

# The Science of Censorship

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Alongside the rise of illicit censorship these past few millennia and decades comes its ever urgent and improving theory and countering practice. Elements of Lobaczewski's Ponerology, DeMause's psychohistory, and Lifton's mind control theory, are drawn together. These latter clinical and theoretical advances have given us new tools for recognizing and countering destructive censorship. The observed machine-like qualities of illicit censorship are reduced to a formal set of propositions which then lead to testable- and tested- hypotheses. From there, a science and technology of anti-censorship is proposed, bearing in mind that "without barriers to communication there can be no communication".

## 1. Introduction

All lies contain lies of omission. As lying is necessarily censorship of the truth, censorship is a form of lying. It is a gateway crime that can lead from loss of good reputation, to loss of income, and sometimes all the way to murder or suicide. It therefore has to be very carefully defined and characterized, a process that should be reducible to a durable science under the general categories of criminology and forensics. There is a general need to filter out noise, to be able to focus on what matters at the moment. A careful distinction has to be drawn between this necessary filtering out of the irrelevant and the highly-toxic results of censorship.

A police detective looks for the burglar's residue- visible signs of forced entry, tracks, etc. He also establishes the psychological bases in *mens re* and motive and the physical bases in means and opportunity: so too for tracking down the censor, the defamer, and the plagiarist. Trolls on the internet use anonymous monikers for the same reason that bank robbers wear masks.

Alleged Peer Reviewers are anonymous for exactly the same reason. There is nothing benign about it. Secret peer review also presents an opportunity for the criminal to steal the work of others. This has happened to me on more than one occasion. After "submitting" (their word) a NASA grant proposal which was denied, one of the apparent reviewers got a sizable grant from the same source for the same idea, which he now claims to be his idea. The history of science is so littered with similar examples that a saying has developed: "discoveries are named after the last person to discover them". So censorship has other reasons besides preserving status by preventing advances.

This paper had to be abbreviated due to time constraints and so it serves here as an introduction to some new ideas and a partial survey of the existing.

## 2. The Establishment as a Machine

Any rooted bureaucracy, government, university, court, etc. operates like a kind of machinery, with information and resources for its inputs, and more of the same for the outputs. The central processing takes place according to set rules, albeit with exceptions, in which Dept A passes information to Dept B, and so on- processes most Readers are all too familiar with. Input rejection is a necessary and crucial feature of these machines, and can

be partly modeled with programs similar to "Defenders of the Faith" below.

The claim is sometimes made that the educational system has failed in its mission, but that analysis depends on what the real mission is. As John Taylor Gatto, among others, has shown [1], the real mission for over a century has been to produce relatively thought-free cogs to be inserted into the various Establishment machines, a mission that has been fairly successful. If this mission hadn't been successful, it would not be possible to model the resulting system with such simple computer programs.

The original architects of the 'educational machine' are long dead and the system is now operated by their inheritors, what Ivor Catt calls the "maintenance men" [2]. But the architects neglected two crucial features in their designs. John Rockefeller's man claimed that 'we have enough artists and philosophers already', which may have been true enough in his day. Today though, there are few such, and even fewer if any from out of the alleged educational system. The Establishment operators are now surrounded by yes men and Machiavellis of every stripe, and can call out narrow specialists for any occasion, but they no longer have counsel. Wise men have deserted them. As one man put it, it is like a great and shining zombie jetliner coursing through the skies to destination unknown. Everything looks fine inside and out, the passengers are content, the engines are purring right along, but when you visit the cockpit there is no one there.

Speaking as an inventor and machine designer, the other feature lacking in their design is the most crucial button on any machine: the button that shuts it down. When the Allies of WWII bombed out the government buildings in downtown Berlin the German's General Rommel rejoiced. Now he could get things done without all the bureaucratic machinery in the way. Rommel discovered the only OFF switch these kinds of machines have- a systemic collapse. As a scientific prediction: that is their destiny.

