

SECTION - A

1. A lie can travel half way around the world while the truth is putting on its shoes.
2. They lose the day in expectation of the night, and the night in fear of the dawn.
3. Nothing is at last sacred but the integrity of your own mind.
4. Every man must decide whether he will walk in the light of creative altruism or in the darkness of destructive selfishness.

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It is often said that man's memory is short, but mankind's memory is not. The ephemeral nature of man's memory is but a product of nature's limitation whereas the enduring agency of mankind's memory is humanity's collective efforts to immortalize our own. It is humanity's tribute to the gallants of our time, the prodigious of our species.

I invoke the names of  
Newton, Mandela and Michelangelo  
to lend credence to the argument  
that altruism is creative and selfishness -  
destructive, because mankind accords a  
unique honour ~~as~~ to those that are  
selfless while relegating the rest to  
the vacuum of irrelevance and irrelevance.  
It is the intent of this article to  
substantiate the act of creativity in  
altruism and destructivity in selfishness  
and holding aloft these premises to  
the scrutiny of consistency.

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## THE LIGHT OF DAY

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Sages of eons past drawn from  
disparate settings have all spoken  
for the idea of the entire world



being one. It is perhaps best expressed in the phrase 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'.

When the interconnectedness of the human species is all but enshrined in religious gospels and philosophical underpinnings, it is but a self evident truth to admit that altruism is the way of life. In seeking the interests of the other, the truest potential of humanity is reached and the threshold of heights of excellence continually breached.

This principle of sharing and supporting each other has evidences aplenty stretching back to prehistoric man. It is widely agreed that some of the greatest inventions to grace the human space - the fire, the wheel and language have been the combined effort of

ingenious individuals and thereafter  
the propagation of these subcultures  
has also been an ~~exact~~ exercise of selflessness.  
With every major discovery coursing  
through frontiers of time and space,  
mankind advanced every step of the  
way. With each instance of diffusion  
the light of humanity only grew  
brighter. And through sustained acts of  
altruistic glory humanity today stands  
at its zenith.

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### CONTOURS OF CREATIVITY AND THE NUITS OF ALTRUISM

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It may be argued that  
man's incentive to remain altruistic  
was in his realization that the survival



of species hinges on it. If not for staking a claim in the hall of immortals, it was for ensuring the propagation of progeny. But staking as much might give it the colour of motivated and selfish behavior. Yet, it is argued that his actions may escape the ignominy of selfishness because the urge to propagate is a primal commandment encoded into his very genetic makeup.

And so, man has walked this light of sustaining discovery and mutual learning with the interests of his brethren at heart. A few examples are worth considering to truly drive the understanding of creative altruism.

Alexander Fleming is hailed as the man who saved humanity from the devastation of microbially transmitted ill health. The penicillin was but an accidental discovery when his bacterial culture was wiped off by mould (fungus). He could then spread this wealth of knowledge to the rest of humanity.

But merely acknowledging his contributions is insufficient for his actions weren't a product of creative isolation.

Anton Van Leeuwenhoek's use of the microscope to discover the cell predates and abundantly aids this discovery. Anton's creative altruism was transmitted across centuries and in this way continues to



light the world.

Closer home, A.P.J.'s achievements as the rocket man are owed to his guru, Vikram Sarabhai who no doubt will place his gratitude at the footsteps of his teachers, some of whom are of a different citizenry. It is altruism that sustains the light of humankind across timezones and boundaries.

Mandela's struggles were by themselves altruistic but <sup>when</sup> he borrows a few methods from Gandhi's principles, the creative art of social reform through non violence is transmitted. Gandhi himself was heavily influenced by the Indian religious texts and the many sages who propounded philosophy.

Don't  
write  
anything  
beyond  
this  
margin

From ravens art to the frescoes  
on the Vatican, altruism is depicted  
and culture disseminated

## THE DARK OF THE NIGHT

The brutish and selfish nature of  
man underwent transformation when it  
was agreed on to through the mode of  
social contract to stride forward as a  
civilization. Yet there appears to be  
remnants of such undesirable values in  
a select few.

