

Mindset-shifts? How does change emerge?

Mindset-shifts

Is a mindset a closed set of existential questions and answers at the common sense level?

Questions: What is a human being?
What is childhood? What is gender?
What is life? What is death? What is labor?
What is age? What is nature?

Answers?

Who represents a mindset?

What is a mindset?

Its components:

Games of experience

Language games

Games of knowledge

Games of truth

Are these universal or limited by history,
culture and the level of knowledge?

Structure of mindsets

Surface vs. underground

Thought, discursive reason vs.

Pre-reflective assumptions, beliefs,

Bodily experiences, capacities,

Emotions, mores

Incorporated certainty, faith

Deeply rooted normativity

Anticipation of reflection

How does all this emerge?

Is there a universal mindset?

Is there one, true mindset?

Does the universal mindset "*man*" exist beyond synchronical, cultural and religious differences, and beyond diachronical differences: Can we speak about a progressive development of mindsets, or even about a evolution of mind?

From which position?

Ideologies of Intimate changes of mindsets:

St. Augustine's famous lines from his Confession III, caput 1 (*"Veni Karthaginem, et circumstrepebat me undique sartago flagitiosorum amorum"*) sound, in E.B. Pusey's translation:

"To Carthage I came, where there sang all around me in my ears
a cauldron of unholy loves. I loved not yet, yet I loved to love,
and out of a deep-seated want, I hated myself for wanting not. I sought
what I might love, in love with loving, and safety I hated, and a
way without snares. For within me was a famine of that inward food,
Thyself, my God; yet, through that famine I was not hungered; but
was without all longing for incorruptible sustenance, not because
filled therewith, but the more empty, the more I loathed it. For this
cause my soul was sickly and full of sores, it miserably cast itself
forth, desiring to be scraped by the touch of objects of sense."

*Scholars now evaluate this as a genre piece, not as a new way of expressing
sentiment and inner emotions.*

Power and mindsets

The protestants encouraged the publishing of Copernicus' "*De revolutionibus orbium coelestium*" in 1543, while the pope banned it. The heliocentric world view could obviously both negate and affirm the Bible. However it challenged the dogmas, and hence the power of the catholics.

The splendid varnish of capitalist greed closing the view to depths of misery

The rebellious optics of the enlightenment only confirmed the rights of the bourgeois. Its result was an immense oppression of the lower classes, economically, politically and culturally, plus imperialism.

Political rights for all came 200 years after the enlightenment in the developed countries.

Social rights have not come yet

The fatality of the consequential mindset-shift:

The First World War produced an anti-armament, anti-war, pro-peace mindset in the English people and its politics. It gave Hitler the chance to mobilize and conquer Poland.

Ethical mindset change does not guarantee anything.

There is no logic of wisdom in history.

Does the Western world have a mindset at all?

Response: If a mindset is a closed set of questions and answers, we have no mindset at the common sense level.

We do not know what death is. We do not know the universe, neither its meaning, nor its mechanisms. We do neither agree about nature nor about the nature of man.

Most important: We do not share common conscious interests, though one could ascribe sustainability as a shared interest to everybody.

The biggest problems: Ignorance, indifference, dogmatism and egoism.

Does the Western world have a common mindset?

Response: We are atheists,
Christians, Muslims, socialists,
libertarians, vegetarians, greedy
consumers, reckless exploiters of all
available resources,
environmentalists, imperialists,
Buddhists, critical intellectuals,
shareholders, drug addicts,
analphabets, unemployed, ...

The provoker of new mindsets

The ultimate event and its stories: the
crucifixion (religion)

The catastrophe: Hiroshima

The victory: Salamis (culture)

The new technology (IT)

The immigration (demography)

The invasion (Hastings, culture)

Totalitarianism (politics, culture)

Scientific knowledge (climate)

Ideologies: Humanism – sustainability ?