## 3. Censorship as a Cult Characteristic

Robert Lifton made a study of 'brainwashing' [3] and came up with a checklist that fits the government-school milieu fairly closely. Lifton's eight criteria for a brainwashing victim are (cited in [4]):

1. **Milieu Control** "The most basic feature of the thought reform environment, the psychological current upon which all else depends, is the control of human communication. Through this

milieu control the totalist environment seeks to establish domain over not only the individual's communication with the outside (all that he sees and hears, reads and writes, experiences, and expresses), but also — in its penetration of his inner life — over what we may speak of as his communication with himself."

[i.e. Behavior modification, isolation from parents, clanging bells, threat of failure, controlled textbooks, gold stars, lockdowns, and the rest.-FB]

2. **Mystical Manipulation.** "The inevitable next step after milieu control is extensive personal manipulation. This manipulation assumes a no-holds-barred character, and uses every possible device at the milieu's command, no matter how bizarre or painful. Initiated from above, it seeks to provoke specific patterns of behavior and emotion in such a way that these will appear to have arisen spontaneously from within the environment. This element of planned spontaneity, directed as it is by an ostensibly omniscient group, must assume, for the manipulated, a near-mystical quality."

3. **The Demand for Purity.** "The experiential world is sharply divided into the pure and the impure, into the absolutely good and the absolutely evil. The good and the pure are of course those ideas, feelings, and actions which are consistent with the totalist ideology and policy; anything else is apt to be relegated to the bad and the impure. Nothing human is immune from the flood of stern moral judgments." (Page 423.) "...Only by pushing toward perfection, as the group views goodness, will the recruit be able to contribute. The demand for purity creates a *guilty milieu* and a *shaming milieu* by holding up standards of perfection that no human being can attain. People are punished and learn to punish themselves for not living up to the group's ideals." -A. Orange

4. **The Cult of Confession** "Closely related to the demand for absolute purity is an obsession with personal confession. Confession is carried beyond its ordinary religious, legal, and therapeutic expressions to the point of becoming a cult in itself."

5. **Aura of Sacred Science** "The totalist milieu maintains an aura of sacredness around its basic dogma, holding it out as an ultimate moral vision for the ordering of human existence. This sacredness is evident in the prohibition (whether or not explicit) against the questioning of basic assumptions, and in the reverence which is demanded for the originators of the Word [e.g. Einstein, Darwin, Maxwell -FB], the present bearers of the Word, and the Word itself. While thus transcending ordinary concerns of logic, however, the milieu at the same time makes an exaggerated claim of airtight logic, of absolute "scientific" precision. Thus the ultimate moral vision becomes an ultimate science; and the man who dares to criticize it, or to harbor even unspoken alternative ideas, becomes not only immoral and irreverent, but also "unscientific".

6. **Loading the Language.** The language of the totalist environment is characterized by the thought-terminating cliché. [e.g. "conspiracy theory", "crackpot", "truther"-FB] The most far-reaching and complex of human problems are compressed into brief, highly reductive, definitive-sounding phrases, easily memorized and easily expressed. The cult invents a new vocabulary, giving well-known words special new meanings, making them into trite clichés. The clichés become "ultimate terms", either "god terms", representative of ultimate good, or "devil terms", repre-

sentative of ultimate evil. Totalist language, then, is repetitiously centered on all-encompassing jargon, prematurely abstract, highly categorical, relentlessly judging, and to anyone but its most devoted advocate, deadly dull: the language of non-thought."-A. Orange

7. **Doctrine over Person.** "... the subordination of human experience to the claims of doctrine." (Page 430.) ... "Past historical events are retrospectively altered, wholly rewritten, or ignored to make them consistent with doctrinal logic. No matter what a person experiences, it is belief in the dogma which is important. Group belief supersedes individual conscience and integrity."-A. Orange [what DeMause [5] calls the "group fantasy"-FB]

8. **Dispensed Existence.** "The totalist environment draws a sharp line between those whose right to existence can be recognized [e.g. "Scientist"-FB], and those who possess no such right [e.g. "Crackpot"-FB]."

The comparison to mainstream scientists isn't exact, nor does it apply in every case, and there are subjective aspects to his analysis, but the overall trend is there. By understanding how these people got to be the way they are we can offer them some form of assistance in their recovery. Most are simply good people caught in an unfortunate system.

