

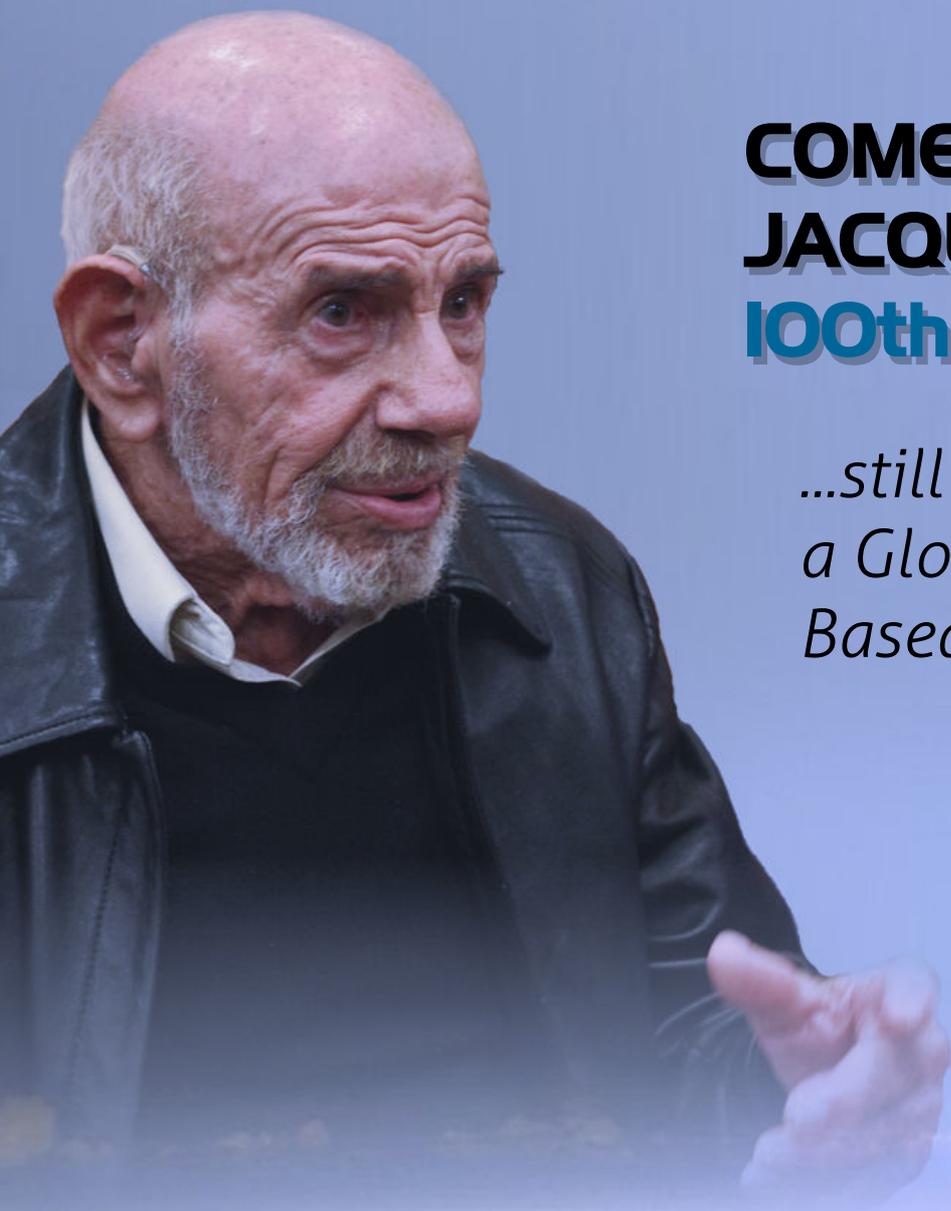
TVP M

What it would look like if communism, capitalism, socialism, free market, and the like tried to organize people on Mars?

We provide this perspective to help you more easily learn what these systems are all about.



- THE MONEY GAME: SYSTEMS TO ORGANIZE SOCIETIES
- LIKING AND SUBSCRIBING CULTURE
- THE FAMILY IDEA



COME CELEBRATE JACQUE FRESCO'S 100th BIRTHDAY

*...still working towards
a Global Resource
Based Economy*



WHEN:

Saturday, March 12th, 2016

10:30am - noon EST: Screening "The Choice is Ours"

1:30pm - 5:30 EST: Event Speakers

WHERE:

Harborside Event Center

1375 Monroe St,

Fort Myers, FL, USA 33901

(near Southwest Florida Int'l airport)

SPEAKERS:

Jacque Fresco

Roxanne Meadows

Henry Schlinger Jr. PhD BCBA-D

more to be announced

COST:

\$54 per person for the full day

**FOR TICKETS AND FURTHER INFO
GO HERE >>**



PATREON
AND THE
SUBSCRIBING
AND LIKING
CULTURE

by tio



We moved TVPM's fundraising to Patreon and, so far, we're at only 20% of what is needed. That's nowhere near enough to make this project survivable, but we are so motivated by the massive need to make this important information abundantly available to all, and we have no life other than what we do right now (TVPM is immeasurably more important), plus stopping this project would make it nearly impossible to resurrect it, then we are going to push forward with it however we can. We have no clue if it's even possible without reaching 100% of the goal on Patreon within a month or so. We may face a situation in which we can't even pay for the server to keep the website up, or for the Joomag service where all of our issues are hosted. Of course, we want to express a HUGE Thank You to those who are already supporting us at Patreon. I don't want to sound like a broken record with this 'thanking', but TVPM cannot survive without your help.

Speaking of this, I'd like to touch on the strange effect of people's involvement to help projects.

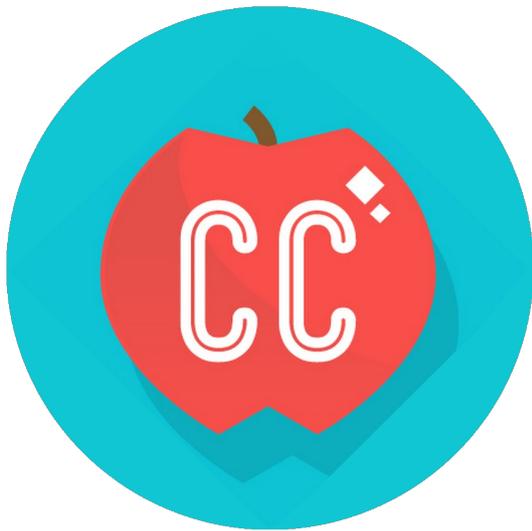
Currently, over 230,000 people have liked the TVP Global Facebook Page so far. If all of them would donate just \$1 per month to The Venus Project, we could make extraordinary free online courses about TVP and science in general, keep and grow TVP Magazine even more, develop numerous YouTube series, documentaries, and many other serious educational tools, and still have money left to start up some extraordinary offline projects, too. Imagine the impact that would have for only \$1 a month, which you could probably find on the street in 'lost change'. So, why isn't this happening?

A close-up photograph of a person's right arm and hand, with the fist clenched and raised. The skin is light-toned, and the background is plain white.

**230,000 PEOPLE
DONATING \$1 A MONTH =
HUGE GROWTH AND
AWARENESS
OPPORTUNITIES**

Well, let's first look at some other examples:

Crash Course is the most well-known educational Youtube channel, with 3,557,919 subscribers at the time of this writing. They have several employees and many types of courses. They are on Patreon, as we are, and 33,784 people currently support them. That's a lot of people! But how many is it in comparison? Only 0.95% of their subscribers.



CRASH COURSE:

3,775,183 SUBSCRIBERS
6,298 PATREONS
0.17% SUPPORT

SciShow is the biggest science news Youtube channel with 2,878,030 subscribers, but only 0.15% support them on Patreon.



SCISHOW:

2,878,030 SUBSCRIBERS
4,030 PATREONS
0.15% SUPPORT

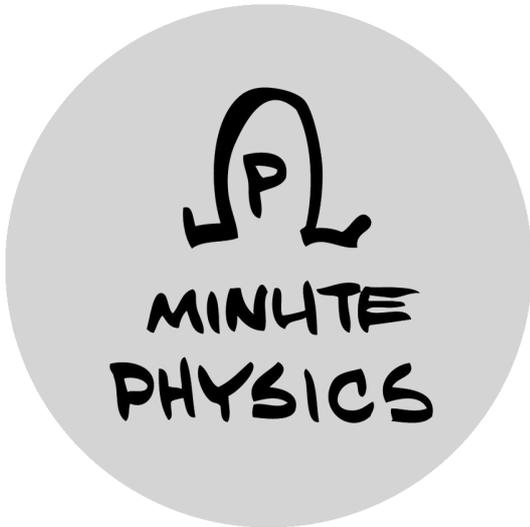


MINUTE EARTH:

1,155,938 SUBSCRIBERS

946 PATREONS

0.09% SUPPORT



MINUTE PHYSICS:

3,034,979 SUBSCRIBERS

1,154 PATREONS

0.04% SUPPORT



SMARTER EVERY DAY:

3,340,570 SUBSCRIBERS

2,329 PATREONS

0.07% SUPPORT

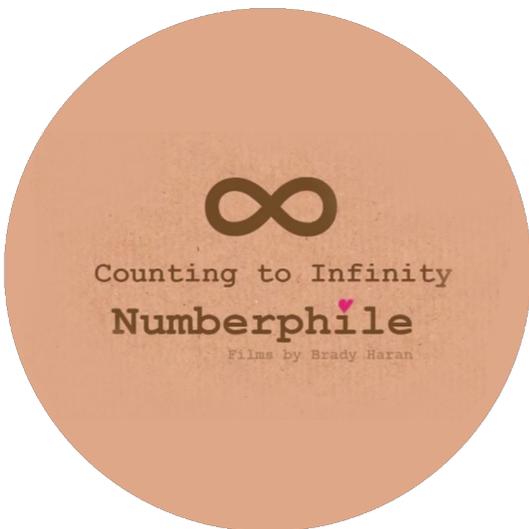


CGPGREY:

1,898,959 SUBSCRIBERS

5,084 PATREONS

0.28% SUPPORT



NUMBERPHILE:

1,413,789 SUBSCRIBERS

698 PATREONS

0.05% SUPPORT



IN A NUTSHELL:

1,353,241 SUBSCRIBERS

2,194 PATREONS

0,15% SUPPORT

Remember that these are the world's most popular and largest educational Youtube channels. I don't know about other kinds of channels, as those are not usually on Patreon asking their supporters to become co-owners, as they tend to make light content and 'sell' their videos through ads. I mean, if you have a gaming channel (where you basically play games and record yourself), you can advertise games. Technology-based channels can review gadgets for cash, and make-up tutorial channels can sell 'beauty' products. You get the point. What can you sell when you're developing serious educational content? Not much.

Well, how about Wikipedia? How many of its members donate to it? Interestingly enough, it's only around 0.8%.



WIKIPEDIA:

0.8% SUPPORT

**AS YOU CAN SEE, THE MAJOR
EDUCATIONAL ONLINE OUTLETS
GET HELP FROM **LESS THAN 1%** OF
THEIR SUPPORTERS, THOSE WHO
MAKE USE OF THEIR 'STUFF'.**

How does TVP Magazine stack up against all of this? Well, it's really hard to tell because 1) It's much harder to calculate our readership numbers (some download the issues, some read the plain text versions) and 2) We are new to Patreon, so current support numbers are still incomplete. Right now, we seem to be within range with all of those, at about 0.75%, which is rather scary because it fits the 'norm'. Still, I think that most of you who read the magazine truly do understand the global importance of it and are more motivated than the average supporter above to help keep this project alive. With its focus on TVP/RBE concepts and understandings, it's much more than just another educational 'thing', as you may be able to tell by now. We certainly hope we can break the 'norm', though.



TVPMAGAZINE:

0.75% SUPPORT

But I understand people who do not donate. I am subscribed to all of the channels mentioned above, and hundreds more, but I do not donate to any of them (primarily because I don't have the money). I may have \$1 that I could spare, but donating \$1 to so many channels quickly becomes a lot of money, so I have to prioritize. The result is that I donate \$2 to Wikipedia when they ask for donations each year. But society should not leave this up to the kindness of people to support such projects. The monetary system is weirdly uncomfortable, as so many great projects (if not most of them) cannot be fit in.

That being said, maybe you'll consider TVP Magazine as important enough to make the effort to support it on Patreon, even if just a little bit, especially given the urgency that we are now in, as we have almost no funds toward producing it beyond November or December.

Maybe we will be in a much better situation by the time we publish this article and, who knows, after publishing it, we may reach the Patreon goal and keep on working on TVPM as usual, but at only 20% right now, it's going to require a lot more of you to help that happen. We are always trying to improve it for everyone. We created a smart search engine for it, and now a huge quiz game. Two months ago, we released a smart automated news system, and we're even thinking about how we might use TVPM articles as the basis for some free online courses. Plus we continue to do well-researched and important articles that are focused on explaining how the world works, what are the root causes for today's problems, and what realistic solutions are there. Read this article if you want to know, in detail, the many ways we work for the magazine's success.

The 'if all would donate \$1' model will never happen, unfortunately. Many have tried this model and, as you can see, only a tiny, miniscule percentage of people get involved to help, even if the requested contribution is very small. Also interesting is that for all of those well-known education YouTube channels mentioned above, fewer than 10% of their subscribers actually watch their videos. That same phenomenon occurs with nearly all online subscriptions (Facebook, Google Plus, Twitter), where people subscribe but very few really 'follow' anything. We humans seem to have morphed into a world of subscribing and liking, but with very few able to focus or get involved beyond that. It's sad and seems like such a waste on the one hand. On the other, it may just be the new 'norm' with so many online 'things' out there to keep track of. Who knows? You prioritize.

**HERE IS OUR PATREON PAGE IF YOU
THINK IT'S WORTH A DIME :)**



TVPM QUIZ

by tio



Correct!

The human eye also does a pretty bad job in low light conditions. It takes about 30 minutes for our eyes to adjust and, even once they do, on a very dark night, you can only see about a few thousand stars under almost perfect conditions (low pollution, no moon, etc.). Think about how many stars you see when you look up at the night sky. A photo taken with a relatively affordable camera, I'm sure you can see a lot more stars near close to seeing that many stars and details. Read [this](#) article for more details.

Continue >>

Other quizzes:



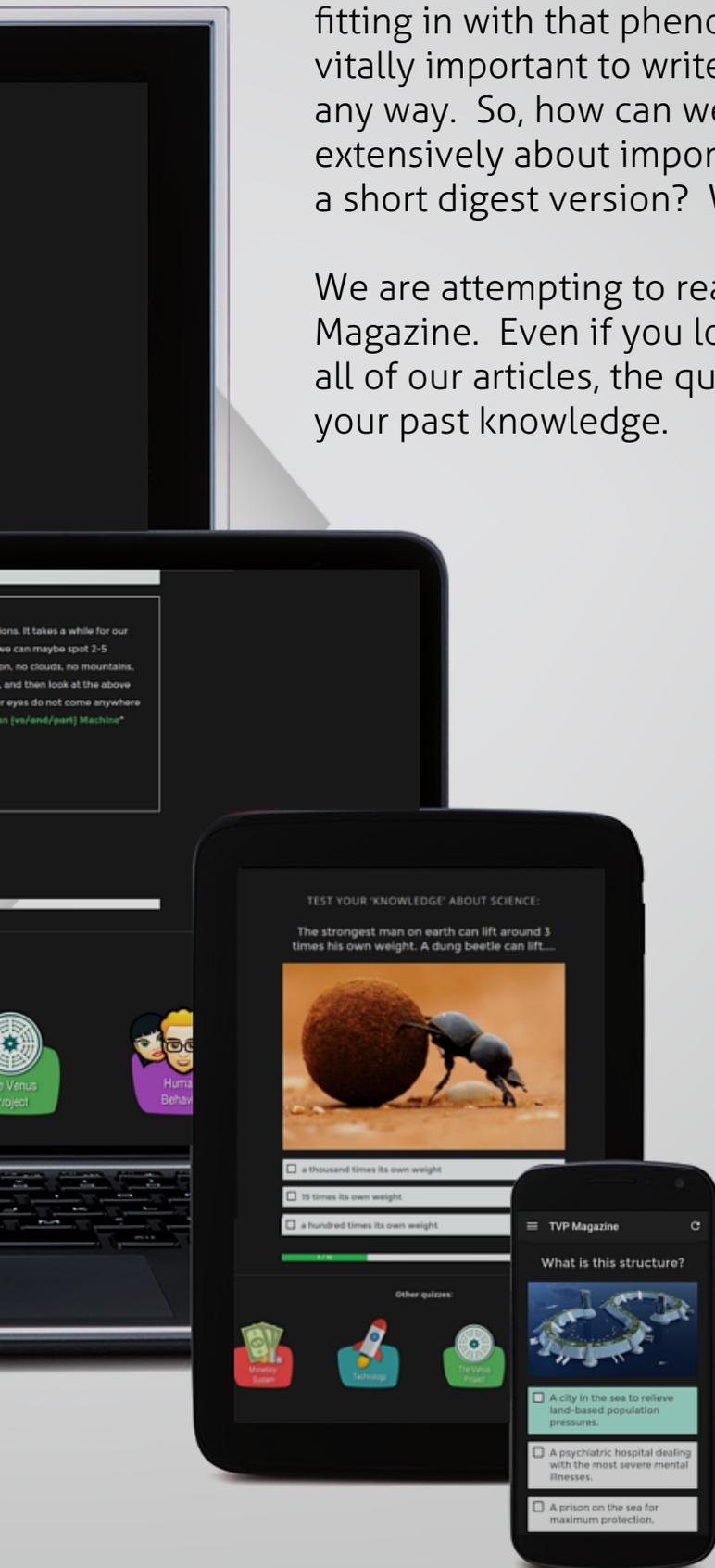
We've produced a lot of articles, thousands of pages so far, and if you're a new reader, you might pass out when you realize what it will take for you to 'catch up'. But don't worry. We created a great search engine that allows you to search for anything you might be interested in, so you can zero in on any topic of interest you might have. We are also well aware that nearly everyone is bombarded with an overload of information nowadays, resulting in ever-shortening attention spans. Given that, we cannot switch over to shorter articles for the sake of fitting in with that phenomenon. When there is something vitally important to write about, we should not limit ourselves in any way. So, how can we satisfy all of those who want to read extensively about important subjects, as well as those who want a short digest version? Well, how about an amazing QUIZ game!

We are attempting to reach and engage all people with TVP Magazine. Even if you love to read a lot and you keep up with all of our articles, the quiz is a great tool because it reinforces your past knowledge.

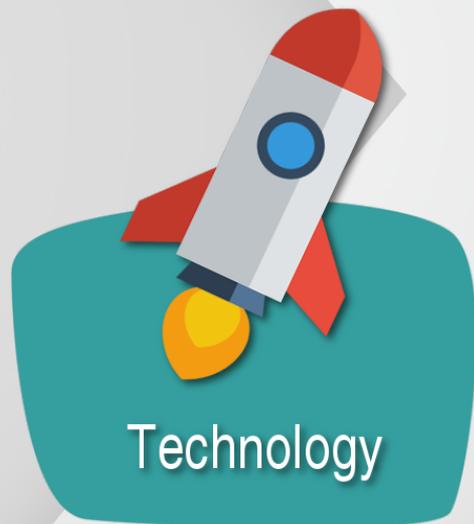
I've personally written many of TVPM's articles, so I found it super interesting when I got some answers wrong (even questions about my own articles).

So, we're breaking all of the articles apart, making questions out of them, adding multiple answers and relevant/interesting photos, and then letting you play/learn with it. Every time you answer a question, you will be provided with a more detailed answer so you can also learn something, and each answer has a link to the article it came from, allowing you to read the entire article if you find it interesting. But enough talk

**TRY OUT THE DEMO
YOURSELF HERE:**



THE FULL QUIZ HAS 5 CATEGORIES:



It will include a combined total of 1,000 - 1,500 questions across all categories before the release (I know that seems like a lot!), but each category quiz will only display 10 questions at a time. After you finish those 10, you can press the PLAY AGAIN button to bring up 10 new questions (no repeats until you have gone through all of them). With so many questions, you might have a hard time moving through all of them, even if you play it for hours a day. Of course, we will add new questions every time a new TVPM issue is released. And whenever you come back and play (whether it's 10 days or eight months later), you will always get new questions that you didn't answer before. The Quiz remembers you! ;)

We currently have around 500 questions added, but we had to pause when that amount of questions broke the quiz software (it seems the developer never expected so many questions ;)), so he is now working to improve it. As soon as it's fixed, we will resume adding new questions until all past issues are covered, and then launch it for everyone's enjoyment. We're extremely excited at how addictive it can be to shuffle through so many questions covering such a huge range of topics, especially for newcomers trying to gain a much stronger understanding of TVP/RBE concepts.

Since it depends primarily on the developer's progress, we obviously cannot provide a specific release date, but we hope to launch the full version in about a month or so. Working on this quiz is why it took longer than usual to release this issue. We are always working on something special for TVPM and/or TVP, just so you know... ;)

THE MONEY GAME:

SYSTEMS TO ORGANIZE SOCIETIES

by Tio





In our last installment of The Money Game, we discussed how money came into existence and how it is more about trade than 'money', but we realized that trade has gone mad by enslaving and killing people, changing people's values, destroying the environment, and so on. 'Trade' is not some kind of creature that can be quarantined, but is rather a type of environment that hugely influences human behavior. We are not the first to notice this craziness, of course, as others have proposed to develop systems to deal with all of these issues over the years. There could be as many such ideas as there are people that have ever lived on the surface of the planet, however, we will try to look at some of the most 'noticeable' ones to see what they proposed and what happened to these ideas; what did they change/improve.

The thing is, as we explained in the first part, the world is not that simple. As in the case of what represents a tribe or how trade came into being, this case is not reducible to "Ah, this trade has gone mad, let's do something about it!" because systems/ideas of organizing clusters of people (societies) existed long before the trade was widely adopted, and were then influenced by trade and many other factors. Overall, everything is an emergent result of all of these influencers.

We could try dividing these systems of organizing clusters of people into:

1. THE MEANS OF PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION
2. IDEOLOGIES
3. A COMBINATION OF BOTH THAT RESULTS IN A 'GOVERNMENT', AND THUS, AN 'ECONOMY'.

The production of goods and services changes how ideologies form and, thus, how systems of organizing societies emerge, and how they are managed. Before humans began intentionally farming animals and cultivating all sorts of plants, they clustered within small groups. Sometimes they had a sort of tribe leader, but they relied mostly on familial values and equal sharing of what they hunted or gathered. The leader was mostly someone who advised and perhaps influenced decision making, but the people in such societies were all taking part in it. This was the Hunter-Gatherer period.

However, once much larger clusters of people form, such as what followed the advent of farming, things get much more complicated. We now have more defined roles to deal with separate goods and services (some doing this, some doing that), dealing with surpluses of foodstuffs, decision making, and so on. As such societies emerged, inequalities among tribal members became more and more obvious. One example of how the means of production and distribution impacts social stratification is that as a result of mass producing these products through cultivation (using tools and animals), women were no longer viewed as being as 'useful' as they were back when they were gathering 'wild' food for the tribe, often much more food than the men could provide. As a result of losing such an important role in their societies, women became more and more subordinate to men.

2. With that in mind, let's see how ideals like imperialism, feudalism, communism, democracy, free enterprise, capitalism, and so on were formed, and what they proposed for organizing a society. To help make better sense of them, let's imagine that people are colonizing and attempting to start a brand new society on Mars, examining what each of these systems proposes for managing this colonisation.

THUS, here we are on Mars.

We've managed to create a stable atmosphere here so that people can breathe and plants can grow. We've already brought a few million people here and now a bunch of other people have been invited to come here with ideas on how to organize everything. Young and old, people of all walks of Martian life have gathered together today, eagerly awaiting the bold and courageous ones to present their ideas on how they would organize this new Martian society into a sane and prosperous system, one that avoids injustices, cares deeply for themselves and the environment, and will be able to evolve technologically and scientifically.

Ah, it looks like they are about to begin. Let's listen in:



Hello there. Nice to meet you all. I am **Feudalism** and, to not waste your time, let's get directly to what I propose. I think the best approach for you to organize yourselves is this:

First, proclaim some Kings. These Kings get to fully own different parts of Mars, and each King can allow multiple others, let's call them 'Lords', to manage sections of their land. Maybe they are the King's friends, so it is easy to see how 'Lords' are appointed. We need 'Lords' because Mars is too big for just a few Kings to manage.

Then, we need some people who will protect these areas that the Kings and Lords own. These people protect the land and get something in return, such as goods and services.

And third, we need the rest of the people to work the land and produce the goods and services we all need. They work for the King and his Lords, are protected by the 'land protectors', and in return, get to have access to their basic needs.



However, the ones working the land and the ones protecting the land should forever keep their statuses. Thus, they will never become Lords or Kings.

They will inherit these statuses over generations and are bound to respect them, or else the King would punish them, as the King is the one making all the decisions.

How does that sound?



IMPERIALISM:

Ha! That's an awesome idea. I must add though, since there will be so many groups of people here on Mars, we must work to conquer them with our armies. So we need to become strong, have a powerful army, and be fearless.

COLONIALISM:

Oh man, we really think alike. Imagine all of the weaker populations out there that we can conquer and force to adopt our values, thus making us even stronger and stronger in numbers.



