

Reconciled

By
Karel Van Canegem-Ardijns

Edited by
Heidi Erikson

Published By
In Search Of The Universal Truth
(ISOTUT Publisher

Denver, Colorado. USA

Reconciled
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By Karel Van Canegem-Ardijns

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Cover image by
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First printing June 2012

ISBN 13: 978-1-61500-017-3 Trade Paperback
ISBN 10: 1-61500-017-8 Trade Paperback

Library of Congress Control Number – LCCN 2012930066

Published by
In Search Of The Universal Truth (ISOTUT) Publisher

Website
www.insearchoftheuniversaltruthpublisher.com

Published in
Denver, Colorado, USA

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**About the wording
that you will see in this book**

We want to mention that you will see some words spelled like (civili(s)ation). This is not a misprint or a misspelled word. The author is of European descent and we want to keep his spelling the way he had wrote it. People from Europe and the UK prefer to use the (s) and not with a (z) like we of the USA do. Also as we the publisher have wholesalers in the UK / Europe our books are sold worldwide, we are honoring our author's spelling in this way.

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Preface

We are living in a time of incredible prosperity. Civilisation has never had as much access to knowledge as now, mainly thanks to the internet. If you have access to this medium, the possibilities are endless.

Up until recent times, “ordinary men and women” were kept in ignorance. Only an elitist, who considered himself an intelligent human being, had access to knowledge. These elite consisted of royalty, the church, and later on, the bourgeoisie. We have finally broken through this iron curtain and we can call ourselves the most intelligent generation of all times, or can we?

You would think that people would be happy to take advantage of this endless source of knowledge. A source which can be discovered on the internet. Take a

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search engine like Google for example. You fill in a request and an endless list of possible links appear right in front of you. I agree, some of it might not be relevant or might even be wrong, but that is another area in which our knowledge should be used to keep improving it. In certain countries the internet still has to make its impact felt due to general poverty and a reluctant government. But look at what happened in the Arab world. The revolution against all those oppressive regimes started on the internet. This medium is our most powerful tool of knowledge. We should treasure it and make sure everyone has access to it.

Yet, it looks like some of us are choosing to remain ignorant. Instead of actively searching for information, they are choosing to become the hopeless people of the night, losing themselves in a world of parties, under the illusion that they are all royal rulers.

It's bread and games that are destroying us again, just like they destroyed the Romans. We would rather read about the latest escapades of a celebrity, we would

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rather focus on the achievements and failures of others. Updating our Facebook and Twitter pages takes up most of our time on the internet. In the end we view all the global problems from a distance. We ask ourselves: what on earth can we do about it? Nothing! Right?

Let me be clear. This book has been written to oppose today's establishment. We all have the knowledge necessary to effect change, but exploiting our fellow human beings and seeking profits are still taking priority over saving the world, and with it, saving mankind.

In the media, political leaders, organisations and others are discussing a wide variety of topics, some of which are important. Yet, all they do is talk. They seldom or never take action. They would rather put together a committee to discuss a social problem, which is where it stays for years and years. They only make progress after someone dies. Why? No one has the nerve to make a decision. Our political leaders completely lack the courage to cut the knot and take action. Our current political system has taught them to keep

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watching their backs instead of looking forward. They spend more time fending off others who are stabbing them in the back so that they can maintain their (political) lifestyle, than taking the risk that is necessary to bring about a brilliant change. They prefer to play political games and look important.

Our forefathers have proved that it takes more than that; someone has to stand up and take everyone in tow. Change is always good and if it moves too much in a single direction, a contra movement will automatically follow.

The main reason we put up with a complete lack of progress is, of course, due to all the luxury we have, and that is a fact. We are overwhelmed by the most useless toys. It's all well and good, but will they help us find our salvation? Will they help us to protect the world from horrible disasters?

We are connected to so many material things. It is difficult to break this relationship, but we have to do it. You will see why. In order to make progress, and

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not just technology-wise, we have to get better. Right now, our consumption-oriented society sees us as no more than a number in an endlessly long line.