Pharmaceutical self styled  
entrepreneur Martin Shkreli is the poster  
child of living life selfishly. Upon  
securing the rights to a HIV drug,  
he would increase the cost 800 times  
over. His profits would surge while his



every remaining vestige of humanity would die. This example is one among many that taint the atmosphere of humanity.

Perhaps the entire corporate space vying for infinite profits ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> also a form of selfishness. Where the interests of life other than ~~one's~~ one's own is disregarded, the outcome, while profitable must be tested against the tenets of humanism. In choosing preservation of self over all else, the foundation of civilization itself is tested.

But this space of selfishness is a dark world inhabited by a select few. They remain cold for they cannot share in the warmth of the rest of humanity. They remain condemned for mankind forgets

their names and places. The <sup>power</sup> hungry companies of today seeking <sup>unprecedented</sup> growth and illegitimate glory may occupy the front covers of newspapers. But just as the Rothschild's, the Rockefellers of yesterday are but names whispered in disdain, the Bezos and the Musk's will also be condemned to the dark crevices of ~~is~~ oblivion. But are they all true in entirety? There are no universal laws in this dimension of understanding, so a few fallacies begin to show.

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### THE DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

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Altruism is an intention. It is only decided at the time of commissioning an action, while the outcome of this action is weighed at a later time. Despite



the best of intentions, it is possible that the spirit of the intent to be contorted and perhaps even corrupted.

When the Manhattan Project was commissioned, all the scientists who contributed to the atom bomb's making were convinced of its potential to inspire more peace than suffering. They believed the war would come to a close and their country would be saved from suffering more losses. Their intent was altruistic yet their product was destructive. Alfred Nobel's dynamite was meant to ease mining operations, instead was a formulation that was used in TNT to terrorize citizens.

Furthermore, are all acts of <sup>selfish</sup> man truly destructive? When man sees himself as an end, his motivation and attendant incentives spur innovation. ~~Selflessness~~ <sup>selfishness</sup> ~~that~~ precedes selflessness and is perhaps a stopover ~~at~~ on the path to realizing his true ambitions.

## Society - the maker of man

It has been insufficiently discussed what the role of man is, in perceiving his destiny, either towards altruism or selfishness. Is this a dichotomy or can there be a grey area that man can place himself between? Does this duality hold water at every turn? Must the decision be left to him alone?

Given the libertarian spirit of our times, it is desirable to allow man to script his own destiny. For every Shrekli there are thousands of Newtons. Not every action proceeds as we desire them and much of our analysis is in retrospect, so it may not be appropriate to dictate which line to tread. We trust in civilizational integrity and the sensibility that is <sup>our</sup> cultural moorings to continually <sup>guide</sup> ~~direct~~ human action which undoubtedly will walk the path of light.



SECTION - B

5. The saddest aspect of life right now is that science gathers knowledge faster than society gathers wisdom.
6. Whoso neglects learning in his youth, loses the past and is dead for the future.
7. In war, truth is the first casualty
8. As civilization advances culture declines

7 In war truth is the first casualty

It is often said that 'war does not determine what is right, only what is left'. I wish to stretch that understanding a little further and extend it to not only what is left but also who is left. When in war, there is a need created to 'propagate what is right'. Now best to achieve this then to redefine right to be whatever it is that men in power want it to be. Even before the battle lines are drawn, and

long before the first bullet is fired, there is a casualty that is intangible perhaps but not inanimate - truth.

Through the expositions in this article it is my intent to establish how truth becomes the first casualty in war and also ascertain if this assertion may be open to diligent scrutiny

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HONESTY NOT THE BEST POLICY.

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The Gandhian edict is the first to be spurned when men don arms and commanders draw lines. It is critical to restrict information when ~~the~~ the bugle of war is sounded, lest one inscribe his failure in stone. Truth must be controlled not only during but also <sup>much</sup> after the war has ceased.



Treatises in statecraft provide examples of how this philosophy is rooted in time. Nicolo Machiavelli's 'Prince' in the 1500s and Chanakya's 'Arthashastra' of early history make abundant references to the use of agencies to curb information. They speak of how intelligence agencies may be used to plant stories while at war to control narratives.