AUTHORITARIANISM:

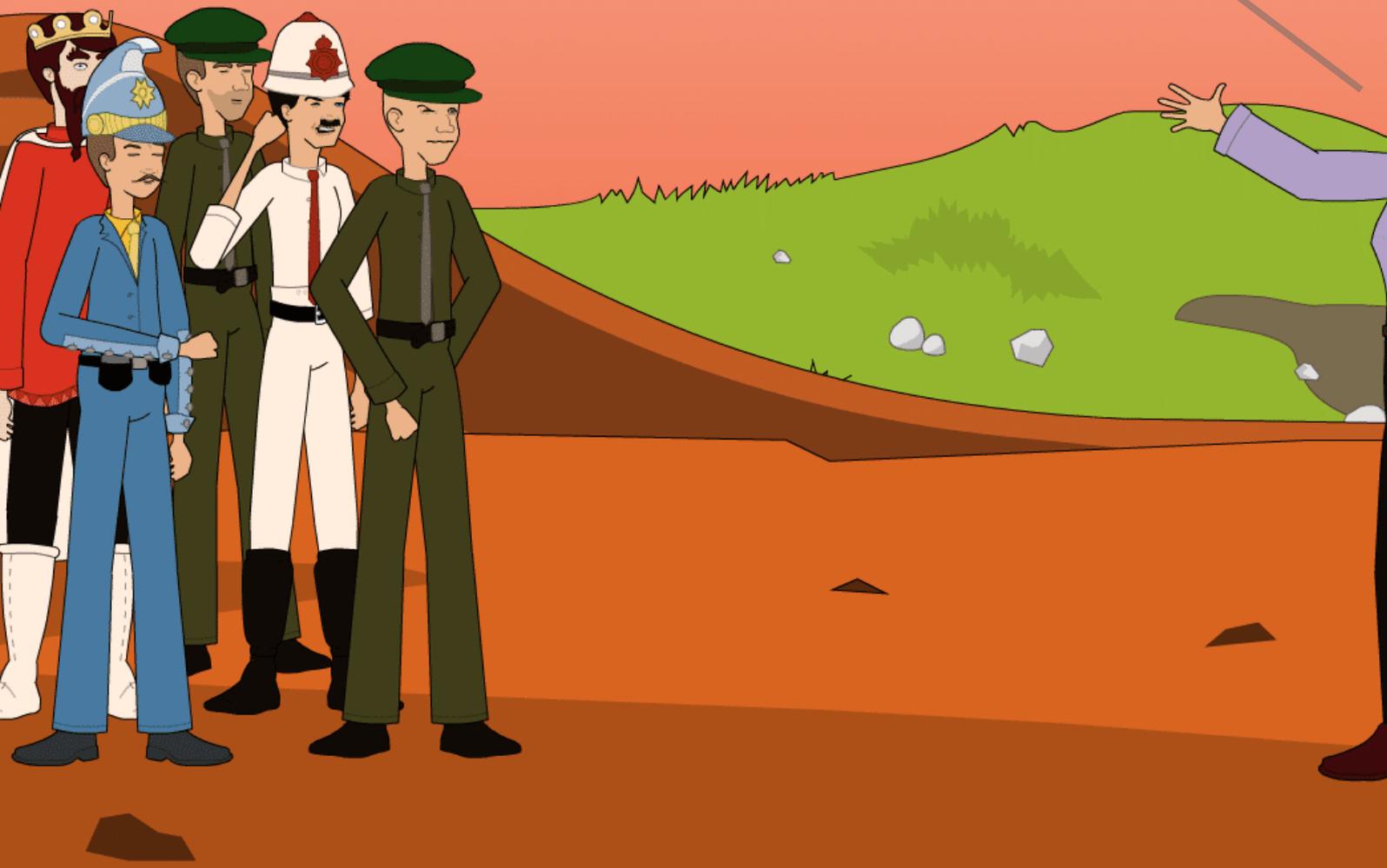
I and **Totalitarianism** **TOTALLY** agree with you guys. Although Totalitarianism thinks this 'King' leader you propose needs to have strong charisma to attract people to do what he wants them to, but I think we shouldn't worry much about that, so we disagree there a little bit. However, I would add that the King leader must control ALL aspects of society: the science, arts, education, what goods are being produced, what services are allowed, and so on. We need the leader to decide for all of us. Or, well, for you Martians :).



*Neah, hold on!, says **Capitalism**. That's completely unfair and quite non-progressive. All people should be able to own land and do their own business. This way, the best products and services get to be made through competition.*

If you do not allow those who work the land or those who protect it to lift their statuses, then you create a stagnant society where people won't be motivated to continually improve the society.

Can't you realize that!?



DEMOCRACY:

And they should all be able to vote for who will be their King. Or even what rights they should have. The people must be in power!

FASCISM:

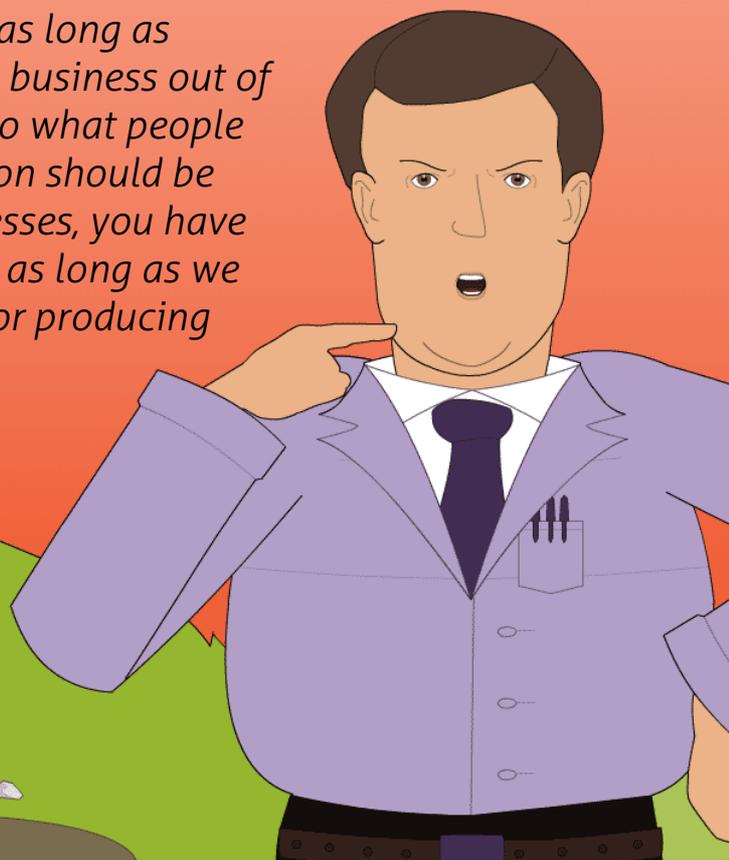
Oh man, you two are so naive. People have no good judgement. No moral capacity. People cannot be in power. Those in power must decide how the society should be run. While I agree with Capitalism to some degree that people should make their own businesses and own parts of Mars, I also agree with the other ones in that the power should stay at the top and the nationality of a group should be kept, even expanded to other tribes through army control.

But I may slightly disagree with Authoritarianism and Totalitarianism as to whom should lead the society. I think it's better to be lead by a group of people, let's call them 'politicians', rather than just one guy (king, dictator, etc.).



CAPITALISM:

Well, to be honest, I agree with all of you, as long as people can own parts of Mars and make a business out of it. I know you all have your own rules as to what people can say, what they can wear, how education should be handled, how they should run their businesses, you have taxes and laws, and so on, but I don't care as long as we let them compete in one way or another for producing and improving goods and services.



FREE-MARKET:

Oh Capitalism, I am only going to agree with you if leaders have nothing to say about how people run their businesses!



SOCIALISM:

Look Free-Market, if you base everything on letting people compete for their education, goods, services, or whatever, you will create a HUGE disparity of classes. Some will become very rich, some so poor that they cannot even afford food. Imagine the exploitation of poor people... I think it's better to provide the basic needs of people in an equal manner, for free, as part of the economy and directed by the leaders. In this way, we do not promote profit over such services, but instead base our production and services on their actual use and need.

So, the money that workers make should be given back to them, mostly, not to others. We need fairness and that can only be achieved if leaders control a good part of how the society is run, and use the gains to provide free services for their people.



COMMUNISM:

While I mostly agree with Socialism, it's rather naive to think that tweaking the ideas of Capitalism will work. We need to get rid of the notion of working for anything. Men should be free, no social classes should ever exist, we need to eliminate the notion of property altogether. No one should lead a man, but himself. Groups of people will eventually know and decide for themselves as to what they have to produce and when, and how to distribute them. We need to eliminate scarcity and produce abundance! I see Socialism as a path to Communism from a Capitalist society.



CAPITALISM:

You guys are starting to look either like Authoritarianism or Utopia.



COMMUNISM:

And you, Capitalism, start to look more and more like Feudalism, where people get to be enslaved by others even for their basic needs, and even if in theory you say all people can uplift their status by allowing them to own parts of Mars and make businesses, this will hardly prove to be true as those who accumulate more will faster accumulate even more, and the poor will have no choice but to work for them.

That's exploitation, and it can never lead to a peaceful society!



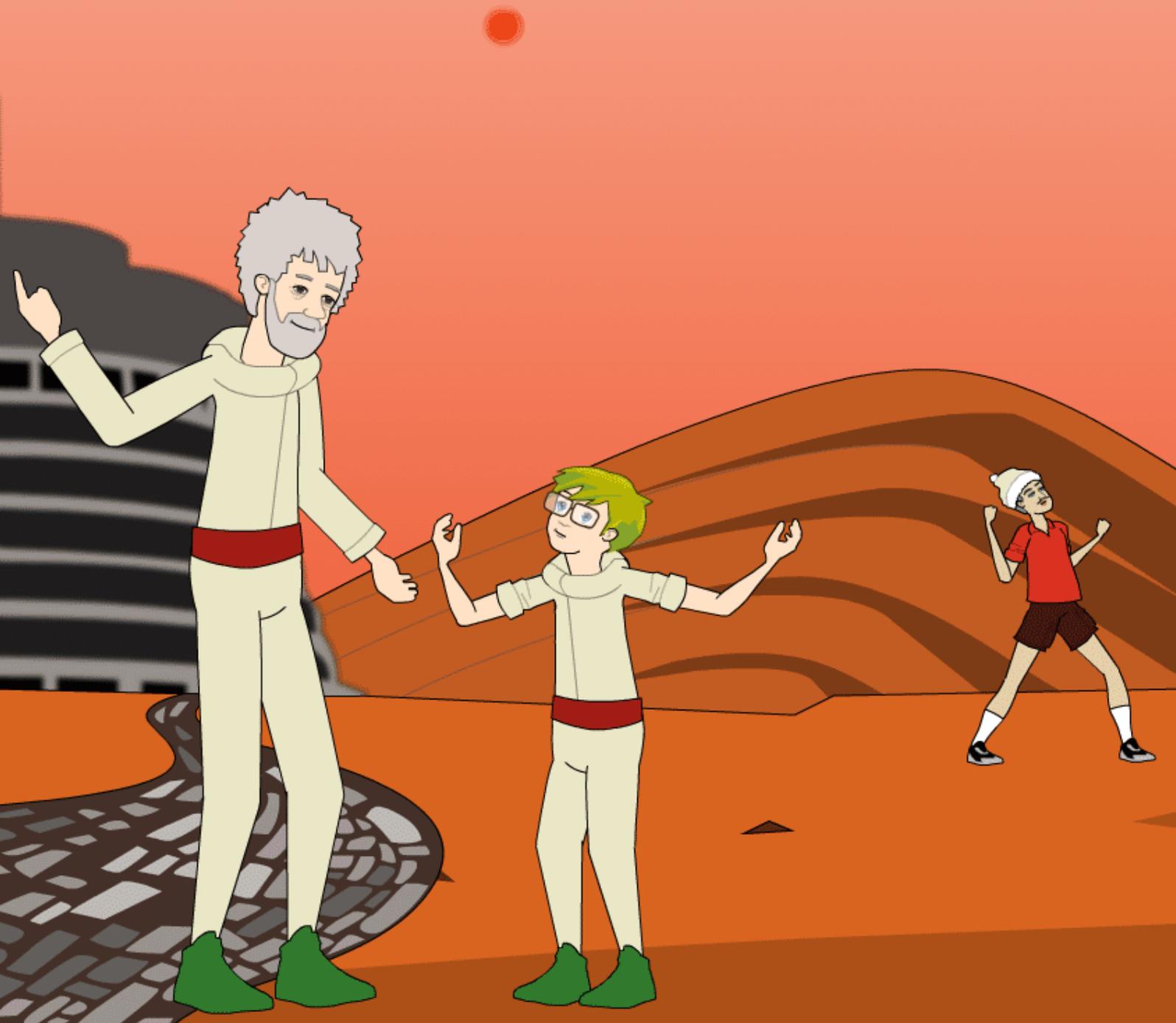
ANARCHISM:

I think we have to keep an eye on all these people. I don't have a plan as to how we can organize you Martians, but I would say you must be skeptical of all of them when it comes about your personal freedoms!



Wait a minute, says one of the little 'Martians'. Where did you guys come up with all of these ideas?

Oh, an old 'Martian' says. Let me explain that to you, kid, because in order to understand the details of their approaches, you first need to understand how they came into existence, and how they were tested and implemented on planet Earth. Let's head inside the virtual history museum.



FEUDALISM

AUTHORITARIANISM

TOTALITARIANISM

IMPERIALISM

COLONIALISM

FASCISM

DEMOCRACY

CAPITALISM

FREE-MARKET

SOCIALISM

COMMUNISM



ON EARTH AND IN PRACTICE

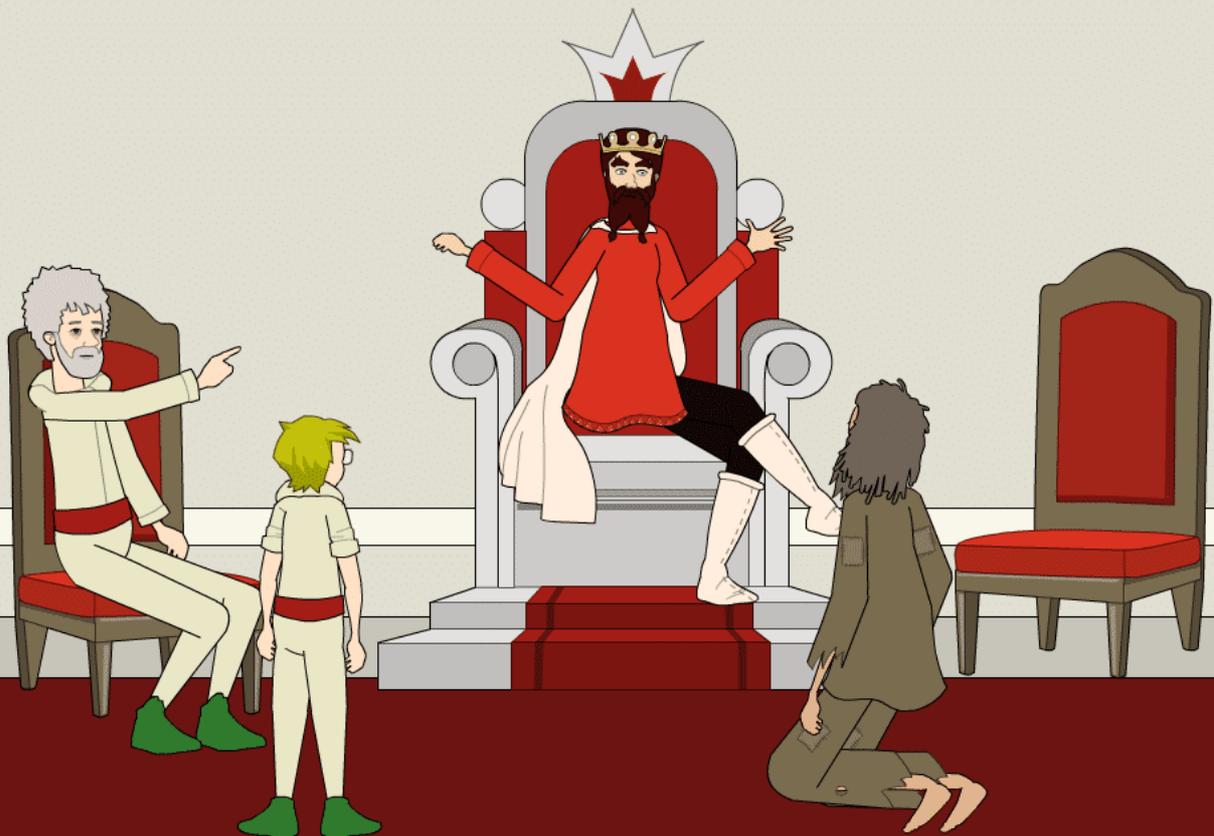
For the entirety of human existence, there have been so many ideas as to how to best organize societies that you could die of exposure while reading about them. Many look almost completely alike, others extremely different, and, once put into practice, most of them seem to be more about their words than meanings. We'll divide them into two categories based upon their 'control mechanisms':

ONE is about people being free to do whatever the heck they want, yet you need to kinda control certain parts of the society.

The SECOND is about guiding people on what to do, and then leave them alone (one way or another) afterward.

Old dude: *The system of Feudalism, where the distribution of goods, services, and privileges is based primarily on a few owning everything while the rest worked like slaves, found itself being replaced some 400 years ago with the idea that people should be able to own stuff, as well as the means of production or the right to sell services, and to make a business out of it. They called it 'Capitalism'.*

We should start from there to see how such ideas evolved on planet Earth, especially what they tried to accomplish, where they succeeded, and where they failed.



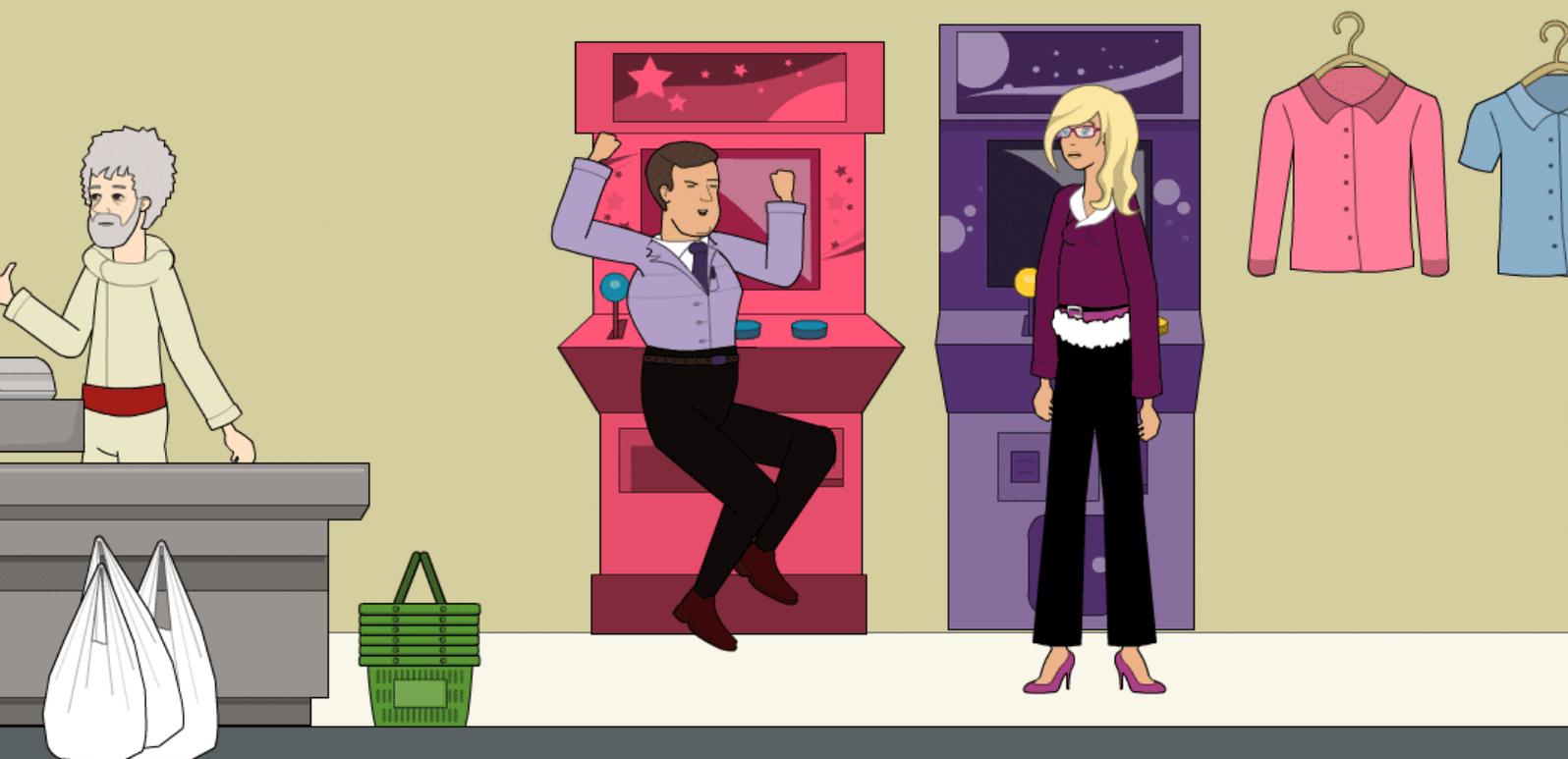
While Capitalism sounded really good as an abolition of the stagnant society of owners and slaves, it didn't end up so well for the people. Indeed, manufacturing exploded in terms of goods and services, with wide variety of colors, shapes, utilities, non-sensical products, etc., which resulted in creating a 'breed' of people who felt compelled to any silly thing that others were able to persuade them to buy. It was thought that this system would empower the worker. However, they quickly realized that the power again shifted towards a few (the owners), while the rest either worked for those few rich people, or suffered the consequences of living with insufficient life support. You see, the core and most basic goal of Capitalism is PROFIT. That's all.

It does not matter if the people are run by a dictator, a moron, or a saint, as long as the society works by allowing people to compete and seek profit under certain circumstances (within the laws). This system is not much better at dividing people into classes than feudalism. But it does something else that is very very important: it blames the worker for his/her unsuccessful life. If you can't make a living, then you are at fault, not the system, thus deflecting people's rage mainly towards themselves, rather than at someone else, like the Kings in Feudalism.



When a culture is focused on profit, people's lives are put at risk as their needs are ignored, the environment is ransacked, and the people's values and lives are changed forever. The capitalism system has had many rules applied to it, but its core idea of people owning and selling their own services within a profit-driven society is still present today in nearly all tribes across planet Earth.

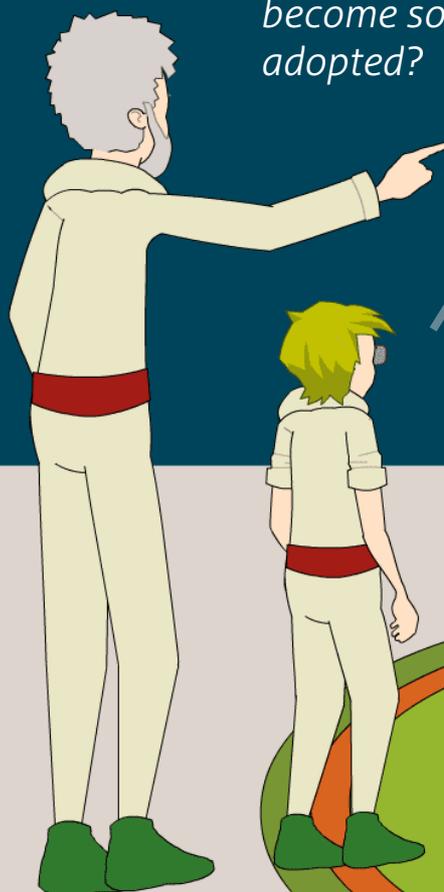
All of this indeed sparked a huge evolution in production and trade, but as it's really important, let me stress again: there is no 'free' in capitalism. Nor does it exist in 'free market', which is a blanket applied to capitalism to emphasize the concept of allowing people to freely compete. Both of them work in tandem with tons of regulatory rules. Even if I am part of the tribe, I'm unable to sell dog meat in many places because it's not allowed, although other types of meat are allowed. In some tribes, I can only sell under certain strict circumstances or conditions. The prices of similar products forces me to modify my own prices. Labeling my product, how I can advertise it, or produce it, and distribute it, is anything but 'free'. It should be written as "free market", with a disclaimer that explains what they really mean by free.*



When I was younger and living on Earth, I once made an internet account for an online streaming Operating System where they said the available bandwidth was "unlimited". So I took 'advantage' of that and consumed about 500gb of bandwidth in 20 days. Then my account locked up, with a message saying "I'm sorry but you exceeded the bandwidth limit." I thought "Oh wow, I somehow exceeded unlimited bandwidth? That's like a new math right there!" I had no idea that the mighty " * " had the purpose of negating the word it was connected to there and meant that their 'unlimited' plan was actually limited. That same thing goes for the concept of "free* market", as well.*

So, keep this in mind: Whenever you hear of profit over human life and the environment, that is a reflection of the power of profit. That's the essence of capitalism and the free market at work. The core idea is so ridiculous that 'encouraging wars' can be viewed as a great business plan, as it reduces unemployment and creates profits for many already wealthy people. A very influential economist once jokingly proposed that for a nation to get out of depression, they should hire people to demolish the nation, and then to build it up again, as it would create jobs and make the market 'run' :). I hope you're getting it now.*

Yeah, I think I get it. But if it's not free and it creates so many issues, why has it become so widely adopted?



Well, the idea of 'allowing' individual humans (under certain circumstances) to make their own businesses became widely adopted for several reasons:



For everyone involved, it replaced a non-progressive and very coercive system: feudalism. So, it looked really good when compared to what they were moving away from.



For the governments, it places the credit and blame on each individual. So if some do not succeed, there is no king they can overthrow to change the system. So it's like an evil that you can't recognize, but you sure can feel its effects.