We are not all equal, no matter what the law or anyone else says. There is still an elite class, who can do what they want and who have a back door, which is more than the rest of us have. Large companies see us simply as ducks used to produce foie gras. We are all pumped full of material things and negative thoughts about our self-image,... and, in the end, we are slaughtered, no longer capable of standing up for ourselves.

We need to ask today's establishment a question. They are advocating all sorts of big ideas to save the world, to change this, that and the other ... but all they are doing is pointing their finger at the ordinary man and woman, while they themselves are swimming in luxury.

Conventions are organised so that men and women dressed in suits can have their say on global warming. Once they finish their well-paid speech, they all go home in

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their own private jets. Thus, global warming has almost become a joke. It has become one of the many social problems that comedians use to crack jokes.

In any case, there is an environmental problem; but the solution or the beginning of an upward trend does not lie with any one government or organisation. It lies within all of us as individuals. You see, the hopes we all have as a group, must be within each one of us individually, no matter how strange this may sound. Only a healthy and well-balanced attitude towards nature can provide salvation to us, society and the world. All the rules handed down by a single green party also do not lead to any solutions; they only provoke a negative attitude from the citizens.

Corruption penetrates our society so easily. Whenever we decide to organise something big, it always leads to more suffering. Why do we say that we are taking action to benefit others, while all we do is fail each time? Are people really trying to effect change while being sabotaged by the ill intentions of others and allowing themselves to be intimidated?

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For example, the church deviated from something pure and good: the love of God and mankind. A whole organisation was established with a myriad of rules, and in the end, the Roman Catholic Church has become responsible for the current world we live in. For the past few centuries it has determined what progress was to be made and what crimes were to be committed in the name of God. The church became corrupt due to its many rules and weak leaders. It is now attacking its own children, God's most beloved gift. Anyone who claims to be a part of the church but abuses children should voluntarily lock himself away in a dungeon, never to be seen again.

The love between God and man should be direct. We don't need a third party to tell us how we should handle our relationship with God. This is personal: it is between each individual and God.

It is sad that we have to think this way, that we can no longer put our trust in an organisation, but the evidence is clear time and again. If an organisation does not have a good leader, does not give its members

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any room to think, and is more concerned with all the rules, then corruption will definitely ensue. The movement will form a disadvantage to the individual and will affect him at a personal level. It is an unequal battle. A whole system will come down on one, single person. Nevertheless, each and every one of us can bring a large, cumbersome organisation to its knees.

This is the central theme: the authority and the power to effect change must lie within the individual. Organisations, institutions, governments and others are all there to support people, not to bombard them with thousands of rules.

The philosopher, Friedrich Nietzsche, has been my source of inspiration. It is easy to come up with endless stories about different topics, but basic thoughts must be written down firmly, clearly, and concisely. Nietzsche was clear and it also holds true for this book: the person who wishes to understand these words must have the level of intelligence to comprehend the severity and passion of this piece. He must stand on top of a mountain and feel all the destruction,

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egoism, and decadence beneath him. He must have the courage to bring up matters when others would be afraid to do so. He must bring the underworld up to the top and cleanse it.

I will not bore you too much with figures and statistics. I will only express what I consider to be true, and it will hurt. After all, as humans, we have had a long and tough life. It is high time to seek happiness and to give each other hope. We have the knowledge to effect change. Let's start taking action. Do not get lost in a jungle of promises.

This book will encourage you to think differently about our whole society, the so-called socially engineered society, and provide you with the knowledge to take a different path. Something must be done. We can no longer sit around staring at each other. Each one of us must take on more responsibility, responsibility that is now partly in the hands of the government.

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Chapter 1 Government

A country is never born. It evolves from the thoughts of others, generally a few people. They will create a web with all sorts of connections so that it seems practically impossible to dissolve its government. Take Belgium for example. That country was created to act as a buffer against the once mighty French Empire. It now holds several parliaments and is divided into four parts. There is a Dutch speaking region, a French speaking region, a German speaking region and the capital Brussels which also acts as the European capital. Belgium didn't have a fully functioning government for a long time due to cultural differences between the north and the south. For some reason it seems almost impossible to break up that country and let every region go its own way. There are so many people and

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organisations that benefit from a country and seeing it dissolved will ruin their own little empires. Their biggest fear of course is losing their lucrative income. In the end it is not about the people, but looking after one's own wallet. I will make it very clear that our current monetary system and our focus on profit and debt can be seen as the main cause of human suffering. What if we had the courage to change that system?