## 4. Censorship Linguistics

When censors communicate there appear to be particular styles and exact words reserved especially for this task, some are high-toned, others lowbrow, similar to Lifton's criterion.

"Crackpot" is one example of an unscientific word used either as a noun or an adjective to spin the allegedly scientific analysis that the censor is purportedly making. "Puzzled" is one of the more high-toned verbs used for this purpose. "Bizarre" is a commonly employed adjective- devoid of explanatory power, bent on defamation. Censors often employ specific derogatory adjectives that refer to lower animals, similar the racist's use of acronyms like WASP and PIIG. These words and others all have several synonyms yet they are favored by censors and so serve as markers.

These specific connotative nouns, adjectives, and grammatical structures are presented across numerous fields, not simply within physics and astrophysics, although excellent examples can be found at many such mainstream internet forums. "Censorship Linguistics" is therefore a reducible subfield of the science of censorship, with repeatable results and predictive powers. A simple computerized sentence generator can easily output a thousand examples.

## 5. "Defenders of the Faith" Computer Program

The responses of the defenders of an Establishment proposition- be it Special Relativity, Maxwell's Equations, Darwinian Evolution, the Big Bang, Plate Tectonics, and numerous other examples, have certain clear and repeatable elements to them, partly described above. I and a colleague began a flowchart for a computer program to model this phenomena, one we think will easily pass the Turing Test. It turns out that "Defenders of the Faith" is a very simple little algorithm, one which might even be

amenable to implementation on a computer constructed of tinker toys and flashcards.

For one example, "Magic 8 Ball Replies" is named after the old toy that displays a random and obviously thoughtless response to any question posed to it. Some of its 20 possible answers are "Concentrate and ask again", "My sources say no", and "It is decidedly so", answers remarkably similar to some of the more polite responses to things like "The Catt Question", described elsewhere in these Proceedings. Feynman concludes his discussion on the waveguide with "There are many ways of looking at the same thing" [6], an excellent example of the genre. A subroutine in "Defenders of the Faith" would emulate the Magic 8 Ball with a lookup table consisting of character strings and a random-number generator for the address pointer.

The reserved-word linguistics sketched out above can be used to fill out a different table for a sentence generator. More elaborate responses also follow very specific, context-sensitive patterns, in many cases almost as if they were cut and pasted from some master document. Manually typing in combination terms like "relativity crackpot" or "evolution nutball" can turn up a wealth of data relevant to the "Science of Defamation", useful as program algorithms.

Many of the defamations are so stock that the program merely has to insert keywords from the jargon of the subject under discussion into pre-assembled sentences. A program such as "Defenders of the Faith" might even be able to 'supersede' the Turing Test, in that the combinatory possibilities opened up by the processing power may lead to new forms of defamation that a government-school victim would not have thought of.

## 6. Peer Review as Hearsay

A peer reviewed paper should not be admissible in court as authoritative evidence. The alleged peers are anonymous; the journal editor is making a hearsay claim about their authority- and even of their existence- to judge the merits of the published paper. Any such paper offered into evidence in a trial could be countered with a *subpoena duces tecum* served on the editor and publisher. Otherwise, the purported "peer review" is hearsay, reducing the authority of the paper to no more than that of a newspaper article.

A purported "expert witness", who claims to be an expert partly based on his published, peer-reviewed papers could be impeached for this reason as well. Short of subpoenaing the secret reviewers of his papers, there is no way to legally prove their veracity.

## 7. System Scalability

As Lobaczewski [7], speaking of the Soviet Union, puts it, it wasn't necessary to visit the bowels of the Kremlin to find the source of human evil- it was replicated in every town hall (soviet), village, and institution, replicated to a high fidelity. This means the researcher can conveniently verify the described phenomena himself with a minimum of apparatus.

## 8. Conclusion

The internet has provided the serious scholar and criminologist with an unparalleled research tool into the mechanics of censorship. What would have taken years of poring over old letters is now accomplished in a matter of hours. Information is freely available that would not have even been published in the past. From a careful construction of the science of censorship it may be possible to develop a psychodynamic technology of anti-censorship, just as burglary led to alarm systems.

## References

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