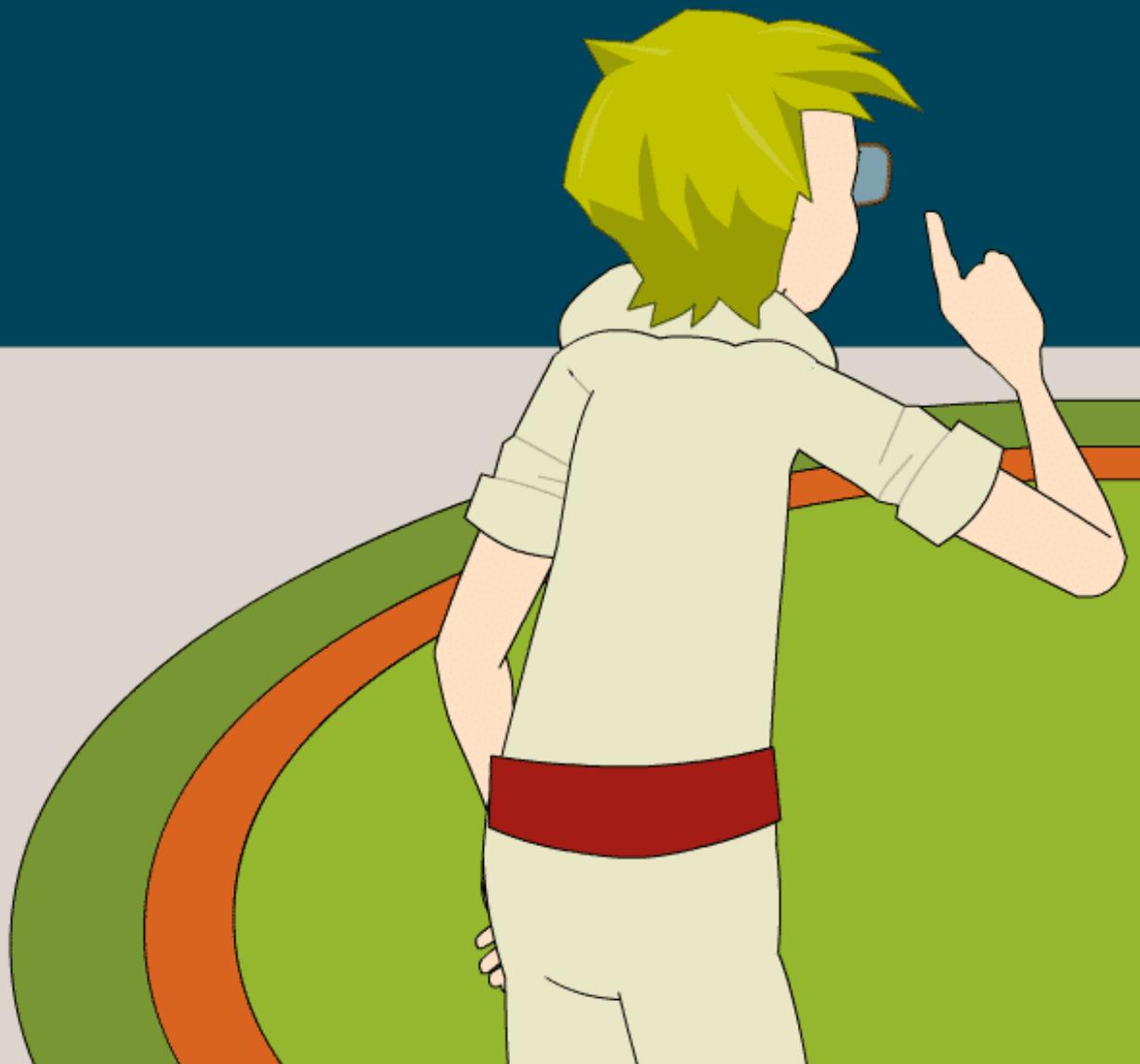
It was quite successful at creating a plethora of technologies, services and goods, as it transformed people into market-addicts, so they didn't need any real plan to organize them. Just let them buy and sell, and then they inserted various rules and regulations into that market for whatever reasons (personal gain, stabilize it, etc.).



That leads to point four: it's a highly flexible 'financial' system that has little to do with any real organization of society, because it only says that people can create their own business - that's all. So, it was readily adopted under so many different kinds of 'regimes', from dictatorships (one tribe member who controls the entire population through his own personal values) to a widely varied mix of 'democracies'.

We'll get back to this 'capitalism' again, kid, but first let me explain its 'enemy' a bit, another kind of system that was designed to control people at first, and then let it loose, as it will work on its own to create an equal society, devoid of the profit motive.

Ok. Just a side note - I forgot to mention that I find Feudalism, Totalitarianism, Imperialism and the like to be completely obsolete and unacceptable.

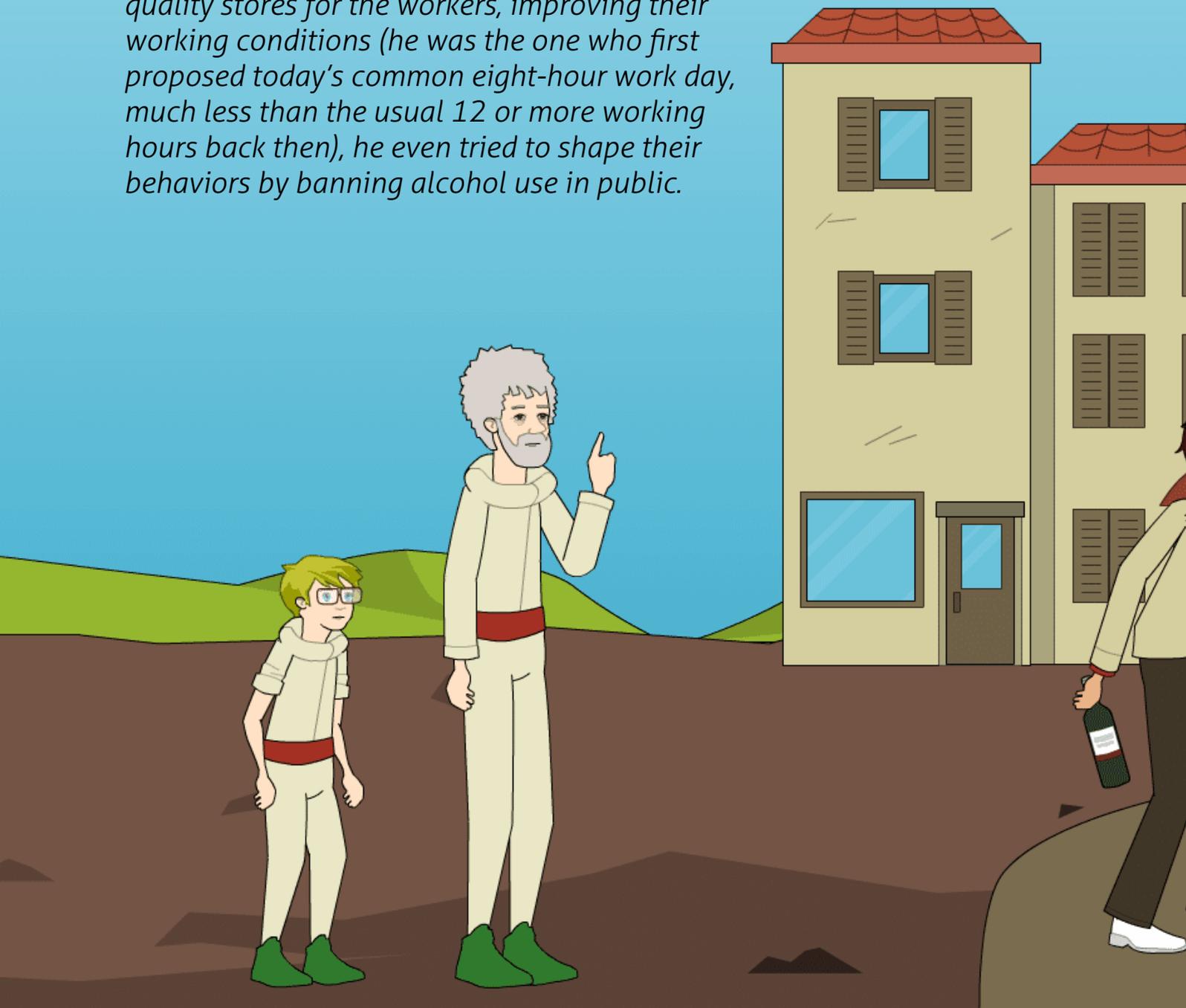


I agree, but let's keep moving. You might appreciate some of the alternatives that some people proposed within this period of time.



The flaws of the profit-driven capitalism approach were more thoughtfully recognized some 200 years ago, when a thoughtful guy named Robert Owen said something like: "Hold on! We can do better than this. We need to respect the workers at all costs!" (that's not an actual quote though). He was also part-owner of some factory mills that about 2,000 people were associated with (some worked there, but their families lived there, too). Many of the workers were in the lowest levels of the overall population; theft, drunkenness, and other vices were common; education and sanitation were neglected; and most families lived in one room.

Owen tried to improve their situation by opening quality stores for the workers, improving their working conditions (he was the one who first proposed today's common eight-hour work day, much less than the usual 12 or more working hours back then), he even tried to shape their behaviors by banning alcohol use in public.



He was one of the first to bring the concept of “child care” into the world. He considered that by treating people well and creating a healthier environment for them, we can allow people to flourish and, in turn, create a better society. He also insisted that people are a result of their environment, so they cannot be blamed for their actions, or in general, for their lifestyle, though he also held some odd notions about Human Nature and the influence of God on behavior that were anything but scientific.

Of course, his thoughts on human behavior being the result of the environment were not completely original, as such ideas date much farther back, but he was one of the first, if not the first, to put them to significant testing.

Kid: *How did he test them? I am so curious!*



Well, the new care programs he developed eventually cost way too much for him to sustain, and he was forced to sell his part of the business. But he kept his views of how we should organize society. His contribution to that business was a model back then and remained a success even after selling it. But he went further. He now had some money from selling his part of the business and was about to experiment this new bunch of ideas that he had. He proposed that communities of about 1,200 people should be settled on land from 1,000 to 1,500 acres (4 to 6 km²), all living in one large square building, with a public kitchen and mess-halls. Each family should have their own private apartment along with handling the entire care of their children until they reach age three, after which they should be brought up by the community. Their parents would have access to them at meals, however, and at all other proper times.

These communities might be established by individuals, by parishes, by counties, or by the state, and in every case, there should be effective supervision by duly qualified persons. Work, and the enjoyment of its results, should be experienced communally. He thought of these communities based on his experience with the mills and the workers.

So he wanted for children to not grow alongside their parents? I don't think I like that, I love my parents.



Well that's something others felt as well and it's a good point as you will see later on. In 1825, he built two such projects, both of which failed. In the words of his son, it was because of the choice of occupants: "a heterogeneous collection of radicals, enthusiastic devotees to principle, honest latitudinarians, and lazy theorists, with a sprinkling of unprincipled sharpers thrown in." The people didn't have any control, no one owned anything, many indeed took a scientific endeavor of studying nature and released some science-based books, some focused on educating children, and so on. But it did not work because there was no science in his approach; just mainly his personal views as to how to organize such a community. One of the participants also said that they had many people with different ideas within a miniature-world. That same guy later 'invented' 'anarchism'. Well, he at least promoted and enforced the notion, as the concept of 'anarchy' is yet another old notion, one that basically opposes a 'state-managed' society, meaning tribes with leaders. Anarchy wants all tribe people to be 'free' and not coerced or controlled in any way.

Kid: What does that mean?

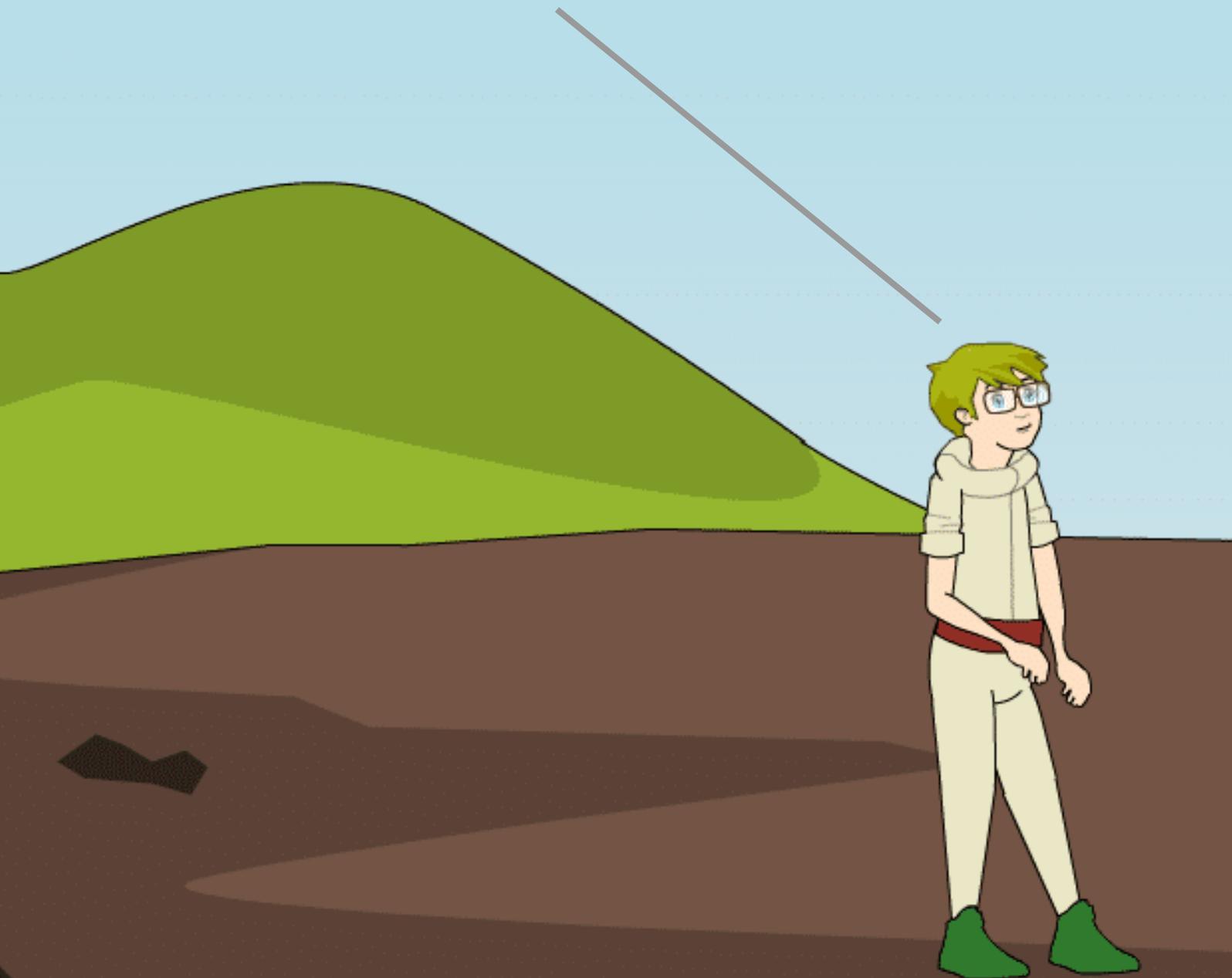
Old dude: Well, no one knows really...



1833

However, the ideas of Owen were coined as 'socialism', a system of no ownership, and one of care for our fellow man. But again, they weren't really new ideas, as many religions and ancient tribes had similar ideas of making an equal society for all humans, but he was the one to test them, though mostly as a personal and non-scientific test, on a small scale and for a brief period of time. His work significantly inspired others in one way or another. You want to hear about them?

Of course. I am curious if they succeeded to build such a world that would care for everyone, although I am still not happy about their ideas of family.

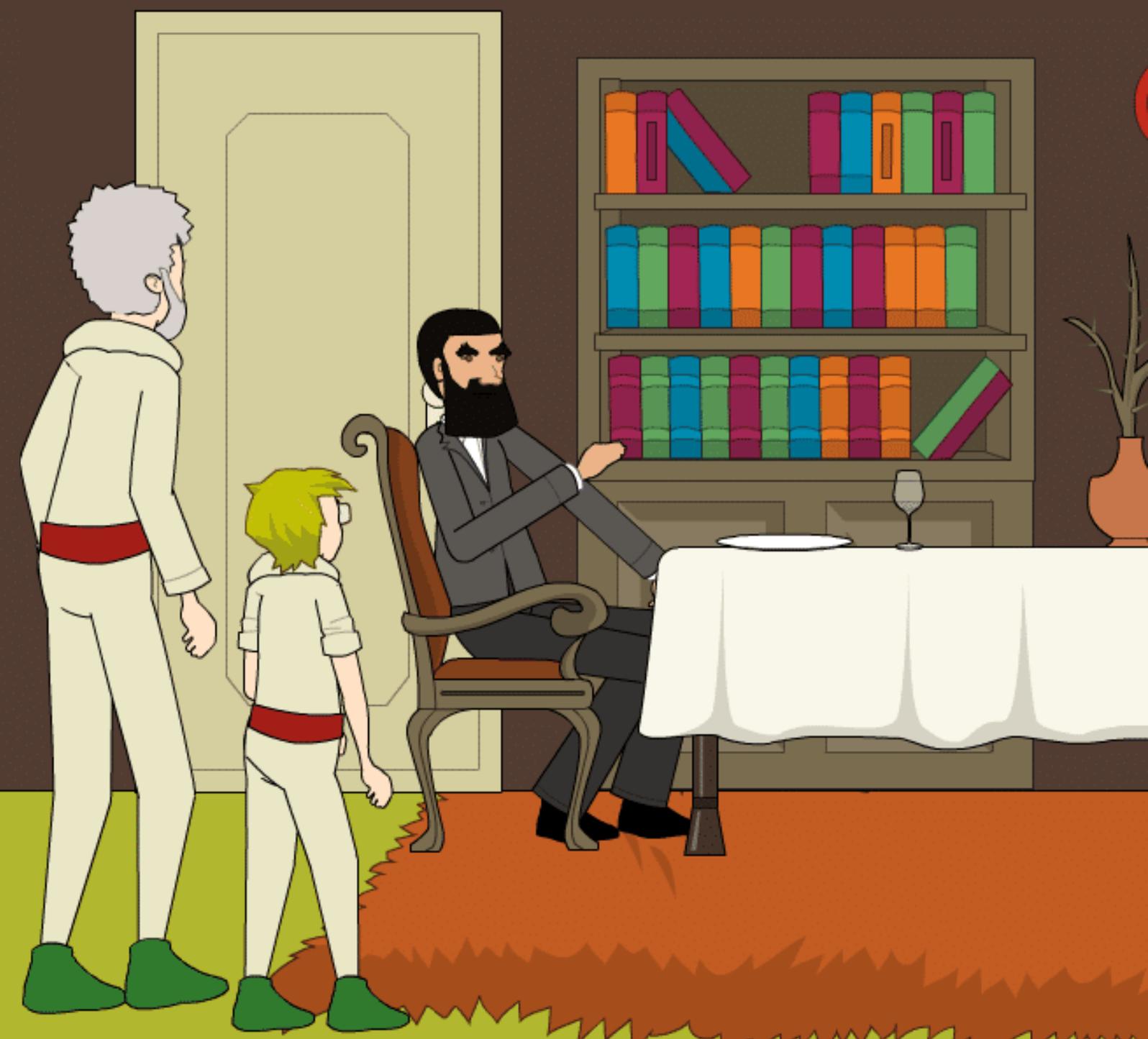


Ok, I'll tell you about these people and later on you will see why your concerns about some of their ideas are so important.



One of the people who was influenced in a way or another by Owen was named Engels, a dude who really liked to read and write. He was also concerned about the working conditions of the workers in his tribe, and published a lot about that situation. He later befriended a guy named Marx, another 'rebel' of the 19th century whom he met in England and, together, they took the 'socialist' idea and made it more sound, focusing primarily on pointing out, in detail, the innate failures of capitalism, and they became known worldwide for their critique.

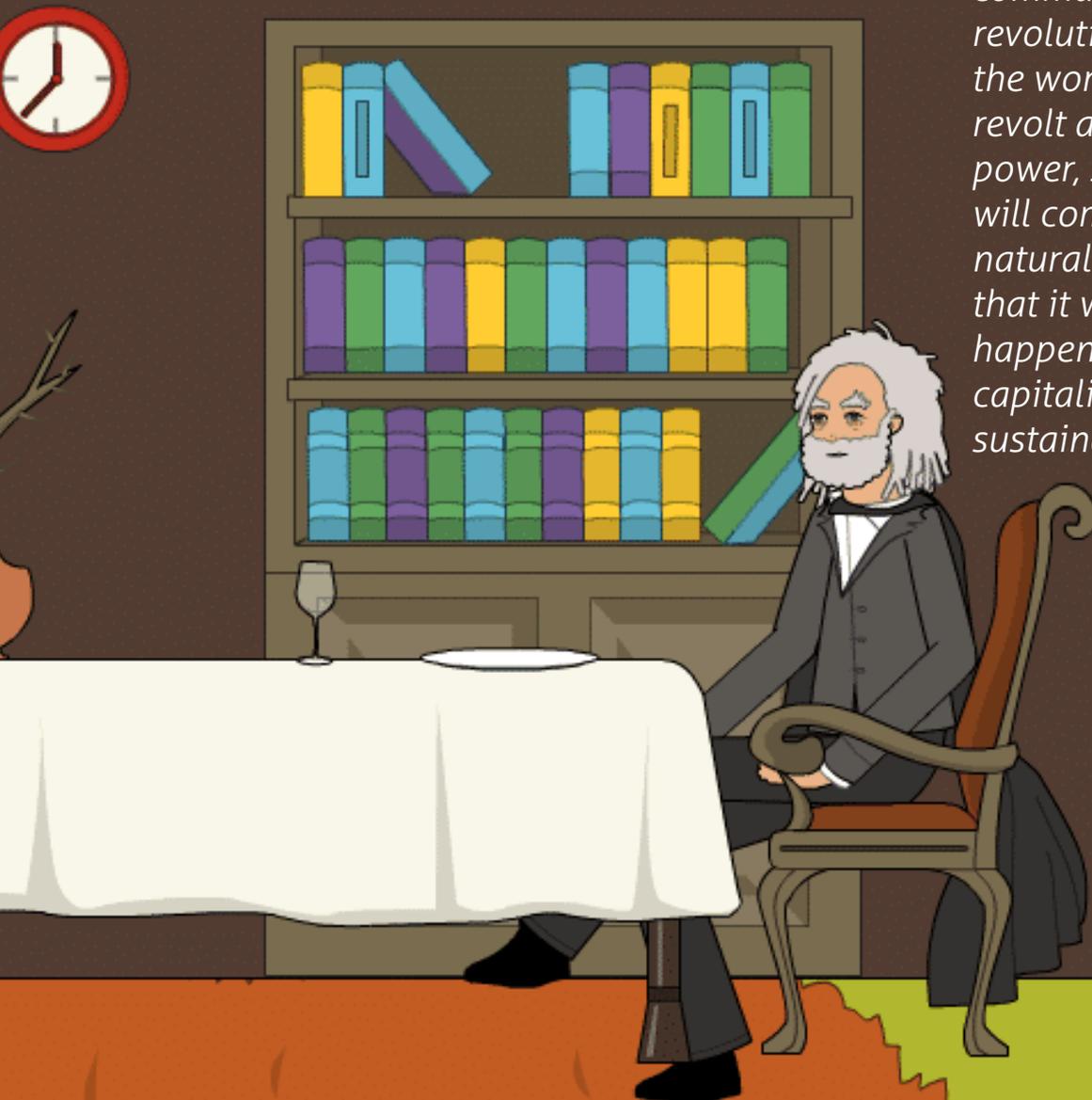
Marx detailed more about the needs of a different kind of society completely different from capitalism, realizing that you can only create a stable society through abundance (scarcity must be eliminated, otherwise such a society will not work), and that machinery should replace man's labor so that humans can spend their time doing what they love doing.



Marx thought that it was naive of Owen to try to build a society based on no ownership, no leader, and so on, because in his view, such a society can only be arrived at, not intentionally forced. It could begin with capitalism, which he saw as very productive, but extremely unfair. Then, once humans achieve a high level of production through this exploitation of people and the environment, the workers must revolt for their rights, as such a revolution would be the only thing that could bring about such a society.

Marx thought that after the revolution, people will self-organize, where all of the means of production, distribution, and whatever else people want, will be a result of how they organize and vice-versa. Marx and Engels called this revolution from capitalism-through-socialism 'communism', basically a more radical idea of socialism based upon the need for a revolution.

The main idea behind communism was this revolution, the fact that the workers will eventually revolt against the ones in power, stating that this will come about as a natural part of history, and that it will definitely happen because capitalism is not a sustainable system.



1848

Kid: *Very interesting indeed and looks quite fair! But after they revolt, what would they create? I still cannot understand how they would 'self-organize'. Am I missing something?*

Well, they didn't really say much at all about that part. They just said that people can self-organize somehow, that machines will do most of the work while people will have the leisure to spend their time as they wish. To quote them, "In communist society, where nobody has one exclusive sphere of activity but each can become accomplished in any branch he wishes, society regulates the general production and thus makes it possible for me to do one thing today and another tomorrow, to hunt in the morning, fish in the afternoon, rear cattle in the evening, criticise after dinner, just as I have a mind, without ever becoming hunter, fisherman, herdsman or critic."



Oh, I love that quote!



They envisioned a world of abundance; of no nations, no leaders, no religions. They thought that children must be well-educated and the needs of all people met before 'communism' will be in place. Something like: workers revolt - they get in power and they care for their fellow workers - they organize somehow to provide the basic needs for all citizens (through taxation, elimination of private property, offering employment, etc.) - and they will provide free education for all children. They projected that all of that will abolish competition and lay out a path towards a true 'communist' society.

They planned to concentrate the power to the state as a first transition, to even demolish all 'jewelry' buildings and create the means for people to work; abolish all banks and let the tribe control the money. Plus, let the tribe control the main utilities such as transportation, means of production, etc.(source). They also thought that for such a society to emerge, the 'revolution' must happen in many tribes at once, not just one of them, because tribes are dependent on each other in terms of trade. They even called it 'scientific-socialism', as they said you need to apply the scientific method in order to organize any society: you have to look back at and learn from history, and then try and test your ideas.