History shows that the more power you give to a government, the more trouble it leads to all around. Power will always be abused by ordinary people and the more you concentrate it, especially with persons who only look after their own wealth, the more citizens will suffer.

Totalitarian regimes are governments with absolute power, often called a dictatorship. So far we haven't had one individual who is able to command such power and not be corrupted by it. Still, I believe that one day a person will rise who will have the advancement of all living beings as his only goal and who will be able to resist all temptations. But that

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somebody will have to be special, out of this world.

As an example for a totalitarian regime I will take communism. Its ideas were created by a few people. They wanted to destroy capitalist governments and give all the power to the people. What happened? It led to an authoritarian government with no freedom at all for its citizens. So we must see communism as yet another cover by an elite to gain power. Once they had the government under their control, they did everything to betray their fellow human beings. Isn't this incredibly sad? Communism shifted away from the noble beginnings of Marxism, that is complaining about the abuse of workers and the liberation of the proletariat. But only hate was called to life, resulting in more distrust. Once the communist rulers took power, a whole system was put in place to report, torture and execute anyone who, in the government's view, did not follow or believe the principles and ideals established by the rulers. Marxism as an ideology can sound perfect, but in practice

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it has always been corrupted by a few who were blinded by power.

Therefore a political party should be created and the first item on its agenda should be to limit the power of the government. There are parties who make this an important point, but I have never seen it in practice. According to me they always give in to organisations with lots of money and influence. But in the end that doesn't say much about a party's integrity. The people who make out a party are to blame for this weakness.

The Democratic party of the United States for example is all about open government. Their website says:

"Democrats believe that government should be honest, transparent, and participatory. For too long, lobbyists and special interests have held sway behind closed doors, and Americans have become skeptical that the voices of ordinary people are being heard. Openness strengthens our democracy and promotes honesty, efficiency, and effectiveness in government."

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This is of course another case of saying the right thing, but not putting it into practice.

There are many cases we can list here to show that corruption has invaded those noble words and that all political parties are part of a culture of corruption. Let's take Gloria Davis for example. She was a veteran state lawmaker in New York who took bribes from a company for a building project in the Bronx. With that money she bought a time-share in the Bahamas. Normally this would have landed her five to fifteen years in jail, but she was able to cut a deal and spend 90 days in jail. Besides, she was able to hold onto her nice yearly pension of \$47,000.

In our so-called "democratic" system, any idiot can come into power to lead the people. Yet again, they call in a whole system of rules and regulations that they think are necessary to improve society. We are becoming increasingly slower at responding to certain situations because we first have to follow tons of rules before we can take action. This process of creating endless rules to cover any situation is deadly. There must be room for initiative.

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America for example has way too many laws, and most of those laws are tedious, overly complex and sometimes impossible to understand and comply with. Elected officials pass laws in fits of whimsy, responding to the latest scare headlines, demands from interest groups, or data from polling firms.

The American federal tax code covers over 17,000 pages and requires over 700 different forms. The IRS estimates Americans spend 5.1 billion hours annually merely preparing their taxes. The Tax Foundation estimates that those wasted hours drain some \$194 billion annually from the U.S. economy. All of that comes before Joe Taxpayer forks over his first dime.

It is my personal view that a government should limit itself to a number of key duties that we as individuals cannot carry out. The government should serve the people. No longer should people serve the government by paying sky high taxes (over 50% and more) to keep a government alive. I believe a tax rate of ten percent for

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everyone is reasonable, but I will explain this further in a following chapter.

Maintaining public buildings, traffic safety, and public order, etc. are the duties of a government, and to make sure that each person can move about freely and safely in society.