The purpose served is two fold. Foremost, till it is absolutely inevitable the 'mojo' of the soldiers must be protected from whispers of defeats. A disheartened force is only half as effective as those who are spirited, even if falsely so. Secondly there is a need to convince a nation's people that the stakes are high so the compliance and support of common populace

is critical to the war. Besides, though increased taxation, increased rationing and redirection of resources, the common folk are the maximally affected population, besides the wounded soldiers.

### CONTROLLING NARRATIVES

The agency of press is abused while attaining this end. Narratives are scripted as per the will of the men in power. Misinformation is propagated and disinformation is also used as a potent tool in the arsenal. Stories are planted to fuel nationalism and warhorses are manufactured out of thin air.

To die for the noble cause of defending interests of the motherland is a well parroted idea that eventually

captures  
Conscription  
sub.



captures the imagination of the youth. Conscription follows and the country has sufficient reserve men to replace the fallen on the frontlines.

Hitler's Germany or Mussolini's Italy are examples of how manufactured outrage can be well exploited by charismatic conniving men bent on self glorification. Hitler could use the Gestapo to stop press works not in his favour and replace them with his underlings. The superiority of the ~~the~~ concerted Aryan race was fed to ~~the~~ a nation starved of respect following brutal defeat in WWI.

Truth was controlled in the population and to Germany's people Hitler was a messiah. Truth can be used to divide a nation as easily as it can be used to

unify its people.

Who better to bring to evidence, to support this understanding than the astute gentlemen in the British ranks who abused principles of honesty regularly to fortify their ranks. Make no mistake, India was always at war with the British throughout its rule and the British always used truth or the lack thereof to divide India.

Ali Ginnah was perhaps its most gullible victim with the unified Indian nation its most harmed victim. To plant ideas of Hindu-Muslim disunity, was to turn the tide in British favour. India, its enemy was weakened, and truth was the simplest weapon Britain used to attain its goal.



## HISTORY AS SCRIPTED BY THE VICTOR

Dating back to those times where evidence does not exist to validate precisely how the events unfolded, the victor determines them. Truth takes a back seat as the wise men in King's court tasked with glorifying their Majesty's reign take plenty of literary liberties to spin a tale that would surprise the Gods themselves.

But how do you disprove this narration? The dead men cannot speak of the errors that dot the many books in libraries across the world. In fact, we may argue that they have given up their right to intervene in how history was shaped because they ended up on the losing side. Was King Ashoka's reign truly studded with immense victories of that scale? Was Alexander the Great truly that great? Did

Akbar truly attain divinity? If the last of my queries puzzles you, a cursory read of the Ain-i-Akbari may dispel all doubt. While it is yet to be conclusively stated if truth is the first casualty, it is without doubt it's greatest casualty.

When history itself is rewritten with each passage of baton from victor to victor mankind is the biggest loser. When truth is lost to the cold compress of time, mankind loses its touch with its past. And the past can never be used as a guide to its future. A popular saying goes "History repeats itself, first time as an accident but second time as a force". But if the very veracity of history may be questioned, then may we rely on its learnings to inform our future actions?



## IS WAR INEVITABLE?

We live in trying times where the world appears to be constantly at war. Occasionally the actors are nation states, the likes of Ukraine-Russia. But we also see non state actors indulge in war; e.g. LeT, Jem for instance.

As vital as it is for Russia to script a narration that it is a strong military power despite all of its wartime losses so the image of its leader as a strongman may not be disturbed, it is equally vital for Ukraine to cloak its citizenry in falsehoods so their spirit to reject foreign incursions is not diminished. Regardless of which side you are on, truth is the first casualty it appears.

But the usage of truth by non state actors is more worrisome. When Jem

Let use truth to obfuscate reality,  
their ill effects are more pronounced. When  
nation states, atleast on paper, are answerable  
to Geneva ~~code~~ and other agreements, there  
is nothing stopping non state actors from  
completely destroying humanity's agreed <sup>upon</sup> frameworks.  
Worse so, indoctrination of an unholy order  
is put to use to recruit, ~~train~~ <sup>of train</sup> and instill hate.  
And each step of the way, truth is contorted  
and polluted beyond repair.

Since war appears inevitable ~~times~~ in  
one form or another, especially in wake of  
increasing resource crunch, how do we prepare  
ourselves to prevent truth from becoming a  
casualty. Alas, the options appear limited  
because our access to information through  
press or ~~etc~~ otherwise through the internet  
is firmly in control of those in power.