Kid: *All sounds great to me, I wonder even more if they succeeded.*

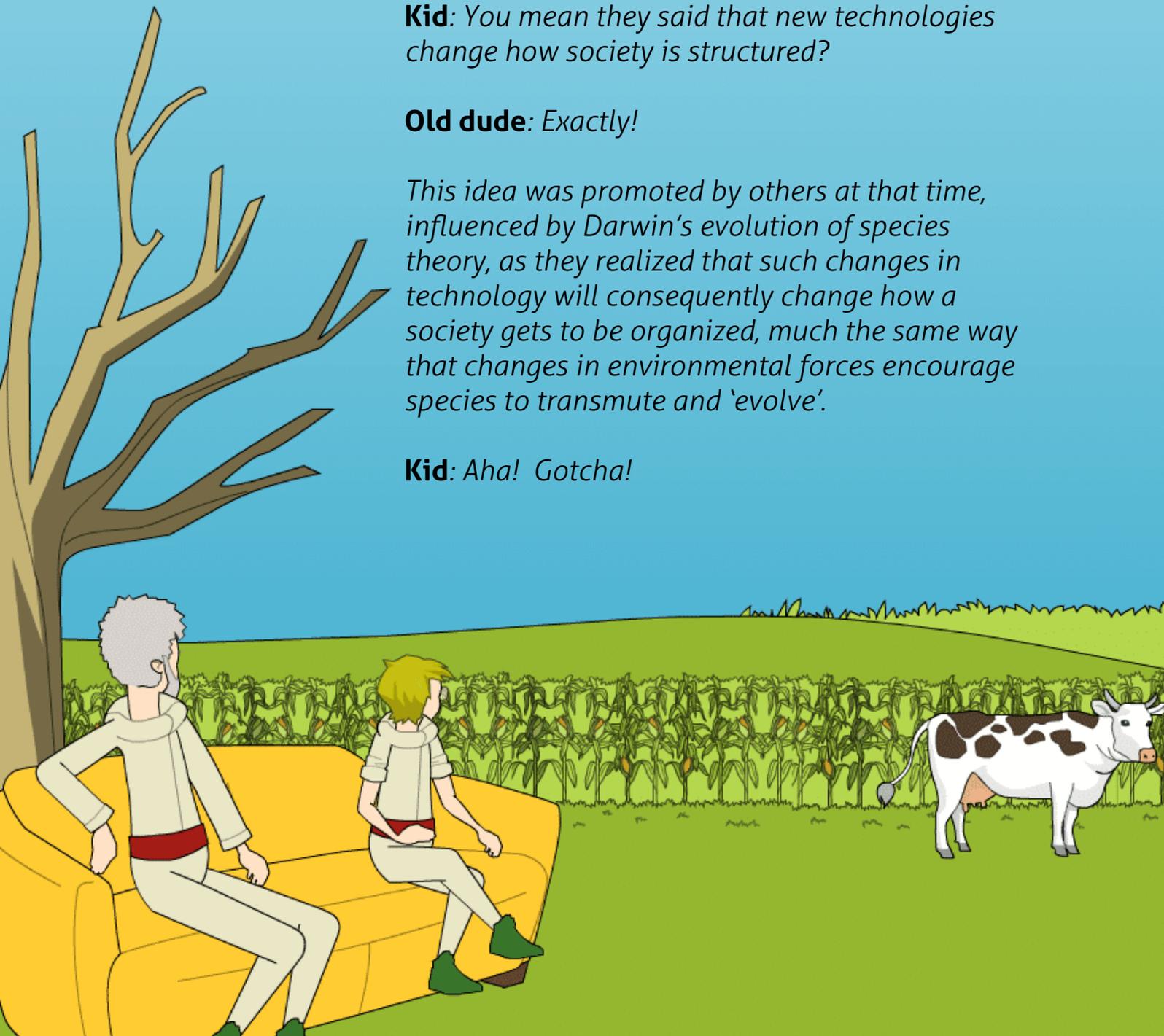
Old dude: *Let me stress this though: they concluded that such a society could not be planned into existence, but would instead emerge out of economic evolution. An example of this was the advent of agriculture, which enabled human communities to produce a surplus of food; this change in material and economic development led to many changes in social relations, and rendered the traditional form of social organization obsolete, as it was based on subsistence-living and had become a severe hindrance to further material progress. In other words, changes in economic conditions necessitated a change in social organization. Hard to get?*

Kid: *You mean they said that new technologies change how society is structured?*

Old dude: *Exactly!*

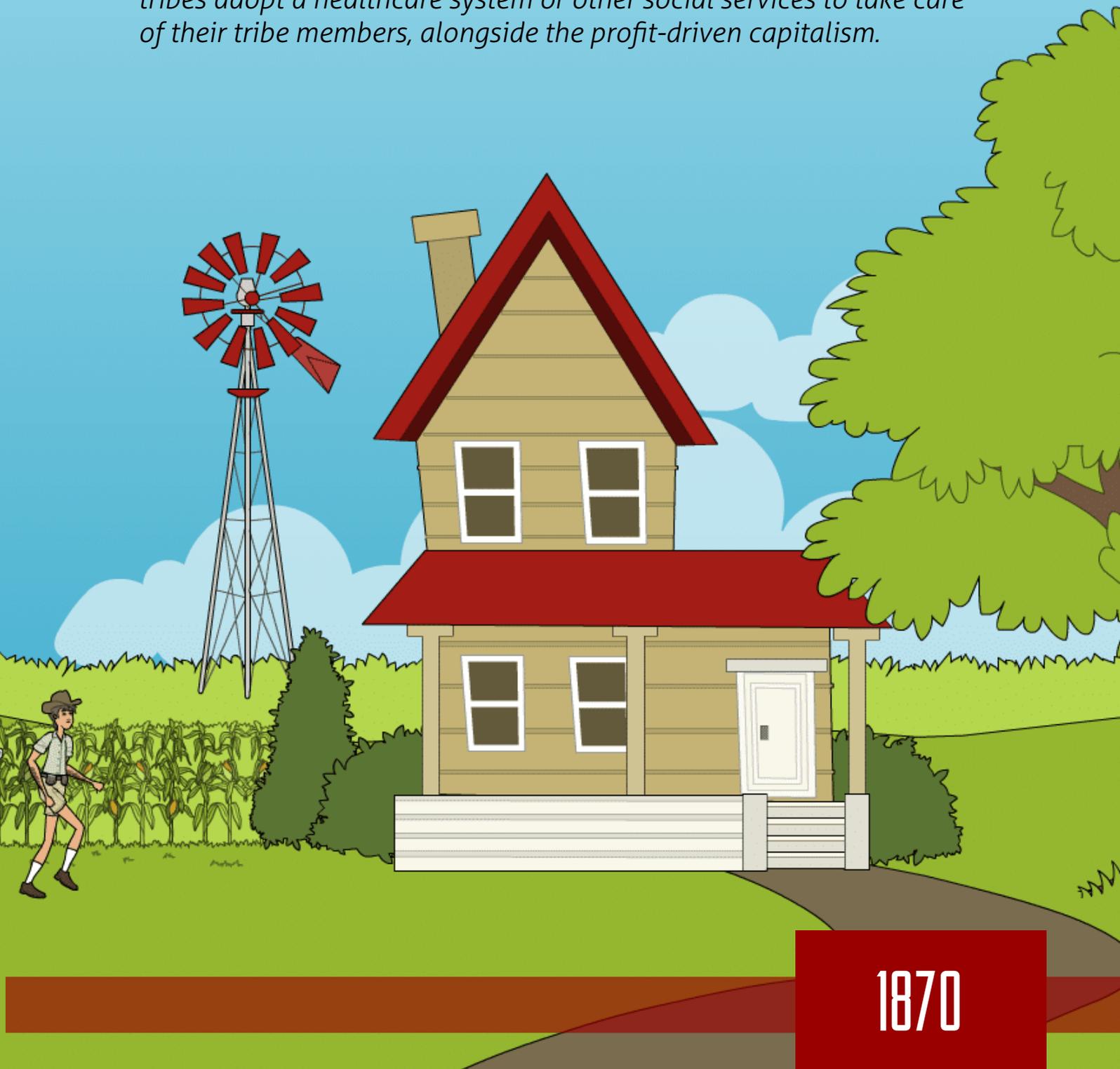
This idea was promoted by others at that time, influenced by Darwin's evolution of species theory, as they realized that such changes in technology will consequently change how a society gets to be organized, much the same way that changes in environmental forces encourage species to transmute and 'evolve'.

Kid: *Aha! Gotcha!*



Old dude: *But a different interpretation of Owen's work took place in the US tribe, where some of the workers thought that it would be beneficial to implement 'some' aspects of socialism (this way of caring about people) within a capitalist system by gathering workers together and going on 'strikes' in order to force those in charge to change laws on behalf of workers (better working conditions, better salaries, etc.). So rather than overthrow the current system, alter it over time as need arises.*

This worked to a certain degree and it was less violent and less 'radical'. We are still seeing this approach on Earth today, when tribes adopt a healthcare system or other social services to take care of their tribe members, alongside the profit-driven capitalism.

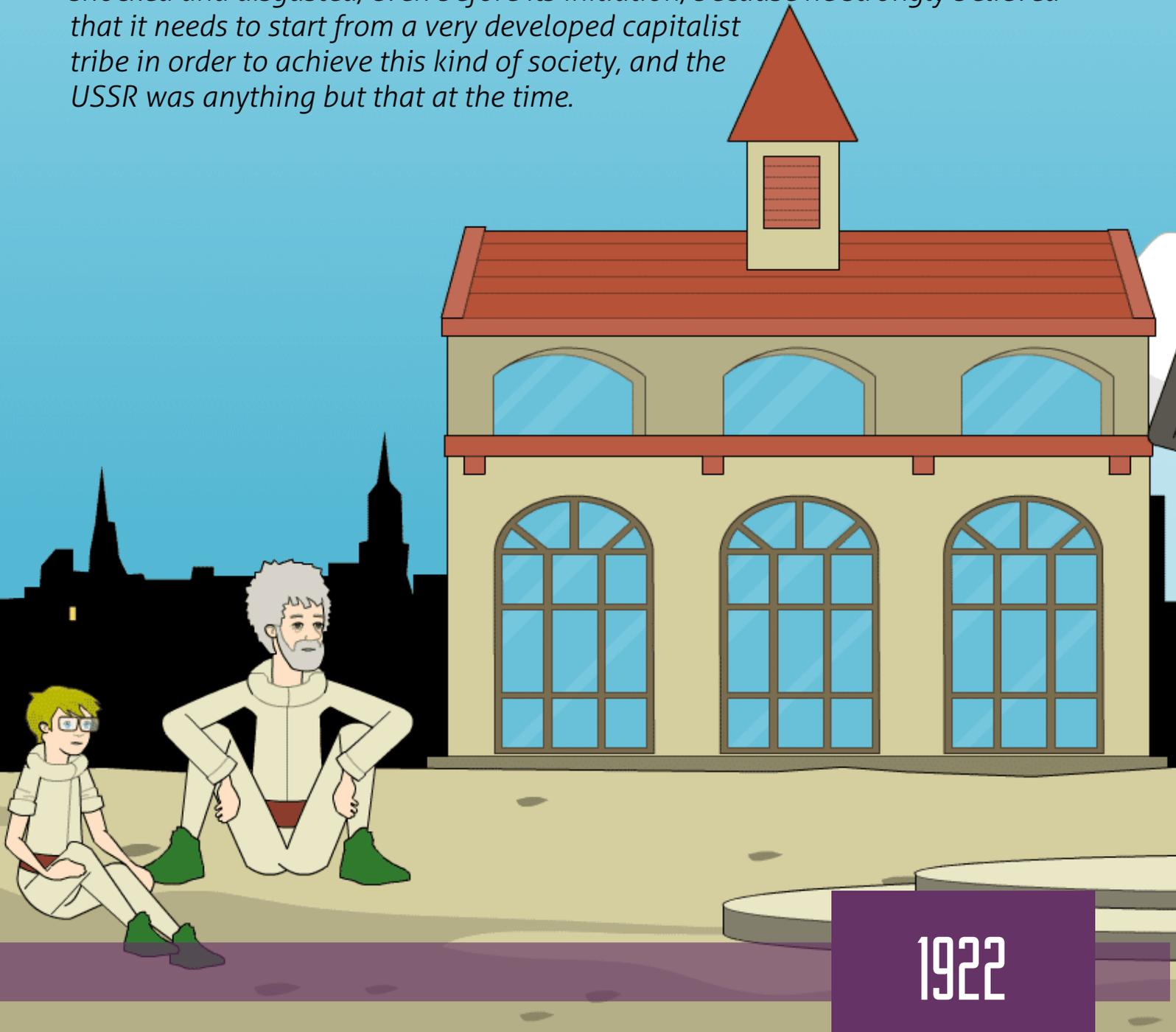


1870

Old dude: Marx's idea didn't go unnoticed, though. At the end of the nineteenth century, a guy named Lenin thought that Marx was right and that his radical approach was the solution, rather than trying to merge some of Marx's ideas with a 'capitalist' approach. But he disagreed with communism that the workers would revolt (as Marx and Engels said), so he and a few others decided that they must revolt and bring about the change. He managed to get elected as the leader of the Russian tribe, or USSR as it was called back then, but he also brought his own collection of values with him, and killed many millions of people who opposed the kind of system he was trying to establish. The working conditions for most people were awful, with very little food, and the overall result was a dictatorship.

Kid: Oh man, that sounds nothing like communism, right?

Old dude: Exactly, again! If he had been alive at the time, Marx would have been shocked and disgusted, even before its initiation, because he strongly believed that it needs to start from a very developed capitalist tribe in order to achieve this kind of society, and the USSR was anything but that at the time.

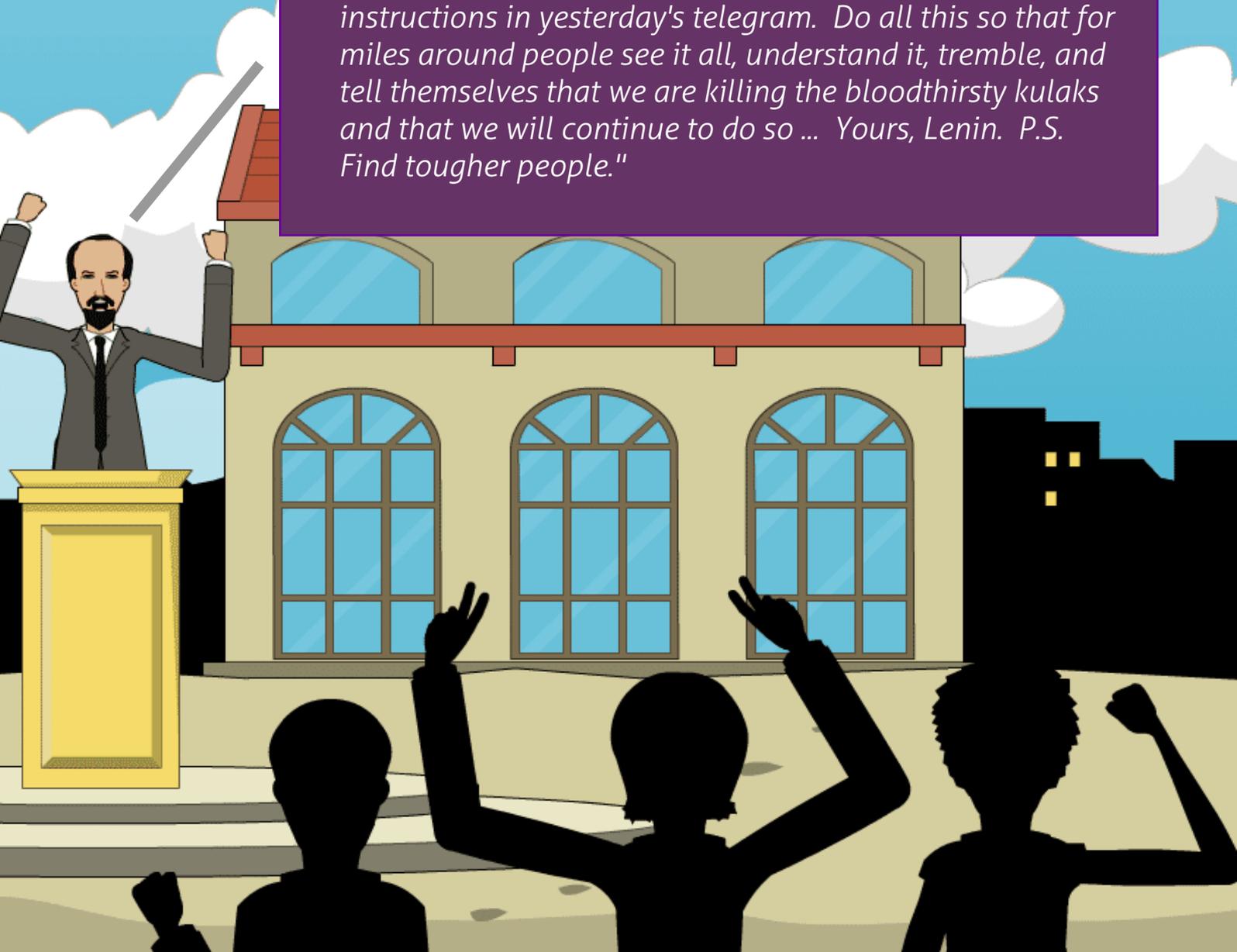


1922

Old dude: Lenin's intentions seemed to be 'honest'; to help the poor, and get rid of 'capitalism' (a never ending thirst for profit and power at the expense of people and the environment) as you can see in the official declaration of what he stood for: "We want to achieve a new and better order of society: in this new and better society there must be neither rich nor poor; all will have to work. Not a handful of rich people, but all the working people must enjoy the fruits of their common labour. Machines and other improvements must serve to ease the work of all and not to enable a few to grow rich at the expense of millions and tens of millions of people."

But he also said (and note that 'kulak' means 'rich people'):

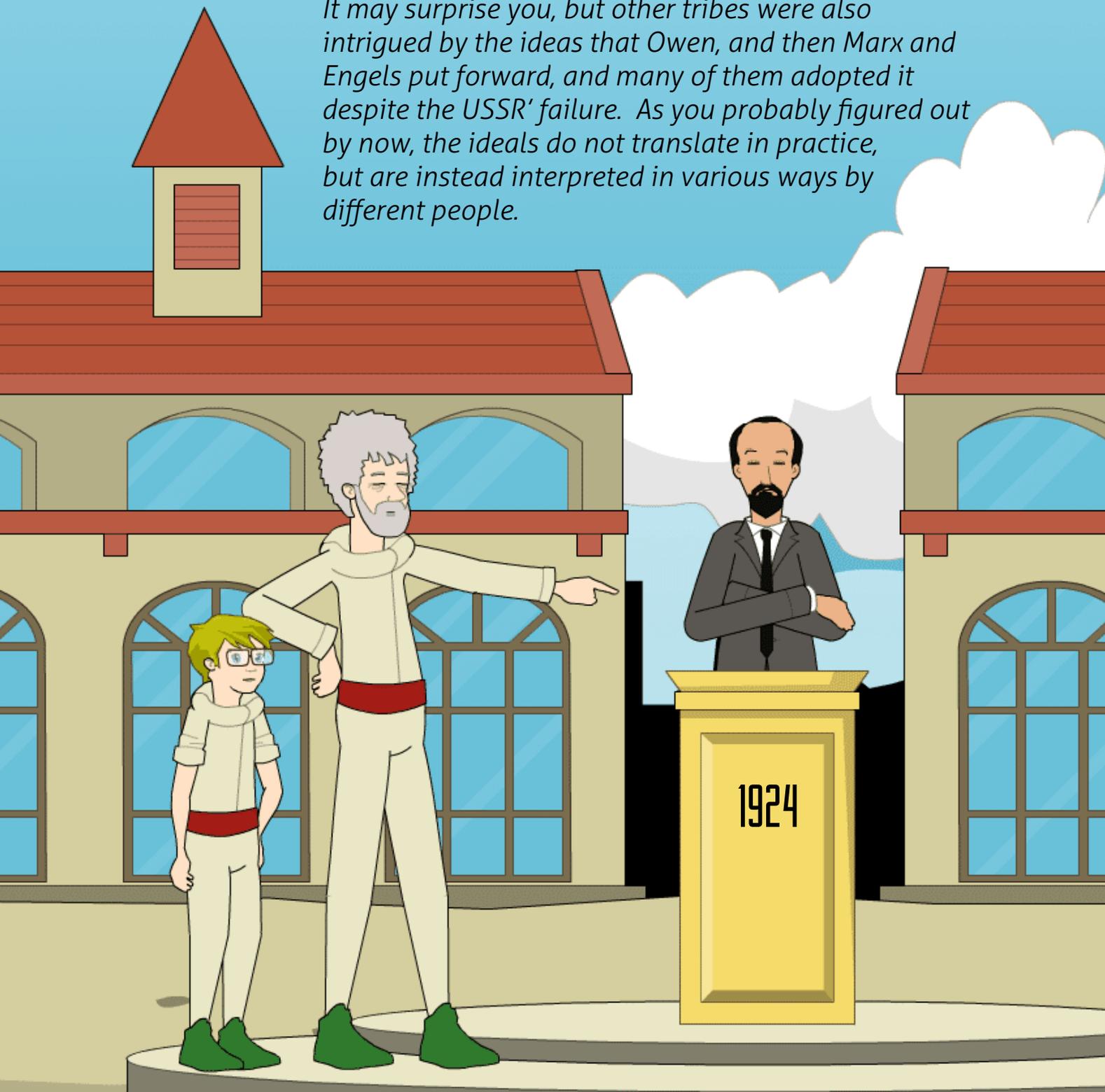
"Comrades! The kulak uprising in your five districts must be crushed without pity ... You must make example of these people. (1) Hang (I mean hang publicly, so that people see it) at least 100 kulaks, rich bastards, and known bloodsuckers. (2) Publish their names. (3) Seize all their grain. (4) Single out the hostages per my instructions in yesterday's telegram. Do all this so that for miles around people see it all, understand it, tremble, and tell themselves that we are killing the bloodthirsty kulaks and that we will continue to do so ... Yours, Lenin. P.S. Find tougher people."



Kid: *But this is like saying you want to help to make a better and more fair society, while killing those who oppose your plan, and in such brutal ways? How is that fair? How can that lead to a peaceful community?*

Old dude: *What Lenin seems to have wanted was to eliminate the rich and social classes, provide for the workers with secure means of working opportunities, and to also eliminate competition between people and industries by making all production and delivery systems owned by the tribe. The USSR was a huge failure though. It was a combination of primitive (non-scientific) ideas forced upon a mass of people, using not-so-advanced technology, which ending up as an overall dictatorship and something completely opposite of a progressive society.*

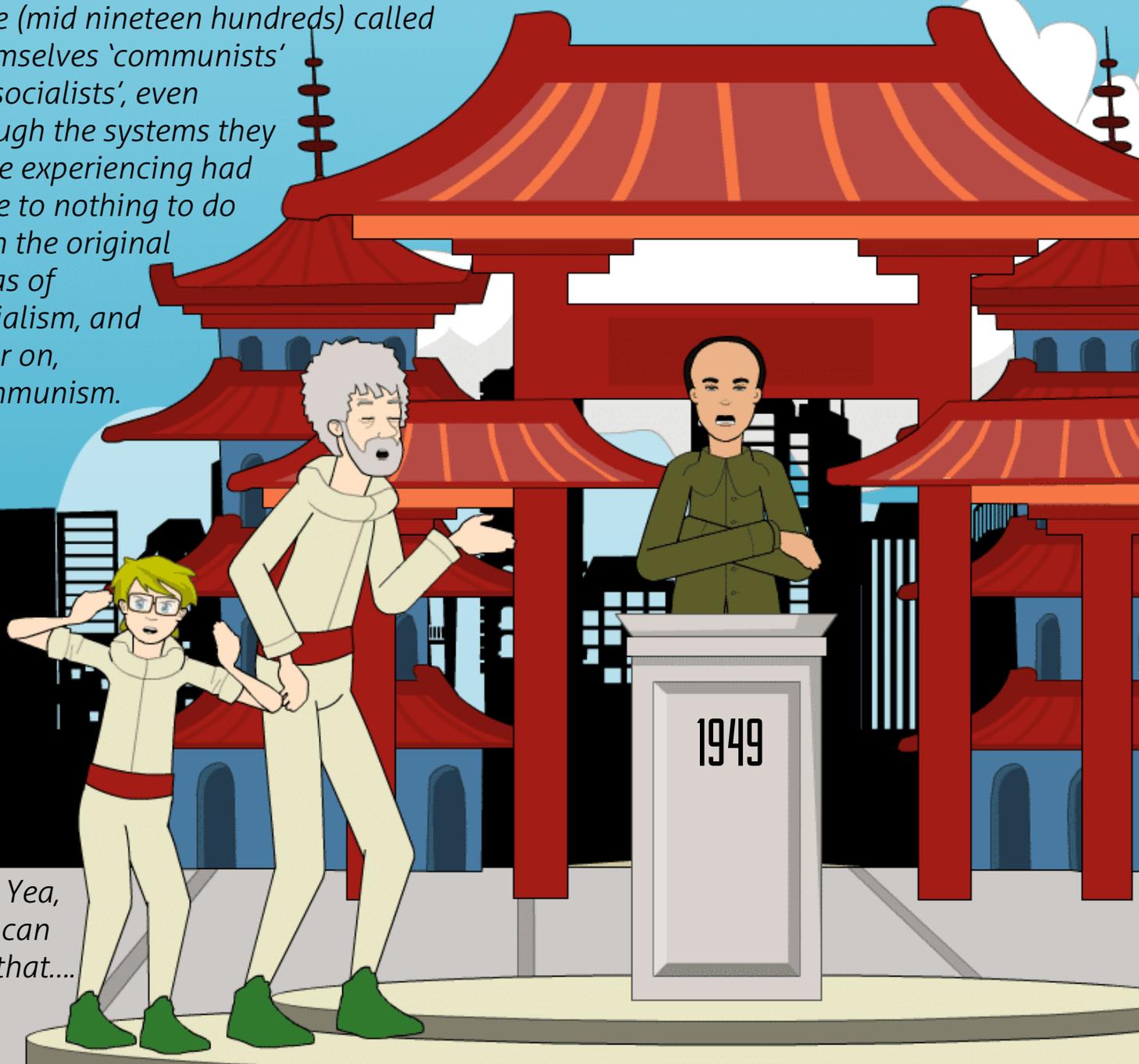
It may surprise you, but other tribes were also intrigued by the ideas that Owen, and then Marx and Engels put forward, and many of them adopted it despite the USSR' failure. As you probably figured out by now, the ideals do not translate in practice, but are instead interpreted in various ways by different people.



