

Learning from History

By John Hyde

Throughout history, not least that of the last century which saw the rise and fall of Socialism and Fascism, bad ideas have resulted in unnecessary misery and millions of deaths. Communists, Nazis, Socialists and the like have failed in trying to impose their versions of the ideal society upon people who often have no capacity to comply. Their command-style societies served truly evil and petty tyrants and were doomed to fail because they could not identify or regulate the millions of wants and capabilities of individuals within these societies. Even the best of intentions collapsed under the weight of the unintended consequences and too many decrees and fallible enforcers. Yet the temptation to the idealistic and the selfish alike to impose order from above remains beguiling—not a day passes that we do not hear a call for yet another regulation.

Social orders that rely primarily on the voluntary actions of rights-possessing individuals within frameworks of slowly evolving customs and enforceable rules are counter-intuitive to many. Nevertheless, these liberal societies, which were designed by no one but which evolved by trial and error to an almost natural order, have brought mankind more prosperity, longevity, liberty, good health, opportunity and even military success than have any coercive Utopias. Personal rights, sometimes called civil liberties, need to be understood and defended lest they are eroded because of ignorance. Governments, however, find it easier to finance vested interests and to spend taxes to expand regulatory authorities, rather than allowing the general public the freedom to choose for themselves.

Mannkal enters this uneven playing field carefully and selectively; assisting those who defend our rights and opportunities for choice and voluntary cooperation. “Over government” especially threatens ownership and voluntary exchange in free markets, imposing costs that are borne disproportionately by the unemployed and the least wealthy. The Mannkal Foundation stands ready to assist in the defence of liberal order whenever it is threatened.

Mannkal is primarily concerned with the good governance of Western Australia and ensuring that there will always be young people willing and equipped to carry the ‘good fight’ forward.

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