In this paradigm then, the only way to protect ourselves from becoming prey to 'falschoids' is to prevent the act of war itself. But given mankind's history littered with warfare, perhaps we are overly optimistic on that front.

### RELEVANCE TO TODAY

Despite the scale of technological innovation and significant strides made in decentralizing and democratizing information we seem to be inefficient in truly unearthing facts surrounding war. In the Indo-China conflict of the past year, both countries have spewed narratives that <sup>are in stark</sup> contrast. Truth continues to remain the first casualty, although an informed man would be inclined to side with India's version, given the free

press and protected fundamental right to speech and expression.

The Chinese, <sup>on the other hand</sup> have been at perennial war with its own people because they have completely controlled press in their state. Even their internet is circumscribed and heavily censored. The Chinese are at war with themselves and truth is its preeminent casualty.

### A REBUTTAL

While it may be argued that truth is the first casualty, a more nuanced understanding may allow us to disagree. I wish to instead suggest 'humanity' is the first casualty. Where man chose violence ahead of diplomacy, where man entertained the thought of human suffering to further his goals, and where man considered the shedding of blood preferable to the sharing of butter, humanity died a painful death. Humanity dies first, truth soon follows.



# INSIGHTSIAS

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## ROUGH SHEET

So violence  
still at war  
making it hard to think

You win the  
ground

Galaxy  
who are under

Truth is what  
the victors want  
to be

History as scripted by  
the victors

In war, truth is the first

① Humanity is the  
first casualty,  
Numbly does a painful  
death when violence is  
needed to our diplomacy

Small side  
war  
→ how to capture  
human mind, keep it  
believe to  
get one idea

casualty

Control narrative  
→ for your country  
→ for the world

War does not determine  
who is right, only  
who is left

Ukraine Russia

Saudi Am

Nasser Germany

indoctrinate

Press to control  
Now  
Selection  
of  
press  
→ selection  
of  
press  
→ selection  
of  
press

There has been  
in a personal  
war, because it  
has always hidden  
truth.

would, what is right only  
what is left, Ideological

Information

Technology

belief in  
superiority; conviction  
success

Abjure war

Why

In today's world thought? → ① Satellite  
→ ②

Is war an inevitable  
reality?

How do we not have to  
seem then?

Citizens begin  
to bleed.

Truth dies: essence to  
ratio

There  
no  
war  
but truth still  
a casualty

① How do they die  
② They die for the right  
(cause)

Even before just bullets  
fired, ball bearings are  
thrown

But among us, lack of  
civilities

Pace

Nope

Progress

schools are  
spread for under  
→ created area



Can knowledge ever be an end in itself?

IPR without understanding

Creative contribution → through his methods, his memory is immortalized.

# INSIGHTSIAS®

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## ROUGH SHEET

Every man must decide whether he will walk in the light or in the darkness. Constructive altruism or destructive selfishness.

must every man decide? Can the state decide for him? / society?

For

Against

Altruism is creative when

- see the world as humanity
- protection of ~~interests~~ preservation of species, languages, or sharing of knowledge, hypothesis of pure science, wheel → and now advanced natural sciences
- Penicillin Alexander Fleming → but credit back to Beecham
- Einstein back to Newton methods / dispersed / sustained
- Mandela back to Gandhi
- RDT back to Vikram Sarabhai
- Creativity propagated through millions from Leonardo's art to Vatican's Michelangelo's → ~~great~~ frescoes to Picasso's & deconstructed abstractism.
- Dedication Phulke

Altruism is ~~off~~ only assessed in action. What follows may not be expressly altruistic.

Source: propagated Alfred Nobel.

Atom bomb Manhattan project nuclear devices →

Are all selfishness destructive?

- Man places himself as the ultimate end → progress / innovation / creative
- Much of discovery was perhaps selfish → turned selfless → fire for warmth, civilization
- selfishness precedes selflessness equally potent as a principle that advanced humanity.

selfishness  
We do not  
remember their names  
history cannot credit  
them because they  
may be hypocrites  
by being selfish

Comrade  
Pharmakon  
Shreel  
Lives in  
HIV. 8000  
Time