Old dude: For instance, the same model arose in the China tribe, where the tribe controlled the means of production and distribution for the betterment of people. But since this tribe was also run by leaders, it emerged within the tribal chief's values and they ended up with another kind of dictatorship where what people were allowed to be taught, what to wear, what to eat, and even what they could speak were closely controlled. It became a huge mass of people who were forced to work for the tribe and respect its rules, or else face serious consequences. Again, the decisions made were nothing like what Marx had envisioned (by the people). Instead, they were made by the few in power, and were so poorly designed that at one point, the chiefs asked people to create steel factories in their backyards to help speed up the production of steel, which resulted in a huge amount of poorly made steel that could not be used, thus wasting a huge amount of resources and energy. At another point, a huge amount of rice crops were planted too close together, resulting in the waste of the crops that were unable to grow properly, producing famine.

But the model still continued and around 60% of the world's population at that time (mid nineteen hundreds) called themselves 'communists' or 'socialists', even though the systems they were experiencing had little to nothing to do with the original ideas of socialism, and later on, communism.

Kid: Yea, you can tell that....



Old dude: *By the mid nineteenth hundreds, these ideals had been merged so much with other ideas that 'socialism' was now a political party that you could elect. As an example, in the Tanzanian tribe, someone with good intentions was elected to bring about 'socialism', the system for the people. He was a teacher and he tried to bring social care and education into the tribe. At first it was ok, as people did get some health care, education, and food. But since he started with a very poor tribe and people had to work to bring these services to all, it turned into a complete failure; never able to bring about the abundance that Marx had envisioned.*

Quickly enough, Tanzania found itself caught up in another fire: globalization (debts to other tribes, imports and exports, etc.). Influenced by external forces and values, the teacher transformed into a dictator, controlling many aspects of the tribe: media, production deals with other countries, proclaiming his own party as the only that can exist in Tanzania (no other choices to elect another party), forcing people to move from their villages to other places, and so on. So, it became yet another failure.



Kid: *I would never have imagined that such good ideas like caring for our fellow human beings by creating an equal society devoid of classes and profits could be transformed into such horrifying scenarios. But as I understand now, it's because they weren't prepared: they started with primitive and unscientific notions for organizing their people. How many people died because of this?*

Old dude: *Hundreds of millions, and many more ended up living a sad and brief life.*



Old dude: *But there is a positive approach that was taken toward the communist idea. Not long after Marx and Engels had died, a different kind of attempt for such a society emerged. Numerous Kibbutz formed, small productive groups of people organized themselves in Palestine (Israel today) based on Marx's ideologies. They had no concept of employee or employer, no ownership, no individual leaders, and little use for money. They farmed for food, took collective care of the children, and even shared their clothes.*

They also tried to build a way to shape human behavior into the society. For instance, they raised children alongside other children and not their parents, so that children grow up to become more independent, although parents could spend 3-4 hours daily with the kids, which is more than what happens in most tribes on planet Earth today.



Old dude: *Small things such as using benches instead of individual chairs for the communal place where they gather (to eat, dance, etc.) helped to make people socialize more. Kitchens were communal (not in each home) for the same purposes. Some of them didn't allow television, so their members would not be influenced by the external consumption-based-world. Work was quite a must, though. They also tried to provide equal opportunities for women, so that men and women would have more equal statuses in their community.*

Kid: *The rule about how to raise your kids again I see :). Don't get me wrong, is not that rule that bugs me, but the fact that they would have any rules as to how you can raise your family. I think I understand it better now, that they wanted to build another kind of human through the infrastructure, a different kind of behavior. Did people accepted these rules though?*



Old dude: Well, these communities still exist on Earth, with around 270 groups consisting of over 100,000 members as of 2010, taking up around 9% of the entire population of what is now known as Israel. They produce most of what they need, but are still reliant on the external world for land, some funding, and other 'relationships'. They mixed in with the rest of the world a bit so, while many of these communities still rely on the principles of community and volunteer work, many have members with external jobs, and some communities pay their members or invite people from outside of the group (non-members) to help with the work and pay them.

Although major decisions about the future of the kibbutz were made by consensus or by voting, day-to-day decisions about where people would work are often made by elected leaders. All of these changes create some values/status issues/distorsions that put some of their members off.



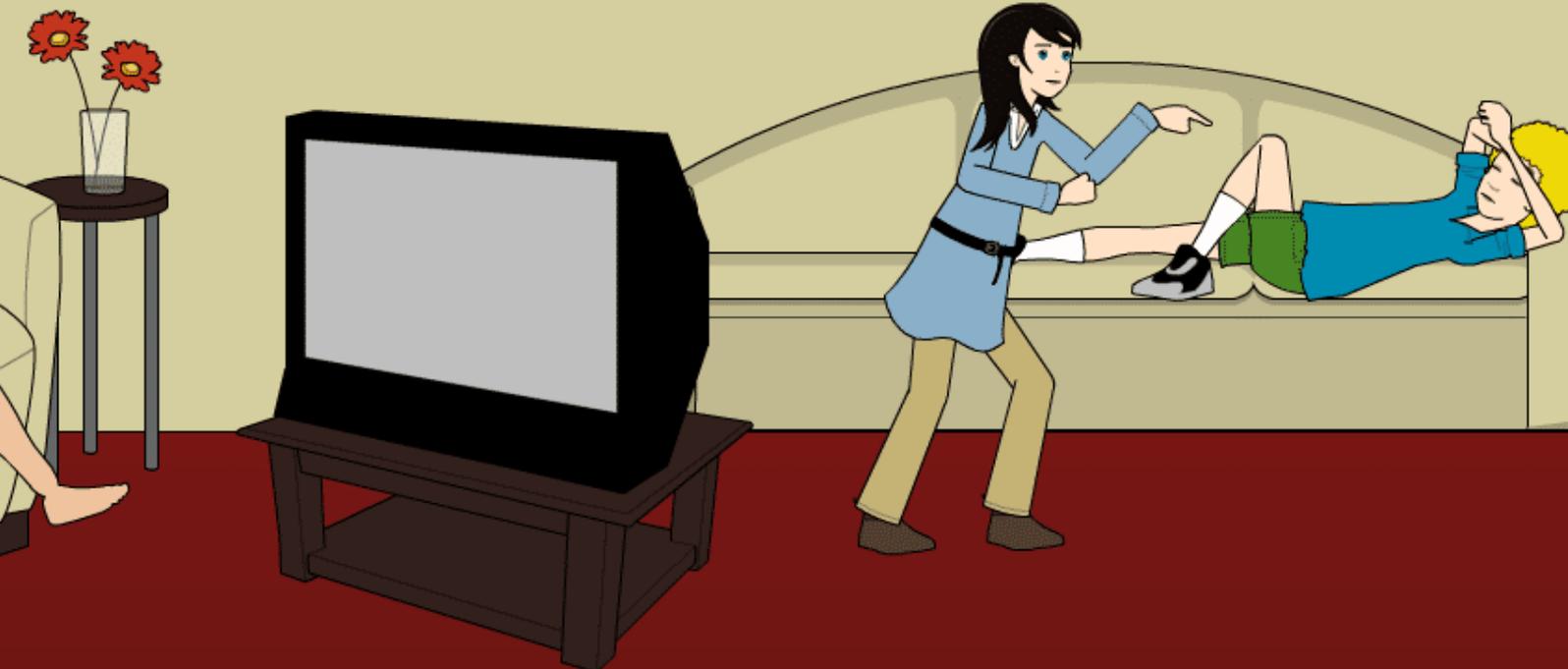
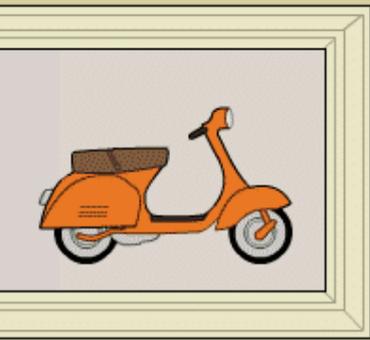
But overall, the crime rate is significantly lower than the national average and a surprisingly large number of kibbutzniks have become teachers, lawyers, doctors, and political leaders.



Many felt like you about some of the rules they put in place. A good number of them started rejecting basic ideas such as no television allowed, no property allowed, or the fact that you have to raise your children in a separate children's home, and that lead to even more dilution of their initial ideals. Some said they were not motivated to work better because they had access to the same things as some who didn't work much, while others said that they developed a sense of 'fellowship' and care for the others.

Kid: Ah, I see. So in the end, it seems like it's not a good idea to dictate to people as to how they should live their lives, like how to raise their children. This seems like a great attempt though. But did it change much of planet Earth's societies, I mean in people's views?

Old dude: Personally I would say that it hasn't even made a dent. They are so few people involved in that, compared to the rest of the world. Also, many of their core values, which should have reflected communism, are too blended and mixed with other values of the capitalist world.





COMMUNISM

*Do you understand
now why the
alternative to the
capitalist world
didn't work?*



CAPITALISM

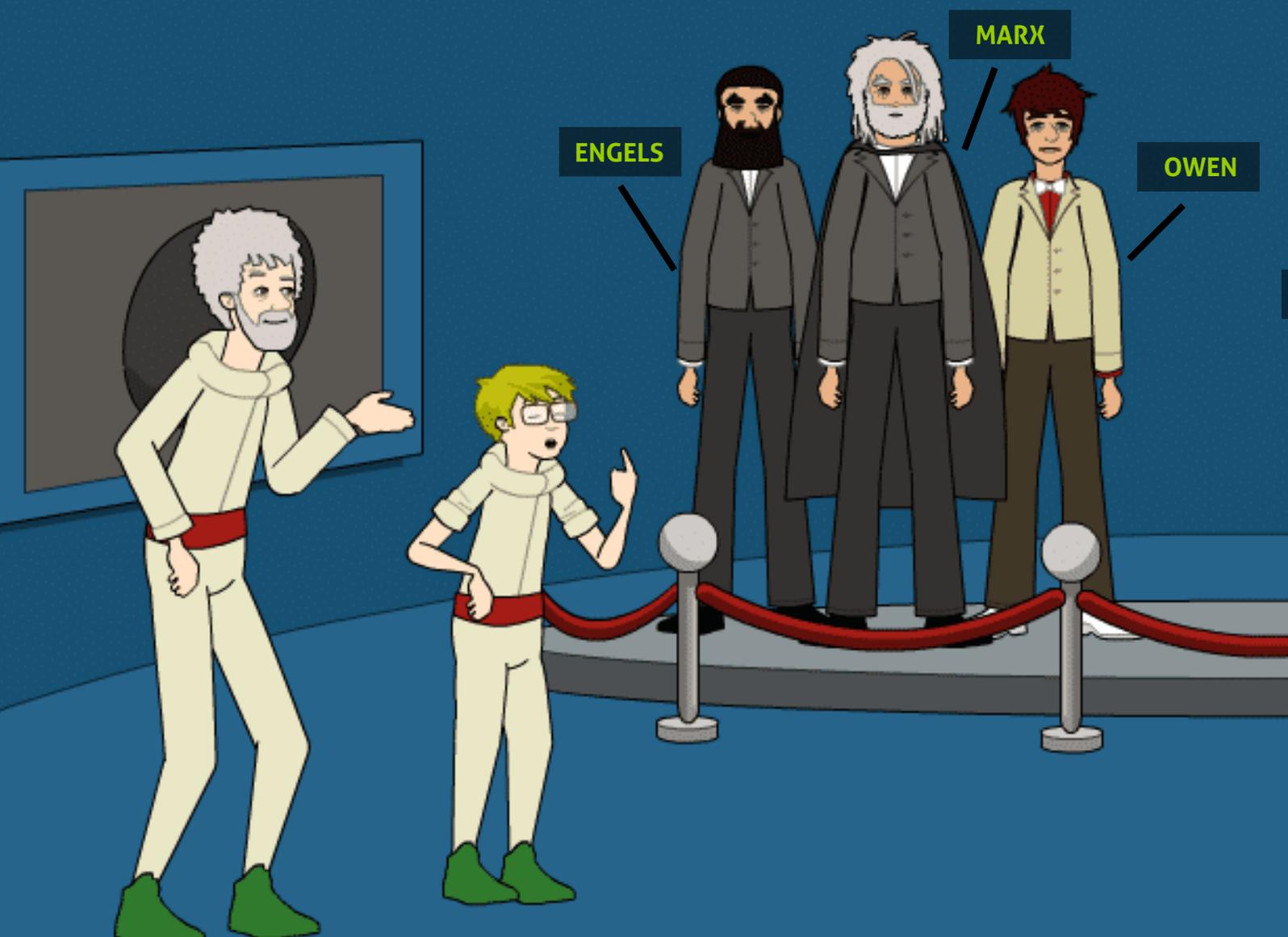
SOCIALISM

*Let me
try....*

Kid: As far as I can tell, the ideals of 'socialism' and 'communism' were never truly put into practice, at least communism wasn't.

Old dude: Yes, and as a result, it creates a huge confusion when people talk about communism on planet Earth, especially when they associate it with Lenin, China, or other tribes that didn't follow the original ideals. Ask any earthlings if they know of any advanced tribe of millions of members ruled by no one and devoid of social classes and money, all based on science? Actually, according to the ideals of communism, the entire world should be like that as a truly unified world. So, they never happened in the first place. Why you think they never happened?

Kid: As I understand it, those who came up with these ideas had very little to say about them. They merely presented some basic concepts that could be interpreted in many different ways. Are you summarizing their ideas a lot for me here?

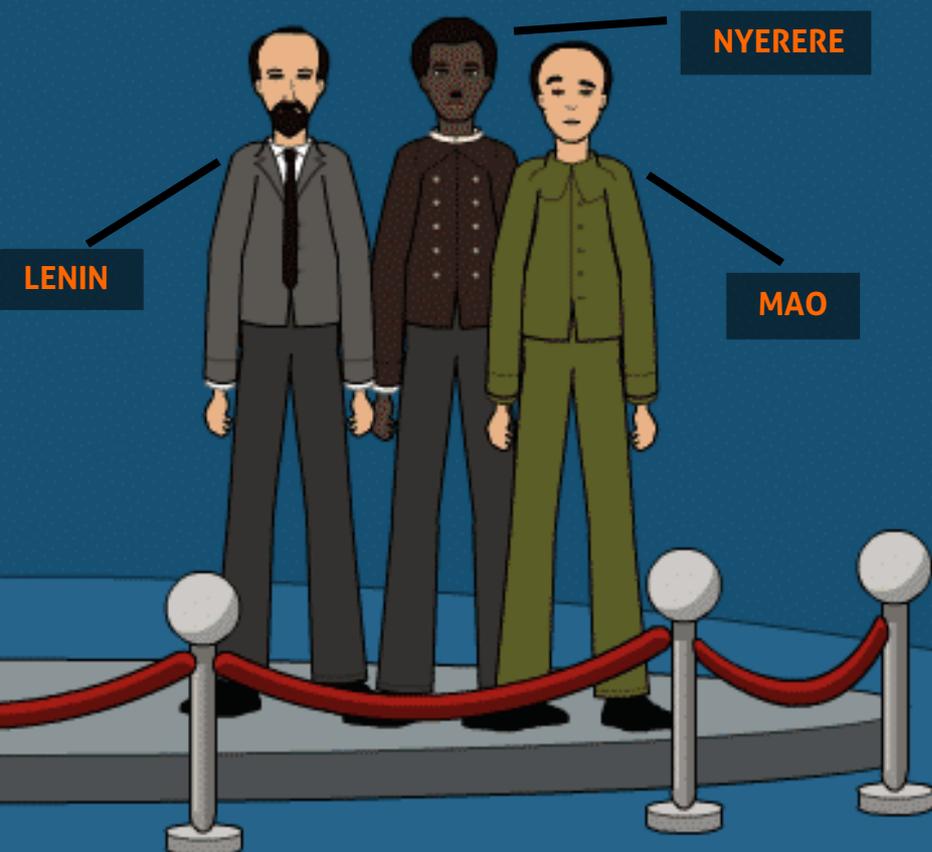


Old dude: *Actually no. I said exactly what they said. They mainly criticized the 'ugly' and 'spoiled' brother: capitalism.*

Kid: *Yeah...because what in the world does it mean to be equal? No classes? What do you mean by abundance? How can you go about creating that abundance? The more I think about this, the more I realize there are too many unanswered questions, even in the ideals. How can you create a new world when you don't know much about how to actually do that!?*

Old dude: *You're a pretty smart kid, kid!*

And those who tried to put these ideas into practice on large scales did anything but science. They tried to impose such a simply-described system to masses of people living under poor technological advancements and a primitivism of their own personal judgements. I want to say that I appreciate their efforts to try and create a different kind of world, but when I think of the many deaths and enslaved... I just can't bring myself to say that.



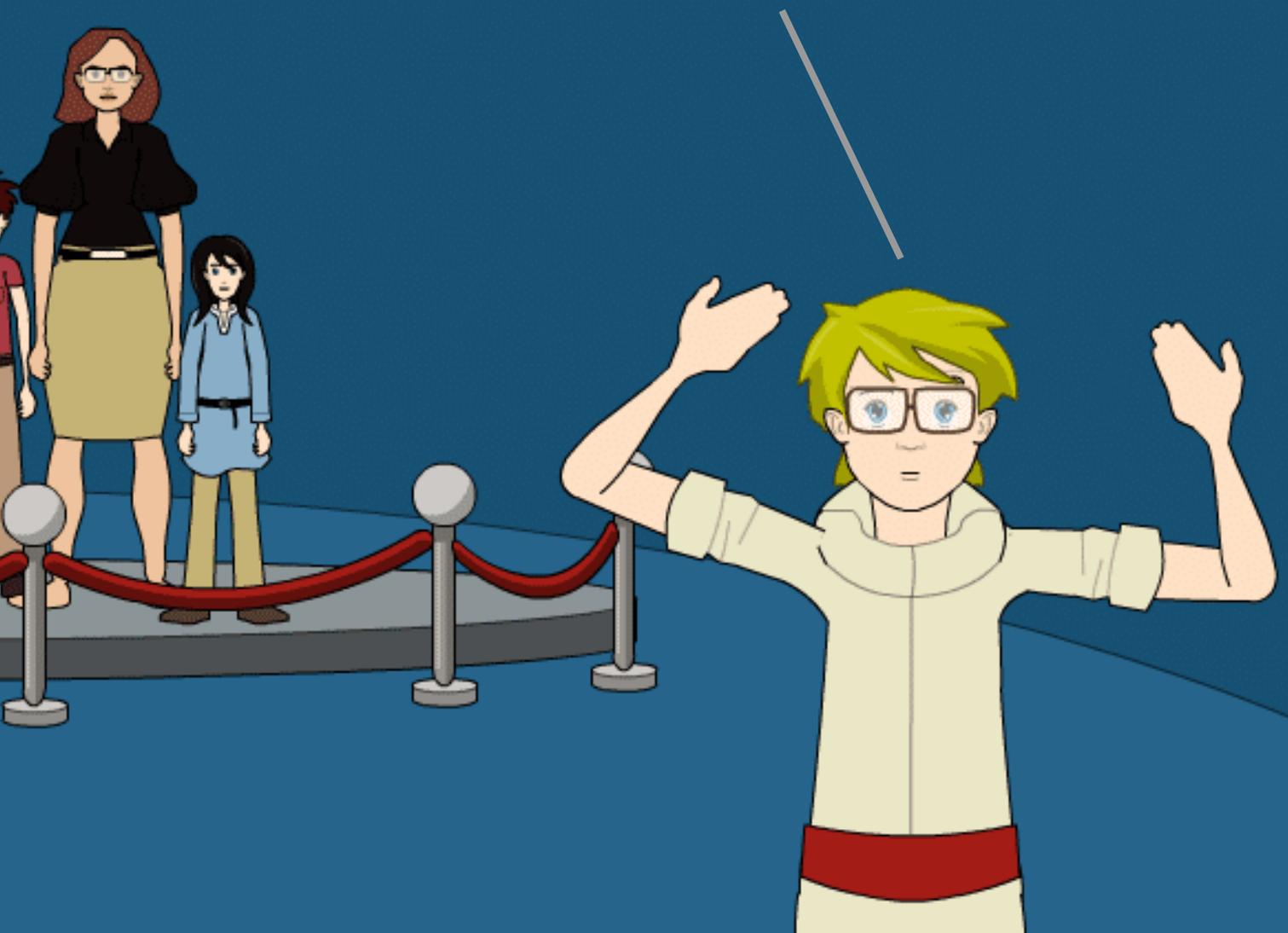
Kid: *Yes! You kill those who oppose you? Don't you have any scientific understanding on how to bridge the differences between people or nations? What about building a society where you can reduce or eliminate crime?*

Kid: Even those Kibbutz communities that were closer to the basic ideas of communism were also injecting their own values into how they should organize themselves, right!? They were also 'infected' by the capitalist world. I wonder if they ever had any plans as to how you might organize huge piles of people, not just a few hundred or thousand per group. If I understand correctly, many more issues and complexities arise when there are a great many people at stake.

Old dude: Yes. And also in Kibbutz communities, they were not technologically advanced, there wasn't an abundance, they grew dependant on their host tribe (Palestine/Israel) for land and funds, and so on. There are many similar self-sustainable mini-societies today, but we are concerned about how we can organize a highly technological society on a planetary scale, right?



Exactly! But what system should we choose to organize ourselves here on Mars? I am so confused right now.



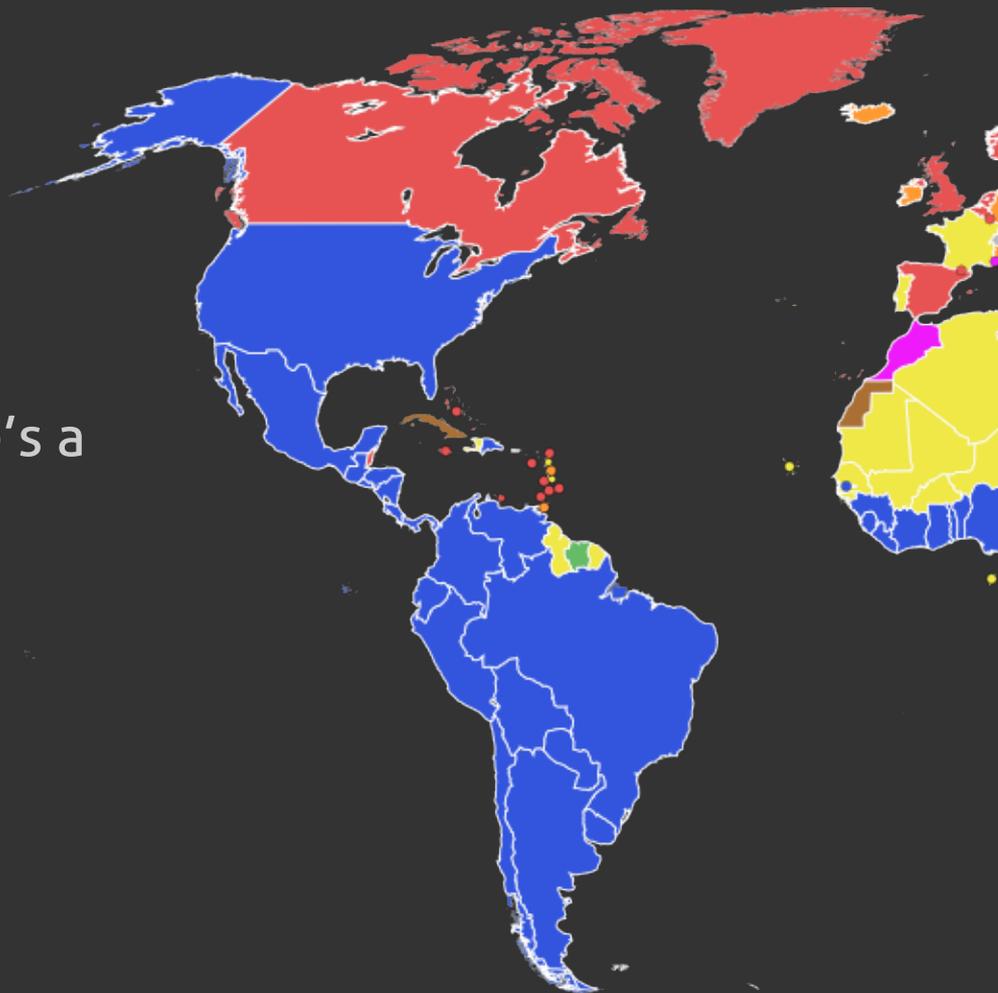
We will get back to the Mars story soon (we won't quit until we manage to help those Martians organize). But first, we need to look a bit closer at the state of affairs today, here on Earth.

To gain more detailed information about the history of socialism and communism, watch this documentary series. Pay special attention to the 'human nature' remark towards the end of the series, as it is just opinionated.

So those who try to control global trade (i.e. control human societies) still fight today over the extremes we've presented so far (capitalism and free market on one hand, socialism and communism on the other - providing the backdrop for the terms "left wing" and "right wing"). While no one goes near those extremes today, nor do they have any real definition for them, they often fight somewhere in the middle.

All of the other systems in the world today are variations of the two we just described; they only differ in their details.

To gain a visual, here's a map of the world:



A person is elected regularly (every so many years) through voting, as chief of the tribe, but he/she usually cannot change the laws. He/she has command over military and other aspects of his tribe.

One tribal chief, plus a lesser one. A chief is directly elected by the people at regular intervals, and the other one is indirectly appointed (depending on the tribe). The big chief usually delegates tasks to the lesser one, who can even change the laws as needed. Combined, they have power over many aspects of the tribe.

