taken.*

*And pretend that the concept of responsibility is unknown to you, except as a burden others seem to accept without question, like gullible fools.*

*Now add to this strange fantasy the ability to conceal from other people that your psychological makeup is radically different from theirs. Since everyone simply*

*assumes that conscience is universal among human beings, hiding the fact that you are conscience-free is nearly effortless.*

*You are not held back from any of your desires by guilt or shame, and you are never confronted by others for your cold-bloodedness.*

*The ice water in your veins is so bizarre, so completely outside of their personal experience, that they seldom even guess at your condition.*

*In other words, you are completely free of internal restraints, and your unhampered liberty to do just as you please, with no pangs of conscience, is conveniently invisible to the world.*

*You can do anything at all, and still your strange advantage over the majority of people, who are kept in line by their consciences, will most likely remain undiscovered.*

*How will you live your life?*

*What will you do with your huge and secret advantage ... and with the corresponding handicap of other people (conscience)?*

*The answer will depend largely on just what your desires happen to be, because people are not all the same. Even the profoundly unscrupulous are not all the same. Some people - whether they have a conscience or not - favor the ease of inertia, while others are filled with dreams and wild ambitions.*

*Some human beings are brilliant and talented, some are dullwitted, and most, conscience or not, are somewhere in between.*

*There are violent people and nonviolent ones: individuals who are motivated by blood lust and those who have no such appetites.*

*Provided you are not forcibly stopped, you can do anything at all. If you are born at the right time, with some access to family fortune, and you have a special talent for whipping up other people's hatred and sense of deprivation, you can arrange to kill large numbers of unsuspecting people. With enough money, you can accomplish this from far away, and you can sit back safely and watch in satisfaction.*

*The high incidence of sociopathy in human society has a profound effect on the rest of us who must live on this planet too, even those of us who have not been clinically traumatized.*

*The individuals who constitute this (group) drain our relationships, our bank accounts, our accomplishments, our self-esteem, our very peace on earth.*

*We are not commonly aware of, nor do we usually identify, the larger number of nonviolent sociopaths among us, people who often are not blatant lawbreakers, and against whom our formal legal system provides little defense.*

*Most of us feel mildly guilty if we eat the last piece of cake in the kitchen, let alone what we would feel if we intentionally and methodically set about to hurt another person.*

*Those who have no conscience at all are a group unto themselves, whether they be homicidal tyrants or merely ruthless social snipers.*

*The presence or absence of conscience is a deep human division, arguably more significant than intelligence, race, or even gender.*

*What differentiates a sociopath who lives off the labors of others from one who occasionally robs convenience stores, or from one who is a contemporary robber baron - or what makes the difference between an ordinary bully and a sociopathic murderer - is nothing more than social status, drive, intellect, blood lust, or simple opportunity.*

*What distinguishes all of these people from the rest of us is an utterly empty hole in the psyche, where there should be the most evolved of all humanizing functions (a conscience).*

—Martha Stout, *The Sociopath Next Door*

## THE MILGRAM PROJECT

In the 1960's, Stanley Milgram, a professor at Yale University, ran an experiment to test the extent that typical people would follow orders if given from someone who appeared to be an authority figure. Volunteers for his experiment were gathered from among the students.

In his experiment volunteers were instructed to administer electric shocks to people who failed to answer questions correctly. The experiment revealed that educated, average folks obediently followed orders to torture strangers. The electric shock was fake but staged to appear real to the volunteer. All volunteers obeyed and administered shocks as they were ordered. A few refused to go beyond a certain level of shock ... but sixty-five percent obediently turned the juice up to levels high enough to kill anyone receiving it.

This is the *"just doing my job"* mentality that Americans are prone to view as ethical and admirable ... especially in the case of soldiers and policemen who *"just do their jobs."*

This evidence, along with mountains of research, shows that most Americans have defective minds ... minds that are prone to unthinkingly follow the orders (or suggestions) of psychopathic figures of authority ... or psychopathic systems of government.

The scenario, if you can imagine, is much like Americans' tendency to follow conventions and fads that change from year to year ... fads which, in some cases, are so absurd that only a stunted mind could accept them. Such fads are usually started by some celebrity who wears some bizarre hairdo, or weird clothes, or invents an idiotic saying of some sort. Then kids who worship these public figures follow suit and repeat the aberrant behaviors ... not realizing that they are making clowns and fools of themselves. In many cases, young girls who are otherwise normal, choose to emulate the warped ways of Hollywood showgirls ... throwing away their natural intelligence and beauty choosing to be ignorant and ugly.

Older Americans do it too ... but instead of pursuing mindless popularity like the kids, elders often emulate Wall Street sociopaths who feed upon each other and focus on profit and power.

There are numerous ways people can ruin their own lives. Abandoning God is a sure way to find yourself on the path to a ruined life. Ayn Rand's "Objectivism" is just one of many paths available for the lost and godless. It is a flawed-but-systematic set of doctrines about selfishness and egoism. Greed is the highest morality, and self-sacrifice is the greatest evil.

Of course, anyone with the slightest background in the teachings of Christ would have trouble accepting Rand's philosophy, or the philosophy of American politics. Jesus sacrificed himself for the benefit of others. His view of "self" was opposite of Ayn Rand's.

He said,

*"This is my commandment, That you selflessly love one another, as I have selflessly loved you.*

*"Greater selfless love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."*

(Jn. 15:12-13)

Ayn Rand excised a narrow slice of Capitalism to use to bolster her philosophy ... focusing upon parts that best served her own interests. She hated Socialism/Communism because it nationalized ("stole") her father's business in Russia when she was a child. The hatred of Communism had the effect of ingratiating her to western Capitalists ... even though it is now known that Socialism (Communism) is merely a back-door approach to Capitalism. It is just an alternate way to feed off the poor and weak. Both are built on a pyramid framework with a few rich, powerful people ruling from the top.

Rand taught that "greed is good" ... a theme taken up by famed laissez faire economist Milton Friedman. These contrived moralities teach that it is natural and good that predators prey upon "the unworthy" and the weak. By the same token, Socialists masquerade as protectors of the little guy, but in truth they are merely second-hand predators. They prey upon Capitalists who have preyed upon the weak. Theirs is a symbiotic relationship. They need each other. Either way the common folks (i.e., non-ruthless, honest people) end up being trampled.

Capitalism and Socialism are partners in crime. Ayn Rand confused the issue and used it to her own advantage. Capitalism and Socialism are dialectical conspirators teamed up to rob and control the masses. Both are criminal systems that spurn God's law. Ayn Rand's "Objectivism" is a strange rational put together by deranged minds that see the world as playing on the lies of both Capitalists and Socialists to promote a childish form of self-absorption and godless egoism. It seems to be a fair fit with current American values.

## THE BIBLE SAYS ...

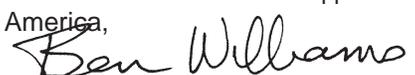
*"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"*

Jeremiah 17:9

*"Let nothing be done through self-seeking or conceit; but in humility esteem one another before yourselves."*

Philippians 2:3

Pray for repentance in America,



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