So in the end, we are all gentle little lambs. A lot of our personal income goes to the government. Agreed, we get a lot back from it, but how much of it is wasted? How many useless posts and committees are there? Who takes responsibility for all this waste? The citizen who never sees an end to tax increases.

You surely cannot expect the people to be held responsible for mismanagement of a government while that same institution demands each of its citizens to carefully and properly manage his own affairs. Why can't a government follow its own advice? Look at Greece for example. People are paying now for years of mismanagement. They have to tighten their belts, not the ones who are responsible for the national debt, nor the ones who are in power. And

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thanks to the European Union and its holy duty to worship the euro, all European citizens will pay. Where is the democracy in this?

The current system encourages the influx of bureaucrats who cling onto a certain subject, no matter how ridiculous the subject appears if you look at it from a certain distance. I believe bureaucrats to be resentful people. They love the perverse satisfaction they get from causing difficulties to others. We should fight bureaucracy with every possible means. People are constantly being bombarded with all sorts of forms, bills, and the like. This dulls people's minds and there is no more room for creativity.

A country can only be built by people. How many countries have been drawn artificially on the map? Just look at the Middle East. All those countries as we know them today came about because of the West. How many civil wars and ethnic cleansings are taking place over the world or have taken place because a country was established by a Utopian elite?

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The Kurds have been looking for their own country for ages. They are up against one of the strongest countries in the Middle East, Turkey. But as a people they demand self-government and should be given that right. If we take away the idiotic presumptions of a country being set in stone, we can take away a lot of suffering due to cultural differences. It is my personal wish to come to a system that concentrates 'governmental power' at the lowest level possible, that is communities.

A country is the point where war starts. These wars can be against other countries or they can be fought against its own citizens, called civil wars. I will take a very sensitive subject to illustrate this.

The United States had a civil war from 1860 to 1865. The Southern states saw the election of Abraham Lincoln to president as a danger to their own rights. They called in the principle of states' rights and tried to secede. The federal government didn't allow this and went to war against its own people.

In my view states should be able to secede, but at the time the South's economy

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was built on slavery, a most despicable system. Those who benefitted from this, men with power and position, weren't going to let this golden goose walk away and were more than willing to send others into the front lines to defend their riches. Again monetary gain was the cause of a lot of human suffering. So the South tried to secede for all the wrong reasons.

How much sincerity is there in politics? How many politicians stand by their convictions no matter what? "But sir, you know we have to make concessions. We have to compromise," they say. This is excellent of course, but renouncing your own principles is the worst thing you can do. This is why a system in which you have to constantly make concessions because everyone wants to create their own party, is a system of self-denial, which sprouts into corruption. How can someone possibly stand up for a government program if he has to compromise on his own principles in order to realise it? How do you defend something strongly that is not yours? Yet, they do everything they

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can to benefit from the wealth this system brings.

In America you have a two party system, but in Europe each country has more than a few parties who are out to seduce the citizens with (false) promises should they come into power. But if you want to form a government in Europe, you have to give in on several of your key points you went to the elections with. So actually, no one ever gets what they stand or voted for. This is called democracy, but I don't see it working like a democracy really should.

It could be a democracy if you would limit governmental power, but now as every party tries vainly to let its presence be felt for the upcoming elections, we are being faced with endless regulations so they can write in their re-election program they did achieve a few things. This system I do not call democracy, but a system which puts fear in all of us, citizens and politicians alike.

A society, company, or office can only be led if many people dance to the same tune of a few. You have to accept the

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negative sides of a person higher up the ladder than you. You have the right to complain or to quit your job. What rights do we have with being part of a country? Can we say: "I quit"? Can we really effect change through elections? Once the elections are finished, the elected officials are then manipulated by the people who are at the top of the party. They are told what buttons to push.

I propose to give more power to individual people and concentrate governmental power as much as possible on the local level.

As humans, we have evolved greatly in leadership. We started out as a tribe and certain talented people were installed as our leaders. Soon power was invested into one person called an emperor or a king. Finally we took steps to a more liberal system, but it still holds true that people can become easily corrupted. No matter how you look at it, ordinary people are not made to hold power.