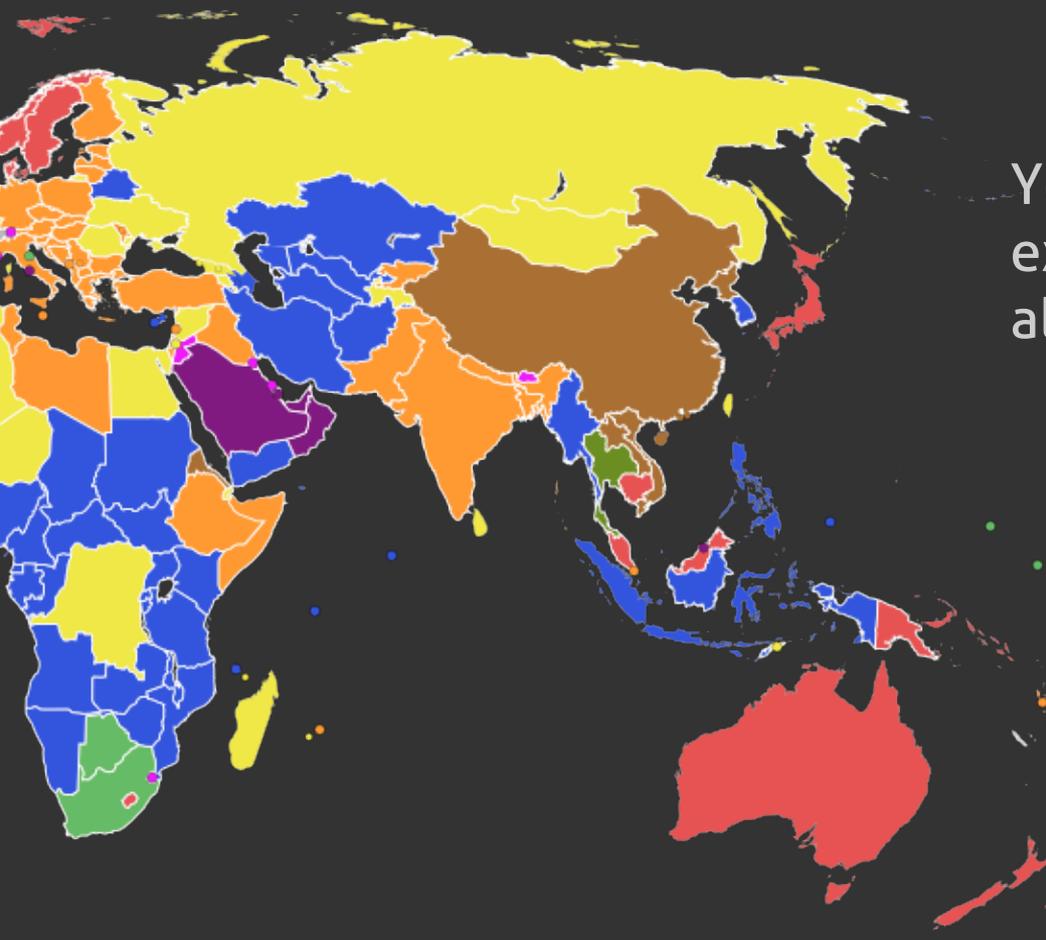
A combination of the previous two.

A mix of two chiefs. In some tribes, one chief is ceremonial; not really elected and doesn't really have much power. Only the second chief is elected at regular dates, while the main chief is mostly like a royal mascot for the tribe (king, queen, etc.) :).

Here they have a main chief, but this one has lots of power and in some cases is not 'elected' by the people.

One chief, with no way to elect others. The chief and the 'people' supposedly work to transition to a communist society.

Military dictatorship.

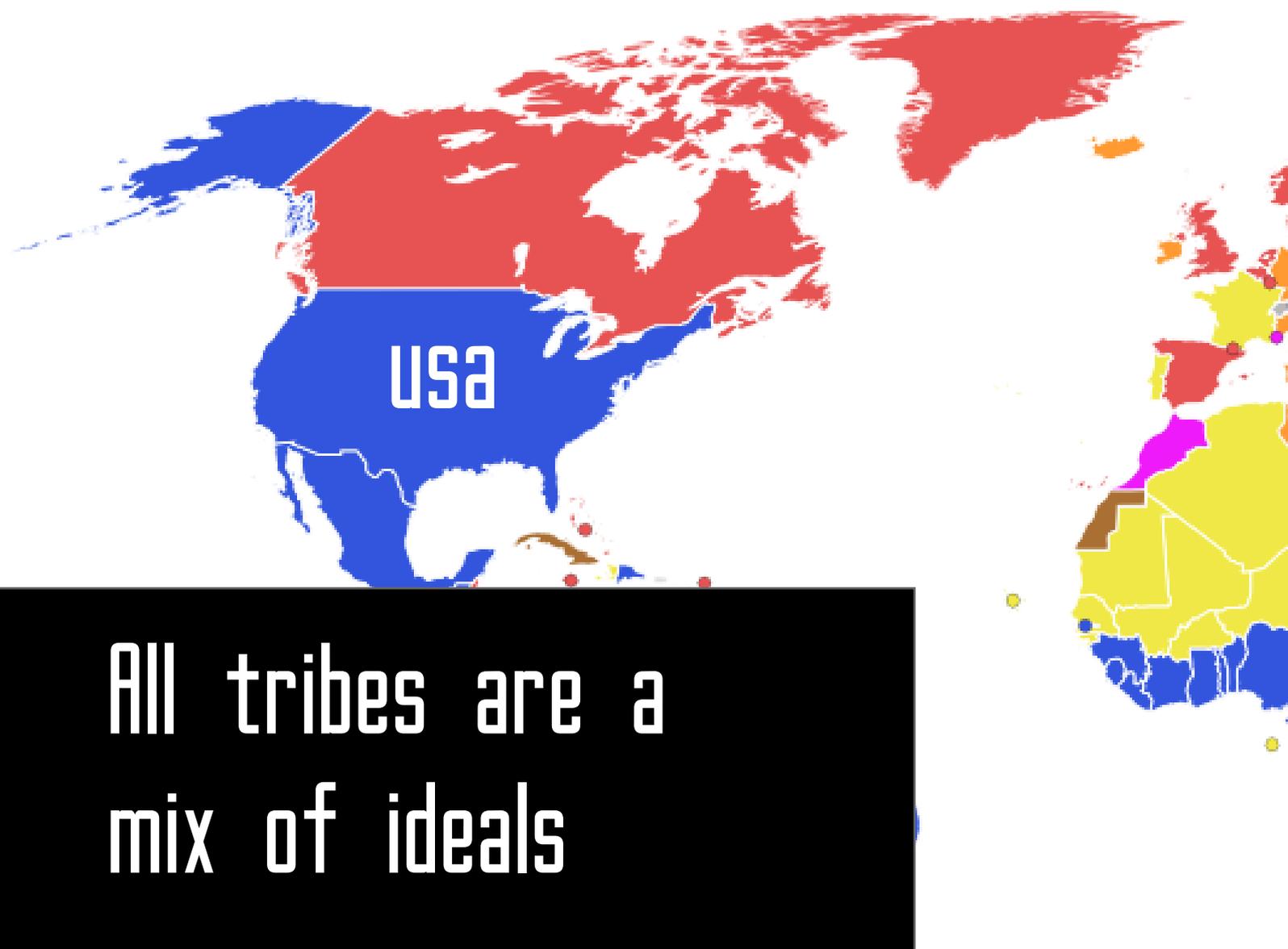


You can read extensively about all that, [here](#).

Since they are all a mix of ideals, let's see what these mixes have brought about.

Most tribes try to merge socialism with capitalism. The US, for example, claims to have a free* market, making them 'capitalists'. Yet under certain conditions, they also provide some free* services for people like Medicare (health care), unemployment benefits, and food allowance programs for the poor, while they also provide infrastructure like roads and how/where to make them, national parks, state-controlled 'public' spaces, along with making laws, enforcing the rules that apply to all of the benefits above, and so much more.

Thus, they are also 'socialists', with a strong flavor of 'dictatorship' (Does the NSA spying its own citizens sound familiar to you?). Plus, if your mum' has a big palace and vast amounts of land, you will also get to inherit that, and then it eventually goes to your kids, and so on. Yeah...so that part is along the lines of 'feudalism'.



All tribes are a
mix of ideals

In China, it's said that they control people (education, services, etc.) and the means of production, yet the free* market is 'booming' in China and has produced more billionaires than the US(source) while 'hosting' over 64 million empty apartments, all while most of their population remains quite poor. It's rather interesting that they are still labeled by many other tribes as 'communists' (equal society for all!?).

You see the confusion and mutation of those core ideals? There really is no such thing as a socialist, communist, or free-market tribe! All tribes today are a huge and complicated mix of so many ideas. So, try to avoid getting trapped into that kind of debate. When someone says a tribe is communist, just ask them if it has no leader, no money, has eliminated scarcity, and so on. If they say that one is a free* market system, ask them what they mean by 'free'.

You know... think about all of the 'bad' things we presented in the first part; with child slavery, coercion, corruption, no care for the stability of the environment, profit over all, etc.. All of these things happen in all tribes, under all kinds of regimes: from China to US, from Uganda to Canada, Romania to Pakistan, Japan to Brazil. Even with all of these tribes' different 'rules' and ways of organizing themselves, they still face the same issues.



Case in Point: Canada

Canada. Pretty much all have great things to say about that tribe, especially about the health care system. Their healthcare is 'socialized', meaning that if you have a boo-boo, you get it fixed for free, whether you're rich, poor, or homeless. But they still can't escape the money-world. Some of their hospitals have monetary incentives to clear rooms for new patients.

To make more money for the hospital, they rush to clean a room as soon as its previous patient is discharged, resulting in less care for the cleaning. And in hospitals, where diseases can quickly spread, that can easily translate into life and death situations. More so, since they also run on a state budget and experience 'cuts' in those budgets, they are often forced to reduce the staff that focuses on cleaning the rooms, making the situation even worse. For the same reason, they also keep their overall staff at a minimum, and often have to reduce or stagnate scientific and technological progress in the medical field.

They also have contracts with private parking lot companies for their hospitals, so when patients arrive, they have to pay a parking fee. If they pay for a one hour stay and then have to stay longer (which often happens with hospital visits), they are made to pay hefty 'ticket' fines. You see, the ticket man is incentivised to give tickets as he gets a share of the fines. These kinds of things happen with nearly all 'socialized' programs that purport to provide free services for people, though often as a 'hidden' cost. Can you see the maze here? We're not done yet.



Let's now take a look at Canadian businesses (private or state-owned): Plumbers and other repair services are incentivised to inflate problems to get you to pay them more for repairs than they are worth; dentists will often recommend expensive and often unnecessary treatments because they must stay in business, too; Eco, 'healthy', and 'natural' products are often misleadingly labeled to entice you to buy them, sometimes outright 'lying' about various aspects so you don't even know what you're buying; eyeglasses may cost around \$20 to make, but are sold at \$300-\$1,000 just because of the brand - some eye doctors even refuse to provide you with the results of your eye exam, because you might choose to buy your glasses from somewhere cheaper; businesses can buy fake online reviews in order to mislead you about their products/services; and so on.

For a source of all these and more, check out this video series 'exposing' the marketplace in Canada. All of these examples occur within what some people consider to be the greatest, most peaceful, fair, and most caring tribe in the world. Then consider that these examples cover both privatized and state controlled businesses (both capitalism and socialism ideals). Of course, you might recognize that these same practices occur within your tribe as well.



These are not 'petty' crimes, and they happen on a daily basis. When I went back to Romania some three years ago for the holidays, there were many taxi drivers at the airport, all pushing their offers in your face from the moment you exited the terminal building. We knew that there are many taxi scammers in Romania, so we paid close attention to their offers. We chose one that had a price tag of 1.9 THINGS (Romanian currency) per km, because that price was close to 'normal' taxi prices in Romania. When we arrived at our destination, we had traveled 10 km, thus around 19 THINGS (1.9 x 10 km), but the taxi driver was like: "Hm, no...it is 190 THINGS!". WHAT?!?!

Here's the trick he plays on his riders/victims: his price sign indeed said 1.9, but beneath the sign was also the word taxi. He said that the decimal point dot between the 1 and 9 was actually the dot from the letter "i" in the word "taxi". So it cost was actually 19 THINGS/km. There's no doubt that the guy was creative, no argument there, but for me, that situation perfectly describes the entire world of capitalism and free* market combined with socialism that most of us live in. I see no difference between that and a cereal box label that says it contains this "healthy substance", but then later learn that you have to eat 20 boxes of their cereal a day for their special substance to have any effect on your health (especially when half of each box is filled with air).



Or when they advertise Lasik surgery at only \$490/eye, yet when you go there, the eye doctor says: "Ah, this only applies for this range of eyesight problems." (only for those who still see rather well), hoping that many will choose to pay much more to take advantage of their offer, since they are already 'there' and excited at the thought of improving their poorer vision. Or those labels that say the product will improve your health when it does no such thing (and maybe the contrary happens). Or when they abuse words like 'eco' and 'natural' to mean whatever they want it to mean. Or just in general, like when they price things at 4.99, 1.95, and so on, just to confound you into buying more.

When I arrived in Romania, after a fight with the taxi driver that came close to than a verbal fight, I went with a friend to an open field, where people sold all kinds of stuff from DVD players to live pigs, machetes to smartphones, underwear to fruits... There was lots of mud, lots of noise, and all of the 'merchants' wanted you to buy their products. In other words, chaos! It was like a very bad dream. You could find \$500 smartphones being sold for \$50, yet the seller would not allow you to test it to make sure it works. You want it? Then you have to buy it - then test it. Too bad if it's not a good one, or that the mislabeled box only contains a "case" for the device, as it often turns out. Desktop computers with obviously no power source to test them, yet they were selling them. There were even gadgets that the sellers had no clue as to what they were. It smelled like a scam from front to back, and you had to be extra careful with your own pockets. While you may have gone there to buy something, others were there just to pickpocket your money.



I'm describing all of this to you to again emphasize how I view nearly the entire world today. I see no difference between these kinds of chaos markets to the 'real' ones, where it may smell better and people can do the acting part better and look nicer, but they all have the same obsession with making a profit at any costs.

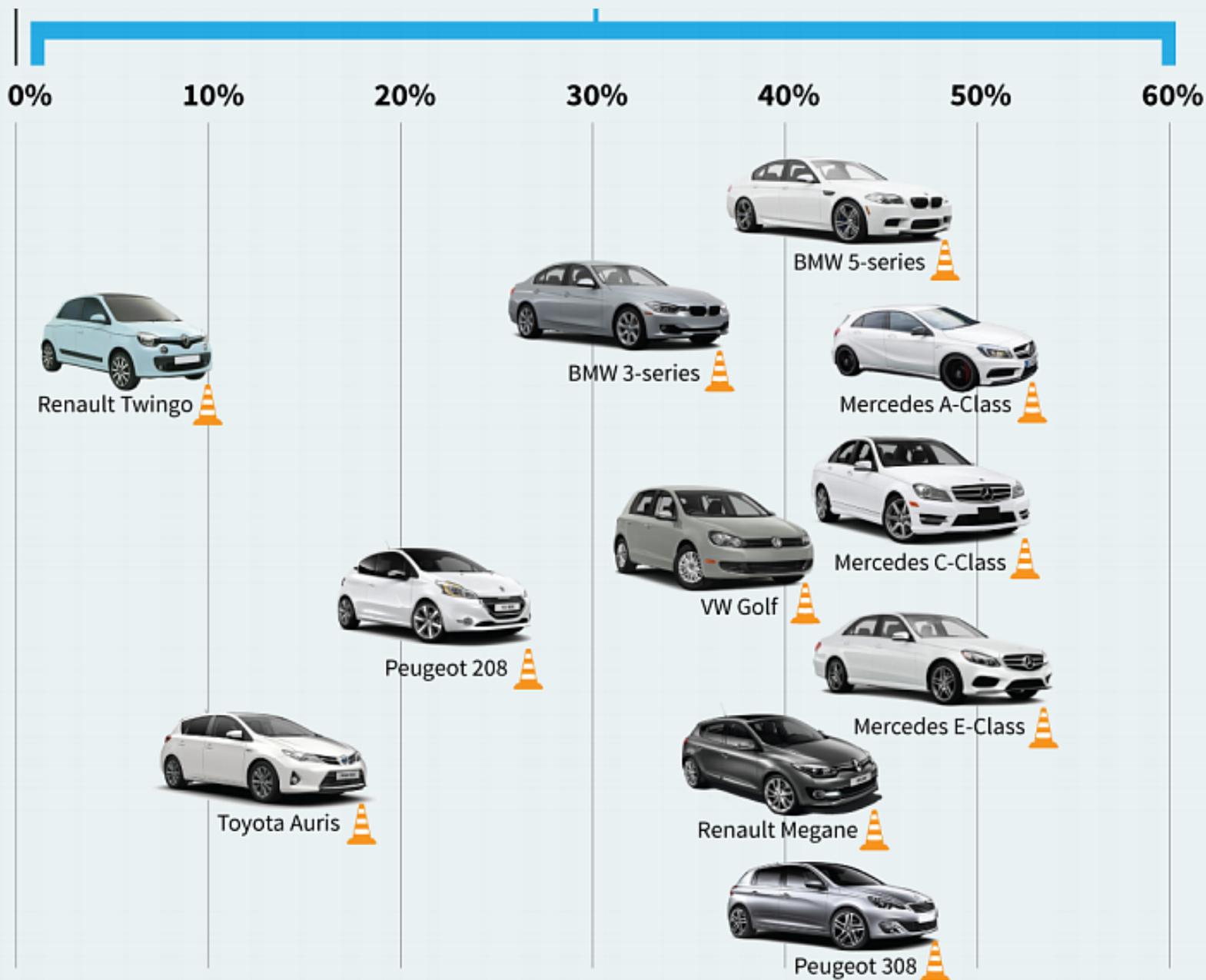
Laws rarely, or more likely never, stop crimes:

LARGE CAR COMPANIES:

Volkswagen, the second most powerful car maker in the world, is also the company that was recently discovered to be 'cheating' most tribes' rules to a huge degree. You see, tribes say: "We need to cut down the CO2 and other 'harmful' vehicle emissions to reduce pollution and prevent global warming, so no vehicle is allowed to emit beyond 'this' threshold!", making that a law for all vehicle makers to respect. Volkswagen then decided: "We can make a huge profit by installing a smart device in our cars that, when they are tested, will meet the emission limits of the test, but when they are used on the roads, they'll emit the vehicle's normal emissions, which are 40 times over the limit. People will flock to buy our low-polluting cars, since we'll be able to market them as being so 'eco-friendly'." Well, it turns out that they've been doing this for the past 7 years and it was only discovered, by accident, a few weeks ago (October 2015). It seems rather obvious that they don't care about the environment or our health; only for growing their business. It's like they said "So, we can continue to pollute the environment, which eventually leads to the destruction of our species and many others, but who cares? We'll make a ton of extra money if we just install this device in the cars we make. Well, that sounds like a viable business plan to me. Let's make some profits!" That's how insane it has become. In case you didn't know, Volkswagen owns Audi, Bentley, Bugatti, Lamborghini, Porsche, and many other carmakers and models.

They care so much about maximizing profits that they're even willing to risk the object of their devotion, profit, since they are screwed if they get caught, right?. I mean, if you were the second largest auto manufacturer in the world, with so many millions of cars on the road, do you believe that doing something like this will go unnoticed? But wait! They ran with a similar scam in 1974, and only paid a \$120,000 fine when they got caught (source). So much for accountability...

Unfortunately, there is much more to all of this. Once the first Volkswagen domino fell, things quickly escalated as it was discovered that BMW (Mini, Rolls Royce), Mercedes (Maybach) and Peugeot were all emitting 40-50% more CO₂, burning a whopping 40-50% more fuel per mile/km than what the automakers 'officially' claimed. The average gap (lies) was about 8% in 2001, and had increased dramatically to 31% by 2012. The results came about by analyzing 600,000 cars from 11 different datasets across the EU (source). Surely, the number of protection laws and their severity toward offenders (especially "repeat" offenders) must have increased during this time. So how were they reprimanded and convinced to never try this again!?



Well, you can read here about some big car companies lying about the safety of their cars, emissions, and so on, and how they 'cruise' away from prosecution by paying "Let's forget all about this" fines.

COMMON WAYS CARMAKERS EMISSIONS AND

Disconnecting the alternator prevents the battery from charging, and reduces energy use.

LABORATORY

Carmakers can optimise the engine controls to reduce emissions.

LABORATORY

Careful lubrication and use of special lubricants help the car run more efficiently.

LABORATORY

Altering wheel alignment reduces rolling resistance

ROAD

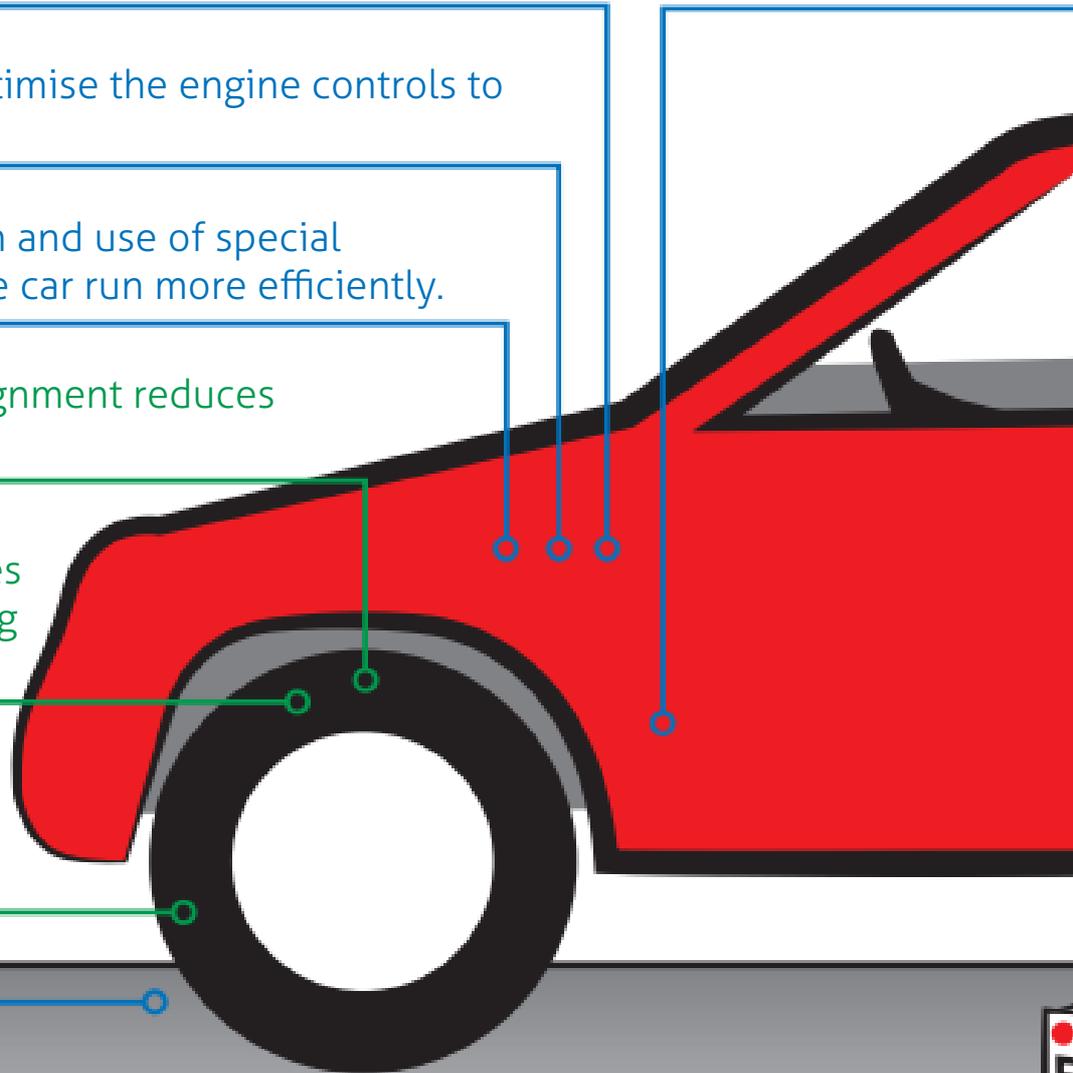
Fitting special tyres with a lower rolling resistance.

ROAD

Overinflating the tyres reduces rolling resistance

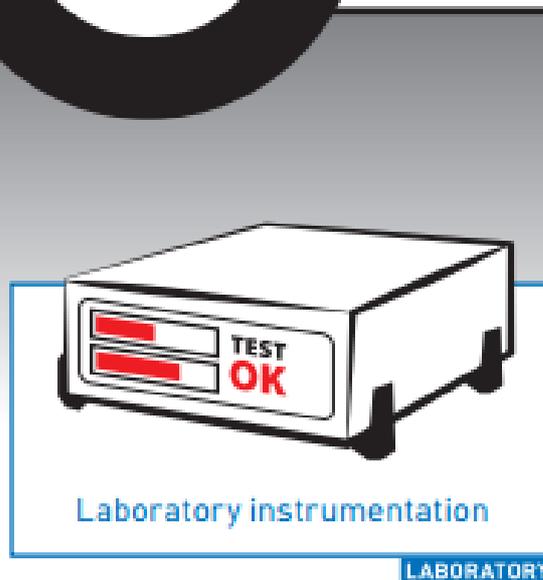
ROAD

Using higher gears can operate more efficiently



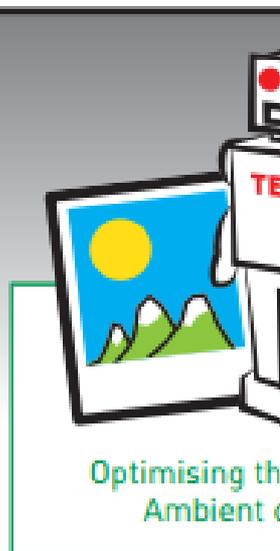
The rolling road is programmed with the minimum weight or inertia class.

LABORATORY



Laboratory instrumentation

LABORATORY

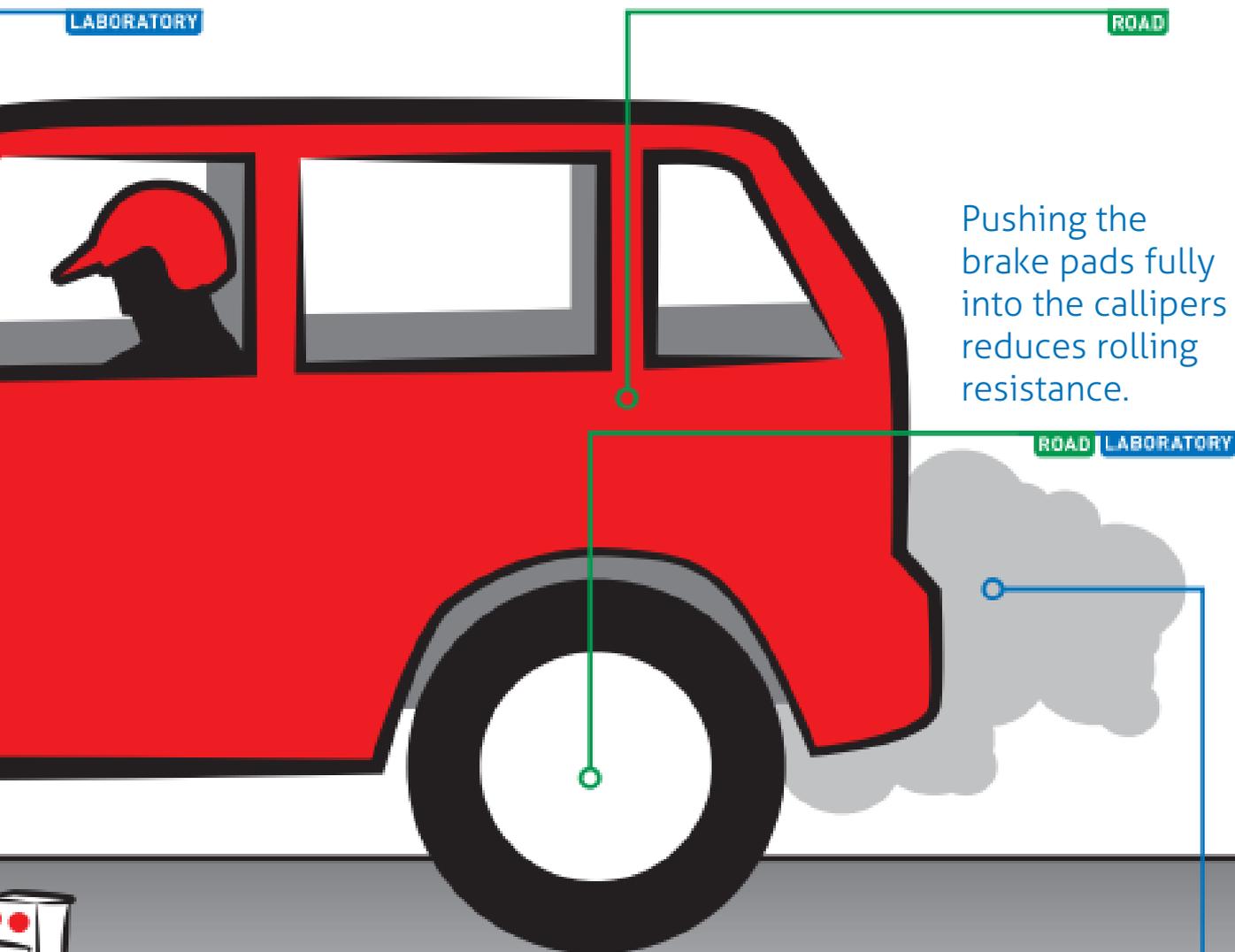


Optimising the Ambient

MANIPULATE TESTS FOR CO2 FUEL ECONOMY

allow the engine to
ly than normal.

Taping over indentations or protrusions on
the body reduces aerodynamic drag.



the test drive & conditions

LABORATORY ROAD

Taking advantage of test tolerances and Adjusting the results Header

LABORATORY ROAD

CO₂ results declared by the manufacturer can to be up to 4% below the actual test results.

LABORATORY

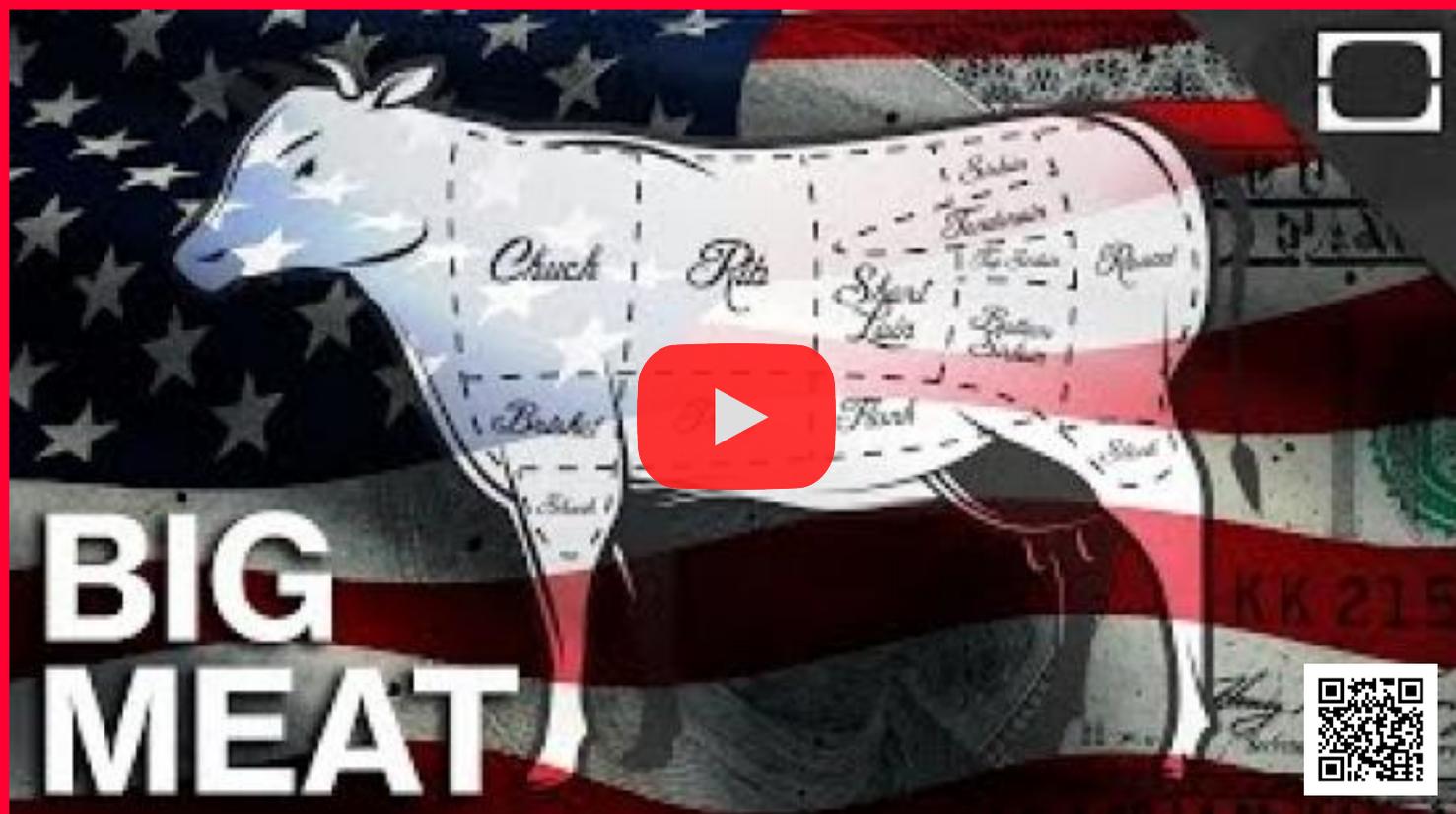
OTHER BIG COMPANIES/INSTITUTIONS:

Speaking of profit over human existence, ExxonMobil, the largest oil company in the world, apparently knew about climate change issues since 1981, seven years before it became a public issue, according to newly discovered email from some of the company's own scientists. Despite this the company spent millions over the next 27 years to promote climate denial (source). For the sake of profit, you can even interpret laws as you want to. Take, for example, the European Union's (a bunch of powerful tribes) move several years ago: "We've taken a tough public stance on increasing the use of renewables. Well, we can think of wood as renewable energy, since trees grow back, right? So by this definition, we can burn wood to generate energy and more easily meet our global goals of switching to renewable energy, since trees are a renewable resource. Brilliant!" Not only did they actually follow through with that horrific plan, they are still doing it, ignoring that even if the CO2 produced will likely be reabsorbed later by a new generation of trees, the process can take decades (trees don't grow in days), while the practice also sparks huge incentives for other tribes to cut down their trees to sell them to the EU tribes (source). What a mess...

And let's not forget about the tobacco companies that strongly denied the harmful effects of their products for years. They paid scientists to do that. They even paid doctors to appear in TV commercials saying that smoking is good (source). Unfortunately, we are now entering a similar situation, as processed red meat was just confirmed as a type one carcinogen, meaning that there is no doubt now that it causes some types of cancer (source), something that was suggested for a while now. We previously published an article on the impact of livestock and meat consumption in an earlier issue of TVPMagazine, but the question now is what will happen with the big red meat industries. Will they accept this and advise their 'customers' about the effects? Will they take relevant measures on this: close their businesses, reduce their production, etc.? Will the government ban them? Personally, I doubt anything will happen, and even if it does, it may take many years and many more sick and dead people before anything 'substantial' happens. Remember, red processed meat is now categorised alongside asbestos, alcohol, arsenic and tobacco as carcinogens (source).



The incentive to lie, even if human health is at risk, is a common practice today.



If big companies like this, so exposed to the entire world, are willing to risk so much for profit that they blatantly defy tribes' rules, imagine all of the things that the many more smaller ones attempt to get away with. Now imagine the big ones that have not been caught yet...

We told you about people selling their organs for money in the first part of this series, and they still do that, even if it's illegal in most tribes. 'Well intended' legal folks try to implement measures to combat such situations. In this case, they said the donor must be interviewed to make sure that they are willingly 'donating' the organ for charity, not for money. That was their solution to the problem (a law) in order to make things more 'just' and 'legal'. In response it's become a common practice that the ones selling their organs (for lack of money - 'wink wink') are trained by others on what to say during these interviews in order to 'pass' them. Simply put, when you try to stop people from making a profit in a world based on profit, then people will always find ways to cheat. The same principle seems to apply to all parts of today's societies. For every issue that exists, there are people trying to solve them with more and more rules and laws, yet they seldom have any real success in eliminating the issues.

Socialist programs are not only subject to mutilation due to the market system, as we've showcased so far, but they have become so molded on the market system that even its free education system (socialist) focuses almost exclusively on preparing children to become workers, thus 'merchants'!

The need is not to have free education, but a diverse, scientifically literate populace within a saner society. Not free healthcare, but easily accessible and technologically progressive healthcare. Trying to inject 'free' programs into today's world is a long practiced tradition, and while it can be shown to have helped some and has brought about advancements, both within the context of today's monetary system, it's still little more than a bunch of 'band-aids' for ongoing problems, with little to no effect on curing the actual problems (and often making the problems worse).



I'm going to resist trying to point at examples of corruption and other ill effects of the capitalist world. The enormous negative repercussions of the monetary system are so ubiquitous that it might prove easier to try to sum up the squares of all numbers in existence, but I am sure you're already well-aware of the kinds of problems we're talking about here. *SIDE NOTE: we will address the money influence in the scientific field when we will make a series of articles about SCIENCE.*



UCATION



Having a good business does not mean you will succeed.

Corruption and other 'bad' outcomes are widely recognized effects of capitalism and free* markets, but I want to point out something else. The concept of capitalism and free* market is that if people are permitted, they will come up with increasingly great products and great services because, it's claimed, if you make a bad product or treat your customers badly, you will soon find yourself out of business. But this appears to be pure illusion, an overhyped ideal, or some twisted combination of both.

Here's why:

In capitalism, it's said that if you have an idea, you can make it into a business, and if your idea is better, you will overtake whoever had a business based on a similar one. But that's almost never the case, because big companies can easily, and often do, buy up small companies with the best ideas. Who owns WhatsApp and Instagram now? Facebook! Not because Facebook came up with those ideas, but because they saw that these two companies were growing and wanted those products under their own name and control. Big companies often reduce their prices, easily absorbing losses in profit specifically to hurt their growing competition (who cannot afford such losses), and then raise their prices again once that competition can no longer compete and closes its doors. So, if I am Google and I normally charge \$10 per 1TB of online storage, while other competitors charge the same, I might be able to afford to drop my price to \$7 so that I keep my customers, while convincing many of their customers to migrate to my service. I will succeed at 'twice' hurting my competition (they lose customers, while I gain them), despite my short-term loss, because now I've made my business more profit-safe.

Did you know that Bill Gates bought a small computer operating system from a dude, tweaked it a bit, and then built a multi-billion dollar company off of the results, making him the richest man in the world for a very long time? (source)

Many established big companies today have little or no competition because of similar practices.

A 'capitalist' recently bought the rights to an essential drug used to treat patients with malaria, toxoplasmosis, some cancers, and AIDS. As its new 'owner', he raised the price from \$13 to \$750 per tablet (source). That is such a huge unreasonable increase in price that it can only be called 'criminal'. On another note, if this free* market is supposed to exist to satisfy people's wants and needs, what about those whose wants and needs are in a minority? Why do you think there's very little investment in drugs that only help a minority of people?

Wouldn't you think that if you develop a great Youtube channel, it would become a well-paid one? Or if you write a very important book? Or come up with great inventions? Well, more than likely, it won't. If that was the case, we would have had self-driving cars on the roads long ago, maglev trains, truly 'smart' phones, better healthcare, all nutritious foods, and so on.

“



Come on in! We buy promising companies that compete with us, so we can grow more and more powerful by eliminating any competition.

SIT DOWN.
HAVE A SNACK.
SIGN THE PAPER,
TAKE THE MONEY.
NOW, GO BACK!

”

WHAT A QUACK....



Criticism, corruption, shady practices and the like, won't close down a business.

Meanwhile, so many people complain about how Apple uses 'planned obsolescence' to force people to prematurely buy new products from them, yet the same people still continue to buy Apple products. Volkswagen managed an awful scam for years on an unsuspecting public, yet it's highly likely to survive the aftermath of the scandal and people will still buy cars made by the company. Facebook, as we detailed in a previous article, employs a suite of extremely unfair tactics to their network, and many people who are very aware of it still use Facebook.

Or consider the leaked Sony emails that revealed how such huge companies are full of..., well, 'assholes': people in powerful positions within those companies who 'talk trash' behind the backs of their clients (spreading gossip and revealing their personal information); ensuring enormous profits for some, and little for others; a steady money flow for paying ('bribing') publishers for good reviews for their movies; how they rely on sequels of successful movies and new movies that are based on best seller books because they don't want to risk money on anything unproven; and so much more. You can see and search all of their leaked emails [here](#).

Movie companies (Sony, Paramount Pictures, 20th Century Fox, Universal Studios, Warner Bros., Columbia Pictures) hire lobbyists to push laws that favor them (a normal thing for all large companies nowadays - source 1, 2) and to push for harsh punishments for people who illegally download or watch their movies (meaning laws applied to most people in the world with an internet connection) (source). As a movie fan, aren't you repulsed by all of this? Maybe yes, but you will still watch movies, right? Would you expect these big movie companies to disappear after high-profile cases of corruption, leaked egocentric emails and displays of how seriously insecure many of them are, when bribery, 'immoral' behaviors, and so on come to light? No, they won't.



SAMSUNG



Nestle, H&M, and all of the other businesses involved in what we presented in the first part of this series (enslaved children, waste, pollution, etc.), Microsoft, FIFA, IBM, Coca-Cola, McDonald's, Google, Samsung, the major auto makers, Disney, AT&T, Amazon, and nearly EVERY other big company (and many smaller ones) found to be involved in corruption, scandals, and shady practices, continue to survive and thrive. Go ahead and think of any big company. Then run a web search on its name, along with the terms "corruption", "scandal" or "criticism", to see what pops up.

So, consider the ideal that states: "Within a free* market and capitalism system, businesses will focus on pleasing their customers, and not engage in shady behaviors that could adversely affect their image.", and recognize that this is only valid 'on paper', not in reality. The reality is made possible by lack of other options (monopoly, industry collusion, 'bought' legal protection against lawsuits, etc.), 'positive' advertisements that these companies push so that people forget about their 'bad' past, or just because people don't care or aren't motivated enough to organize against such practices.

Capitalism's competitive approach (maybe) looks good on paper, but it has become disastrous in practice, despite the fact that it helped bring about significant developments in technology, services, and goods. But as we argued in this article, far more progress could have been made using a completely opposite approach, through cooperation.

We will now leave behind the world of capitalism and free* market, as we've presented plenty of its harmful effects over and over and over again throughout this series, and with many other articles that we've made on the subject, all of which you can find right here. I mean, if people are willing to intentionally jump in front of cars in some tribes (video), because they might get money if they are 'lucky' and get run over, then what more is there to say about the sick, twisted world we live in?!?

One thing we'd like you to take away from all of this is that when tribes proclaim themselves as this or that, they are neither this or that. They all qualify as a salad, a mix of this, that and the other.

This is why in 2008, the credit crises in the US led to 30% unemployment in Spain, and an outbreak of bird flu in China dramatically increased the price of chicken in Canada. They are all connected and are basically the same, differing only in the details of their money-based

OUR BLESSED HOMELAND

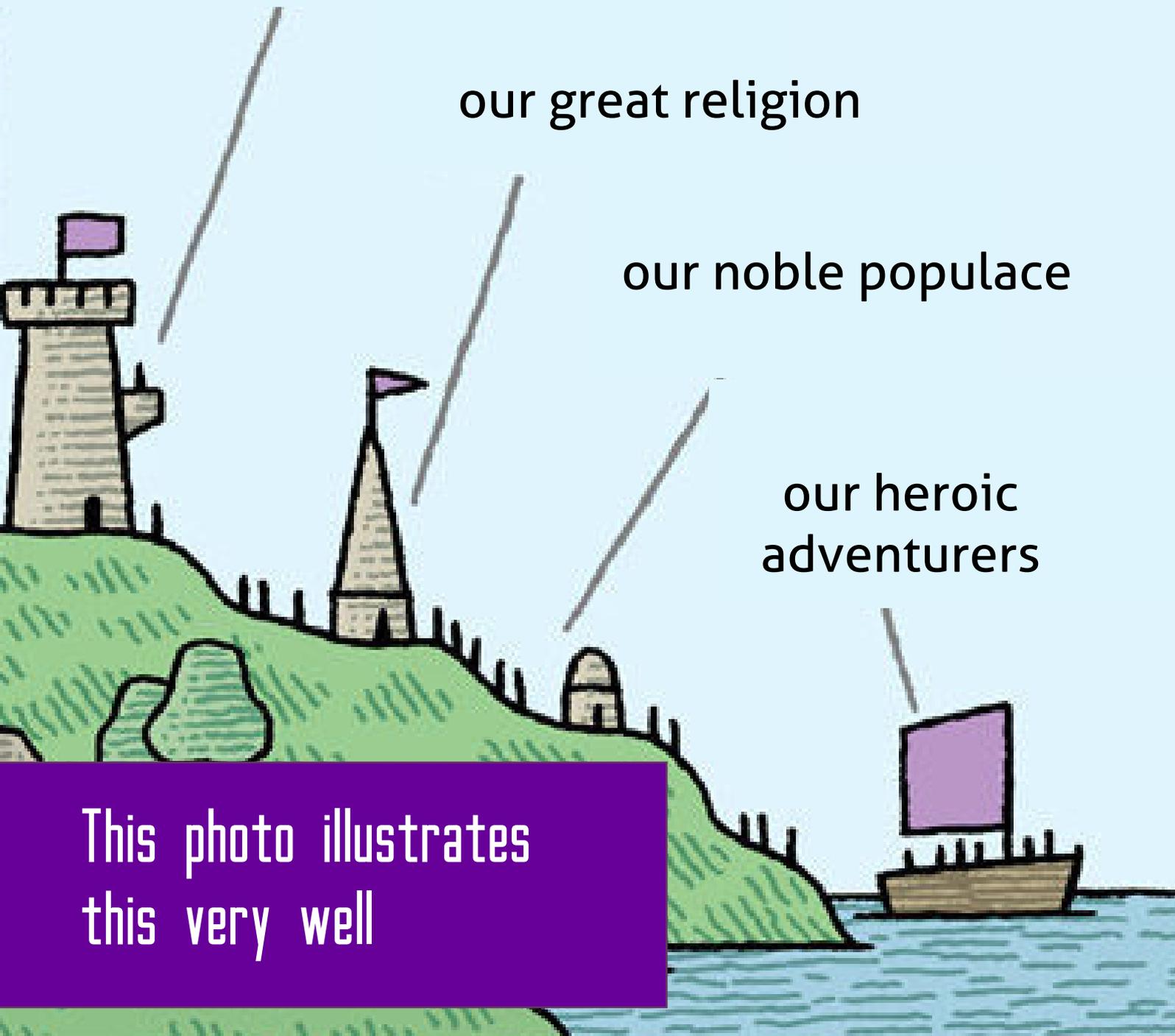
our glorious leader

our great religion

our noble populace

our heroic
adventurers

This photo illustrates
this very well



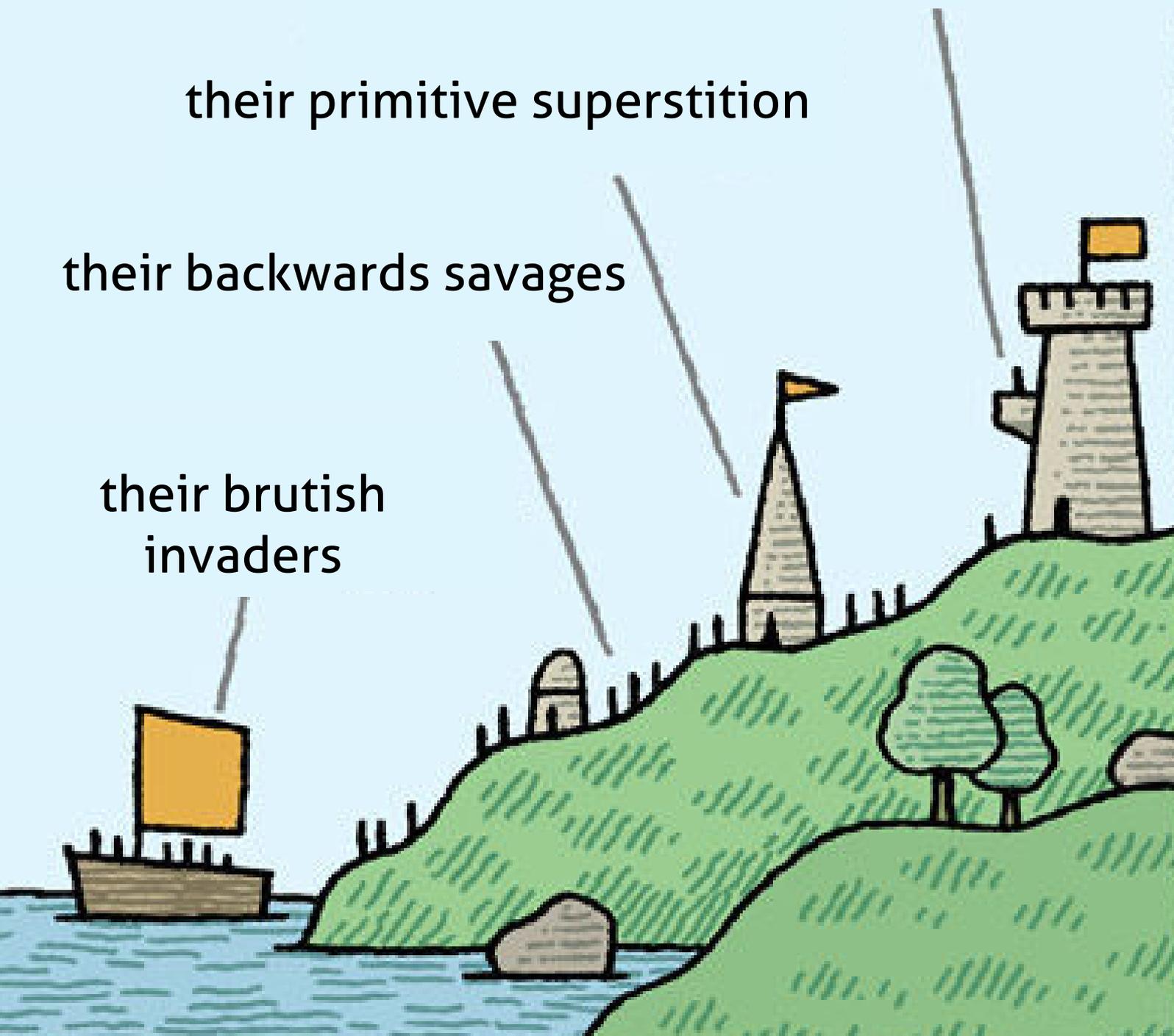
THEIR BARBAROUS WASTES

their wicked despot

their primitive superstition

their backwards savages

their brutish
invaders



As for democracy... Well, we also did an article on that, but think about it for a minute. If it was really up to 'the people' to determine what they want, then online copyright probably wouldn't exist, as the vast majority of people break those laws without much thought. Tribes probably wouldn't go to war, as most people don't want that. Salaries would increase, work time would be reduced, prostitution and drugs would be legalized, some 'leaders' might actually be executed, as many seem to proclaim this wish, and so on. Of course there is no such thing as democracy, and even if the notion sounds good in principle, it's not, because it says that whatever the majority wants, it should get. If 51% of the people want all people of a certain color, religion, nationality, etc. in prison or whatever, then fulfilling that wish qualifies as democracy. **If science was managed as a democracy, we would still live in caves, and there would be no science.**

Plus, just like all of the other governing ideals mentioned within this article, democracy is always merged with other governing concepts, which makes what was originally proposed (and still claimed) nearly irrelevant.