Therefore I ask the following question: isn't it high time that we continue the evolution, that we become of age and no

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longer take the hand of a higher institution which takes up all our resources? But to make this happen I believe we will need one final stage of granting power to someone who will set us all free.

There is not a lot of love for our government. We mostly see it as a burden, something that likes to get in our way. Yes, the government takes care of us, but at what cost? We might feel patriotic during a soccer game, but more as a nation, we, the People. We definitely do not feel patriotic towards our government. This institution carries the nation within itself, but to me the government comprises of only a few people who are looking for ways to fill their wallets.

In the end, those who lead a government are just people. They have to be willing to use their temporary power to limit the authority of their position. I agree though it is hard to find such persons. There is so much pressure from third parties to do their bidding, so many pitfalls that come with having power, so many distractions. Still,

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this has to happen and someone must have the courage to do this even if he is threatened by powerful adversaries. The people will admire and support such a person.

I don't think there is one current politician who will be able to do that as parliament looks to me like an institution with average people who are being manipulated by the top people of the party. In this way, those who are actually running things, can never be held responsible by the people, because they are not elected officials.

But how many great and creative minds voluntarily choose the political path? The endless brown-nosing? Sure, there have been a few great leaders in the past, but how many leaders have been liked by many, the majority? Not many.

We have always been brainwashed into thinking that we need a government, even if it causes us so much grief, in order to have a good life. People need one another and customs are born. A government has the power to regulate many, too many

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things that disrupt the normal course of life. However, a country also has needs, financial needs. These needs will always conflict with the financial needs of other countries. This results in conflict and abuse of citizens.

Don't think of me as an anarchist though. No, I totally recognise the power of government, but I think we have finally reached a stage whereby the government should give power back to its citizens. Truly become an institution that is out to assist its people and take away many bureaucratic hurdles.

To achieve all this, the time of weak leaders in every area has to come to an end. We can no longer keep messing about. The time of big thinkers and big actions has to come back.

The cold war is a perfect example of what a few political leaders could have done to all of us. We could have risked the whole world for an ideological war. On the home front we were ordered to hate the others.

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How can we possibly permit superpowers like the United States and China to determine the world's destiny? A country never has the people's best interests at heart, is always looking for conflict if it has the resources and, of course, the money. I understand that most citizens are against this imperial drive or these efforts to a new world order, but as long as governments hold this much power, we can say what we want and hold a thousand more world peace concerts, nothing will change.

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Chapter 2 Pensions

There is all this talk these days about the aging population and pensions, especially in Europe. This continent has a big problem in its being nothing more than a socialist superstructure where governments think they have to take control of an individual life from the cradle to the grave.

I would like to propose something that might sound radical, but which will solve the problem altogether. Let us limit taxes to ten per cent of the total income, which is to be used to fund the key duties of the government. The rest of the income is then tax free and I truly mean tax free as we should also do away with for example property taxes. After all, it is your own hard earned money and your own property. Why should the government be in charge of all this? Are we really that stupid?

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Everyone can calculate how much they should invest in their own retirement fund. And even if you are not able to do this, I am sure an online service can handle this for you.

I fully admit that a lot of people have forgotten how to take their lives in their own hands and are more than happy to give away as much responsibility as possible. It is pretty easy when someone else gives out money, a fixed amount each month. But think about it, the money that is been given to you, is just part of what you really earned. A lot of our money goes to the big pyramid of pensions. I wonder, why should I and every other person take care of someone else's spending during and after their career? This is just another system that promotes abuse and stimulates a not so high regard that we might have for our fellow man due to corruption.

Take the government out of the equation in this matter and let us manage our own money, while contributing to the government so that it can provide us with a safe environment. Saving for a pension

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should become everyone's own responsibility. Each one of us determines the size of it. This is the only way to prevent ourselves from being pushed into a corner and to prevent future generations from paying even higher taxes.

You might counter this by saying that I don't believe in solidarity. I most certainly do, but I am convinced that solidarity should always be out of a free will. I personally don't like someone else taking a grab at what is mine and ordering me to support a perverse system of so called solidarity.