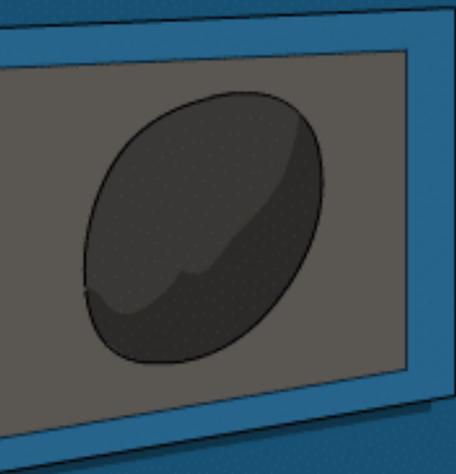


The solutions presented at the end of this video are, as we've detailed so far in this series, merely an attempt at the patching of symptoms.

SO TO ALL OF YOU MIGHTY
UGLY TRIBES, STOP WITH ALL
OF YOUR PRETENDING TO BE
NEW AND BOLD, AND LET'S
LOOK AT ALTERNATIVES
BEYOND THIS.

While Owen, Marx, Engels, and others like them tried to grow a set of bold ideas about organizing societies with something other than capitalistic profit-driven methods, they failed to provide a clear path. They also did not have the knowledge or technology that we have available today, so we will come back to those core ideas later on in this series, when we showcase how The Venus Project differs from any such 'ideals', and how it is actually light years ahead of them. We will also further explain The Venus Project's proposal for a resource-based approach, where all resources become the common heritage of all the world's people, along with a breakdown of methodologies on how technology can be organized to create a high standard of living for all.

Old dude: *Kid, you're right. It is confusing as to what we should choose, but we must first look at other ideas before we can decide. Ok? This is a very complicated matter. After all, we're trying to organize billions of martians here; many heads with many different brains (personalities) that have many different ideas. Technology is always evolving and we should not only try to keep in step with the changes that brings, but also be able to fully implement and support such changes. By knowing how humans have tried to organized their societies so far, we can better understand what worked, what didn't, and why. So, try to be patient.*



BACK ON MARS:

Ok, I agree. I'm really curious about the other ideas and I understand why it's important to learn about them all before deciding.

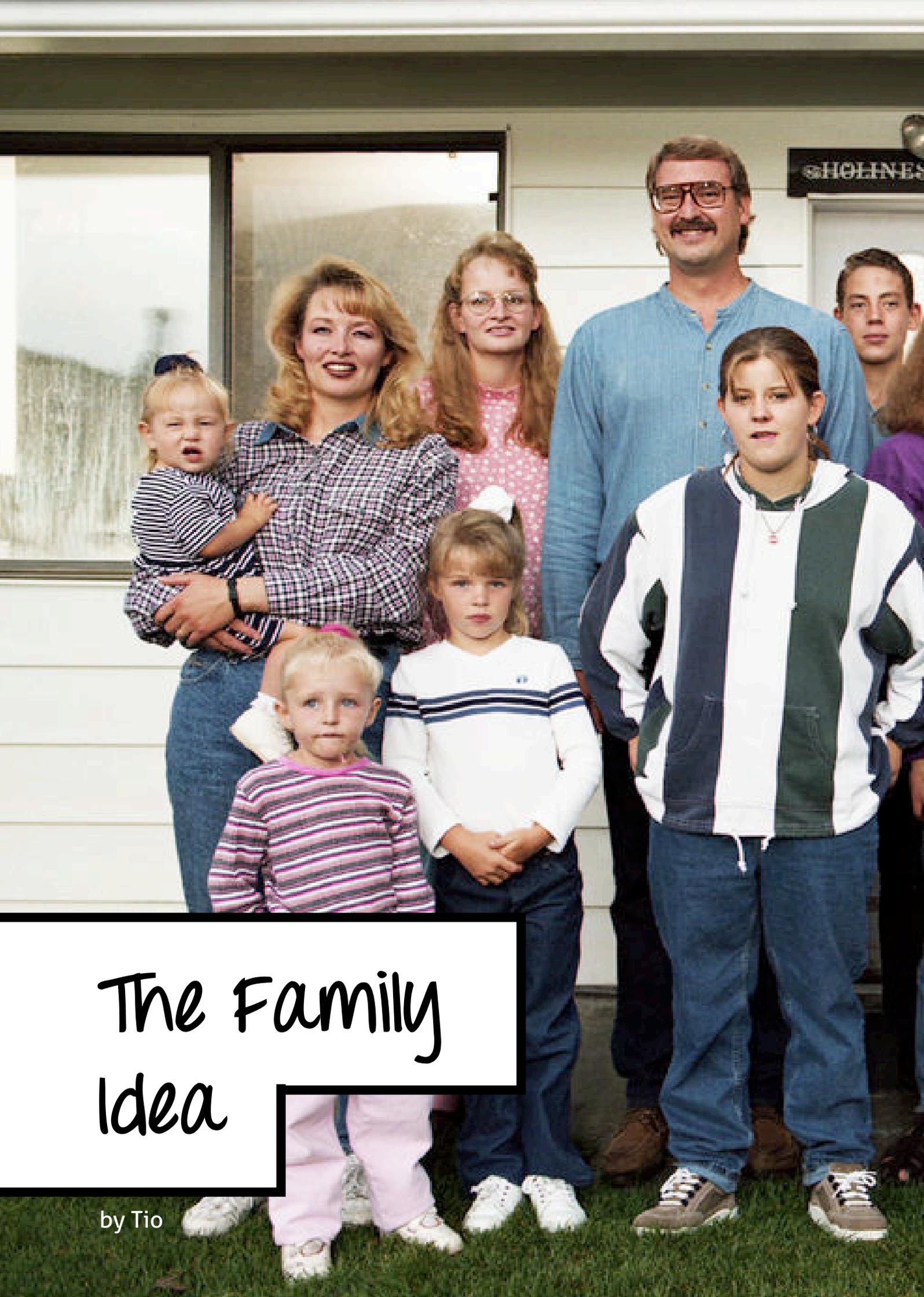


Old dude: *Hey Socialism, Communism, Feudalism, Capitalism, Totalitarianism, and even you Democracy, we do understand that all of you, or at least some of you, are honest and truly want to provide what you think are sensible ways for organize ourselves, but we're going to look at some newer ideas, ones that have emerged from our present-day scientific and technological advancements. I heard that the Sharing and Gift Economy sisters have recently arrived Mars to present their ideas*



Bitcoin, UBI, Technocracy, Open Source, and more are on their way as well, so we want to learn from them too. We also learned that some 'special guy' is expected to come to Mars afterward, and we've heard he has the most comprehensive, detailed, and up-to-date plan for organizing ourselves. So we're going to wait and see, but thank you a lot for your efforts. I think that without some of you, we wouldn't have made it this far. But I also recognize that because of some of you, far too many have needlessly suffered, died, and/or have lived miserably simple and unfulfilling lives on Earth, and we're not exactly happy with the idea of continuing that here...





The Family Idea

by Tio

WELCOME TO THE LORD



A close-up photograph of a pregnant seahorse. The seahorse is light-colored with dark spots. Its most prominent feature is its extremely large, inflated belly, which is also covered in dark spots. The seahorse's head is at the top left, and its tail is at the bottom right. The background is a solid dark blue.

This is a pregnant seahorse. In that belly are thousands of its children. That's some serious pressure on momma right there!



Oh, wait, this is a 'male' seahorse packed with kids? Yeah. Contrary to what many may believe, the concept of 'family' is a complex and varied one for all creatures out there.

There are animals who eat their mates or some of their offspring, some that stay around their offspring until they die, while others seem to not give a damn about them as soon as they are born, some don't even need a partner to give birth, and others that 'take care' of other creatures' offspring. Some function similarly to 'normal' human families: parents + kids = family. Those kids eventually become parents and form their own family, living together for an extended period of time until their young mature and become parents themselves. Then again, that is only similar to how 'some' human families function.

When it comes to human creatures, I was born into a 'normal' family. My father is male, and my mother, female. I also have a sister. We formed a family. My parents were married, which means they had agreed to a legal contract that they should stay together for life (it was both a materialistic contract as they shared stuff - and also an 'emotional' one as they believed that they were somehow connected with each other by this ritual). All of the families I knew at that time were like that. I did have a few friends who only had a mother, or just a father, or none, but that's just because one or both of their parents had died.

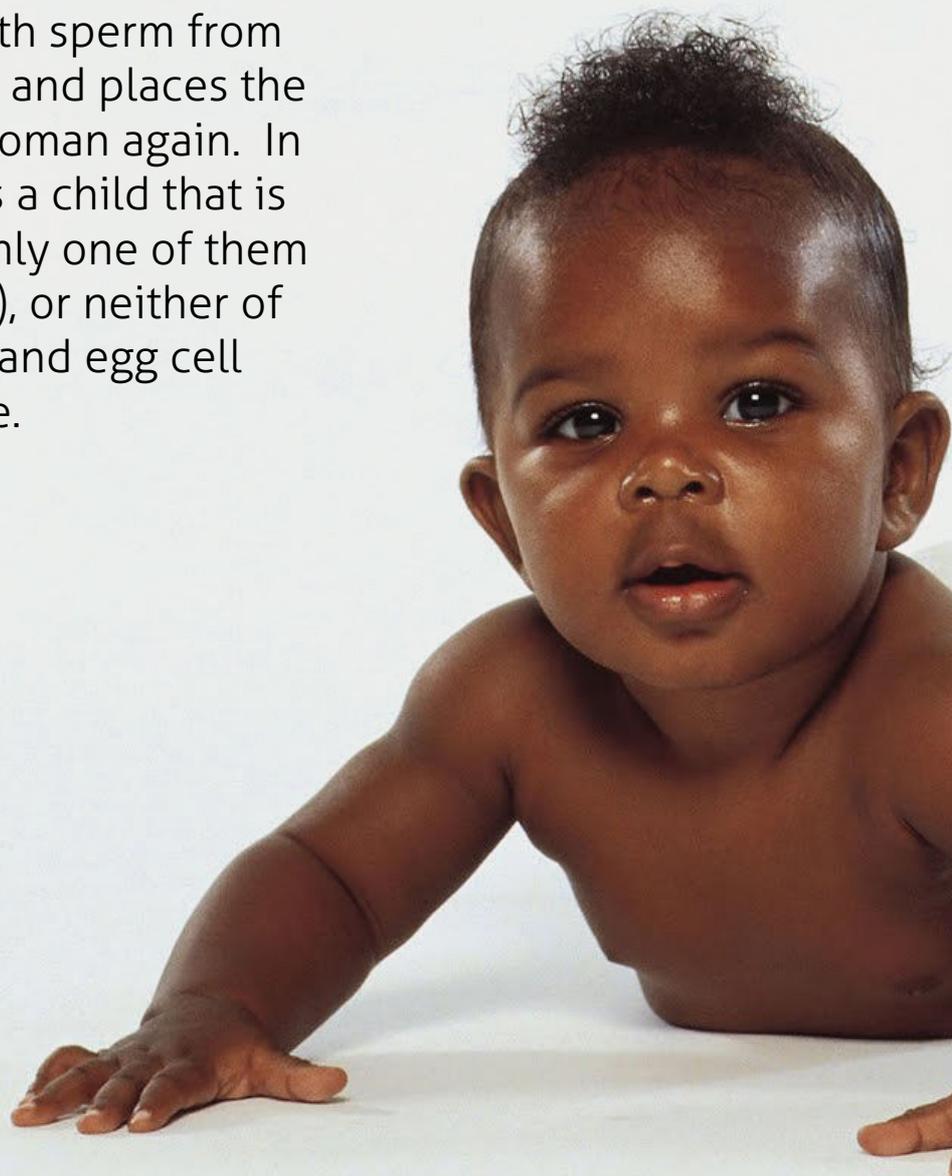
But what was normal for me was not normal for many others in the world. While I was growing up, there were other kids who had two or more fathers plus a mother, or multiple mothers plus a father, and even two of the same 'sex' serving all parental roles, such as two mothers and no father



All of those combinations are 'culturally' based families, but it's now possible (in a way) for a child to have more than two 'biological' parents. Because some babies are born with some health issues that are due to genetic factors which can be 'fixed' using this method, bits from the female and male DNA are combined with bits from a third female human DNA. Basically, the third female contributes less than 1% to the baby, replacing an unhealthy section present in the first female's DNA (source).

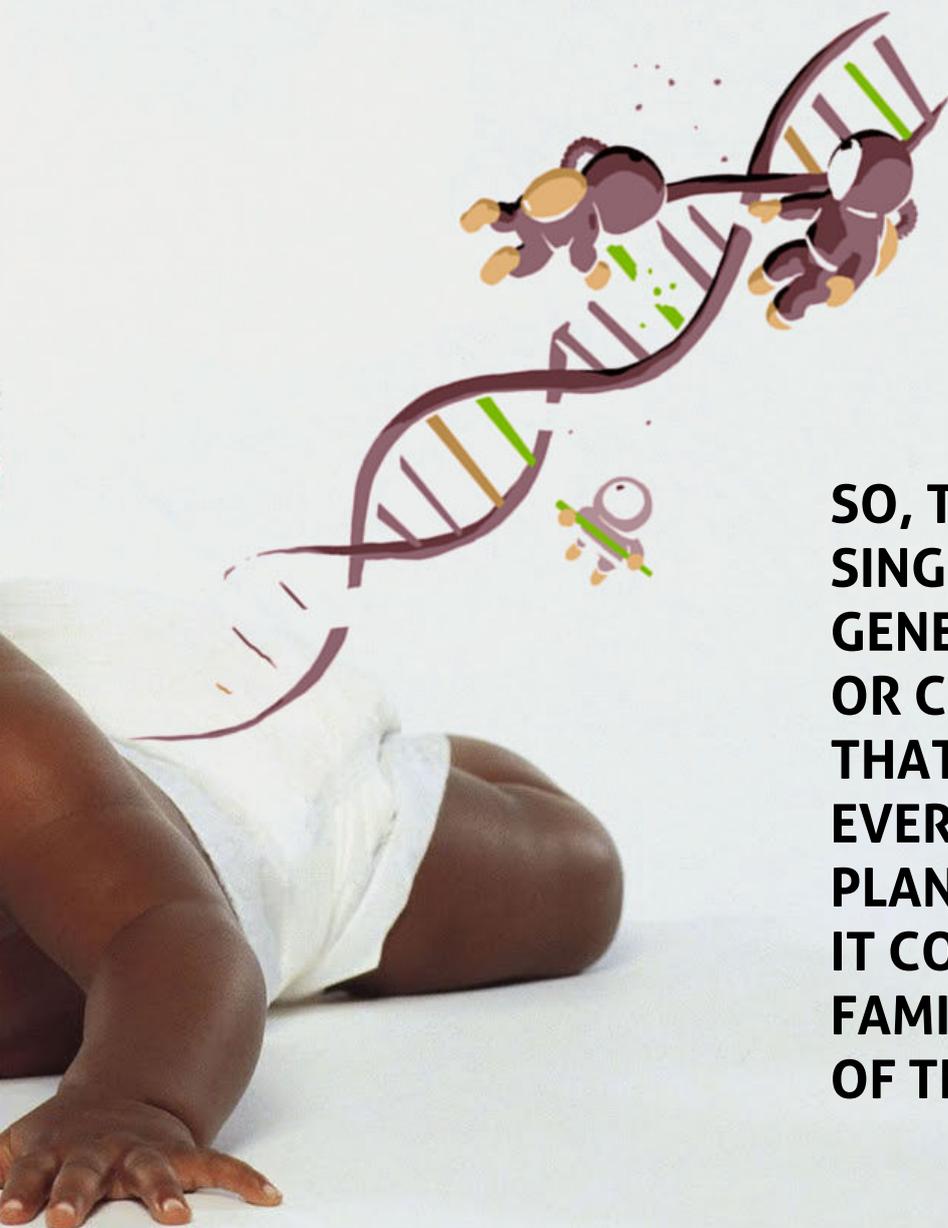
This way of 'making a baby in the lab' is not exactly hot news anymore, as in vitro fertilization has been in practice since 1970. The combined materials can come from people outside of the couple who want to care for the resulting baby

For instance, a male may not have fertile sperm, so the lab combines the egg from the woman with sperm from another male in the lab, and places the resulting cell into the woman again. In this way, the couple has a child that is genetically related to only one of them (the mother in this case), or neither of them if both the sperm and egg cell come from other people.



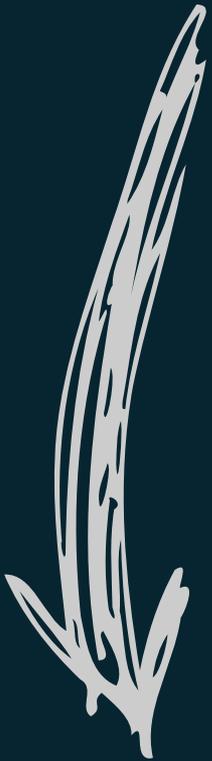
They can also contribute their sperm and egg cells, but have another female take on the 'duty' of pregnancy. Same sex couples can also adopt this method, where their child will be genetically related only to one of them. With the state of technology today, we will soon be able to edit the DNA of an embryo to make a child taller, change the color of the eyes, the type of hair, improve health, and so on, perhaps looking nothing like their parents (source).

And, sure, many humans 'adopt' and raise other people's children.



SO, THERE IS NO SINGLE OR SPECIFIC GENETIC INHERITANCE OR CULTURAL RITUAL THAT CAN BE FOUND EVERYWHERE ACROSS PLANET EARTH WHEN IT COMES TO FAMILIES. IT'S A MIX OF THEM.

LOOK AT THESE PEOPLE:



All of the combinations between them are accepted across many varied cultures, for both cultural reasons like marriage, as well as sexual relationships, while the same goes in other cultures for how unacceptable it is for such combinations to occur. Then add to the mix, combining all kinds of humans of all ages and in all imaginable ways, and they will still be acceptable within some cultures (people), but not for others.

Some people can be together and feel like a family without a sexual relationship, marriage ritual, or financial and material gain pressuring their choices. Still, the influence of those can be huge. If the prospect of marriage comes with financial advantages, citizenship, social status, etc. for someone, it becomes very tempting. In some cultures where people cannot afford to live a good life on their own, they cluster in large families (mothers, fathers, children, aunts and uncles, cousins, grandparents, and so on) in order to support each other (money, housework, agriculture, etc.). When people gain the means to live more on their own, they may choose to cluster in smaller groups (just parents and kids). Also, when people accept work far away from where they were born, their family becomes smaller due to regional separation.



If you view the world as a set of experiments in societal organization, you will realize how fluid this notion of a family is. People love or hate other people (whatever that means to them), form families and often break apart, etc., and do so across all kinds of colors, patches of Earth, cultures, or genetic inheritance. It seems to me that there is no 'natural' tendency for white people to prefer a white partner or like white children more, or for Asian people to only desire an Asian partner or like Asian babies, or for humans to only like those who share their genetic makeup. Nor does it seem that all people want families, or a specific number of partners and/or children.



For instance, it may seem that all mothers experience a kind of nurturing 'instinct', especially when they are pregnant. However, such a huge statement implies that you can't find women that don't care about their pregnancy or their newborn, but there are many examples of such mothers. Some hate pregnancy, some are not what we might call a loving parent, and some even kill their newborn (for varied reasons). That shows that even if some 'nurture-inducing' chemicals naturally kick in during pregnancy to make her want to care/love for her newborn, then these chemicals are either not present in some women, not present in any women, or the human brain (as proven so many times) is very flexible and almost completely shaped by the environment, even to the point of overriding such internal chemical signals.



So, depending on the person's culture, how one feels and deals with the stresses of pregnancy, the idea of having a baby, and so on, appears to be rendered by the environment.

There are many parents who do not love their children, and kids who don't love their parents.



When the US tribe announced this year that gay marriage is finally accepted by the tribe as legal, it was, again, proof of how primitive humans still are. It shows how rituals have morphed into businesses and how some take advantage/control them. If you love someone, whatever that means for you, it seems really strange that you would care about gaining the approval of any other humans for you to continue to stay together. But since the world we live in still retains a reverence for statuses (tribe leaders and those subordinated to them), as it has for millennia, people still grow up generally looking for approval from these chiefs.



A look at this wikipedia page describing various types of marriages (rituals) will help you recognize how much of a dictatorship the world was, and continues to be, as nearly every tribe out there had and has something to say about how people should cluster together, and what is 'permitted' in regards to a family.



Religion (culture) and money (system), along with other notions, have shaped people's minds into thinking that there is one 'right' kind of family, with much of that sustained forcefully by rules, laws, and punishments for not adopting them. There are also laws in place that merge the stuff that two people own when they get married, so all of that stuff becomes owned by both of them. If they later split apart, they also need to 'legally' split their stuff. All of this creates many businesses and jobs, without which the monetary system would suffer.

Also, have you noticed that if someone slaps his/her kid, or screams at them, or other conflicts inside the family, they are not viewed the same as if they were doing those things to someone outside the family? Why is that? If I slap my kid because he cracked my phone's screen, that may be perfectly acceptable to many. But if I do that with someone else's kid... Well... imagine that. I am not saying that one is good, and the other is bad here. I'm saying that it's very interesting how such things are regarded today. I think many will agree that it's more acceptable to explain to the kid how whatever s/he did affects someone else, and how to avoid such situations in the future, but when the kid is 'yours', people usually avoid opinionating about it. I believe it's perverse to look at any human being (with or without your genetic makeup) as 'yours', like property, but I also recognize how very dangerous it is to dictate to people how/why they should have a family and/or children. The notion of family as 'property' is highly integrated into today's world, and it seems to be a reflection of the monetary system, mainly because kids are fully financially dependent on their parents within this system and, on occasion, parents may later become financially dependent on their children.





I have met people who wanted to find someone to be friends with and, on occasion, have myself been asked by people if I want to be their friend. Has that ever happened to you? I think it says a lot, since friendship is something emergent from a relationship, not something you can find of force. We can't suddenly be friends, we can only become friends over time and shared experiences. I think the concept of family must be regarded the same way: not as a rigid structure created by all kinds of notions, ideals, and materialistic gains, but something that is arrived at.

Charles Darwin married (had sex, loved, befriended) his first cousin. Today, 1 in 10 marriages happen between cousins (source). There are also people who marry their niece, uncle, sister or brother, or even their parents. But this is yet another backwards look at the situation, as a thousand years ago and beyond, most sexual relationships, and eventually marriages (once that ritual went viral), most often occurred between genetically close humans. They had no notions of incest or pedophilia, which are 'modern' rules that perhaps make no sense at all. It's certainly true that having a baby with someone who is genetically very closely related to you increases the chances for genetic diseases to be spread to the child, but this is not the reason for not 'allowing' such relationships.



In a global RBE society, where materialistic influences have become obsolete and we focus on real education (science), people will have all the means to form a family without restrictions, and will have the knowledge as to what that particular type of family may represent for them. It's quite hard to see how rituals like marriage will have much relevance in such a future, or even clustering people in little groups and calling that a family. Since children won't be culturally or materialistically divided, and the more science they learn, the more they can recognize that we are all members of the same species, maybe this will make all of the world's people feel like they are part of one big worldwide family.



Imagine being trapped on a deserted island for 10 years or more, able to survive but devoid of human contact. Then you see a ship on the horizon. You make a fire, they see you, and come to rescue you. Maybe they speak a language that you don't understand, and you realize that they are from a very different part of the world than yours. But man... when you see these humans from a different tribe than you, speaking another language, you will jump for joy seeing any fellow humans. Why is that? Perhaps it's due to a 'lowest common denominator' phenomenon. While there are normally obvious cultural differences, your situation easily allows you to recognize the similarities and ignore those differences (you all eat, sleep, see the world through the same senses, need good health, protection from harsh environments, etc.).



The same may happen if you are from the US and you go to a different tribe like Japan. You may find that you can't relate well to the people there (maybe due to culture or language), but when you meet a 'fellow' American, you instantly feel like 'brothers', or at least much closer than you were likely to feel if you met the same man 'back home' within the US tribe. I think it's the same idea, where you feel closer to the American because you share more values with him than with Japanese people. Interestingly, I feel closer to the people I've met online than with my own family, although most of them were raised in completely different tribes, in other corners of Earth, and despite all that, it's because we share more common values.



And another important thing: if you relate only with a few people, your life may change for the worst when those few disappear. Having more friends or family members allows you to better cope with the loss of some (death, for example). Older people often become lonely or depressed because their old friends become sick or die, even if they themselves are in a good health and physical condition. They also often become lonely as their children and grandchildren cluster in small groups separated from them. All of this is reinforced today by the separation of people by age via all kinds of social programs like retirement plans, education, jobs, or homes for elderly, together with continuous reinforcement of the idea of small families (parents + kids only) via movies, offers, laws, and so on.



All of these things create lonely people. When we add in the effects of 'social' networks which encourage people to spend their time alone, staring more at their screens, seeking views and likes, exploited by advertising companies through offers ("Ah, you have so many likes, we are going to pay you to promote these products" - "We saw you are interested in this, well you can now buy that at a 30% discount!"), you end up with a perfect recipe for people that can't help but become even more lonely. Did I mention that if you want to meet people who share more of your values, you can't, due to monetary limitations? Yeah, that's also a thing, and a huge one. When I want to meet the 'online' folks that I have come to know and share the same environment with them, money prevents that.



So if people of all ages grow up together in large clusters, with a good background education (science), not limited by region or access, the likelihood for a human family to develop at a planetary scale is very high. Maybe when you meet new people in the future, you will respond like that guy trapped on an island, eager to meet those new humans because you know that we all share the same basic values and respect each other, since we recognize ourselves as humans. Our common denominator will be that we are all humans, but today's people have to be taught that, as most were not taught to realize this. Plus, focusing on teaching people to understand humans that have different values will also bring much more to this notion.



You can read TVP Magazine's [The Human Aspect](#) and [New Frontiers of Social Change](#) articles for more on the structure of families in the future, but we also plan to develop a detailed article on pro-social methods of raising children for a near-future issue. If you know any good ones, please use the feedback form to send us any really good source links (books, lectures, videos, etc.) that you might like us to consider on this subject.

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