

Idealism, Violence and Censure

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01 Introduction 🔊

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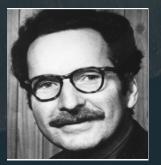
Colin Sumner Violence, Culture and Censure (1997)





Erich Fromm (1900-1980) German social psychologist

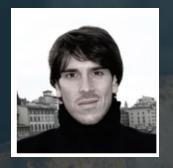
Escape from Freedom(1941)



Ernest Becker (1924-1974) American cultural anthropologist

The Denial of Death(1973) *Escape from Evil*(1975)

01 Introduction





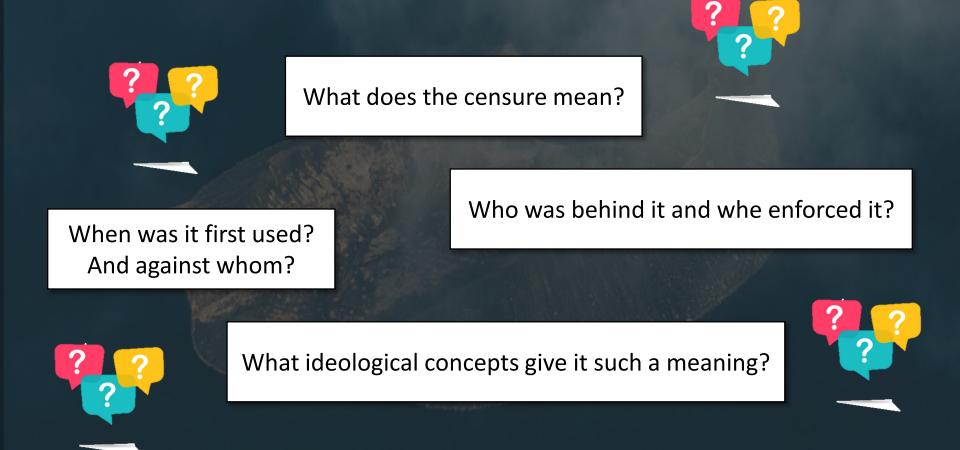
Simon Cottee & Keith Hayward. (2011). Terrorist (E)motives: The Existential Attractions of Terrorism













Censures should be understood as moral, political and ideological Discourses that aim to marginalize, exclude and regulate behaviour.



'there is a latent violence in censure and a latent censure in violence'

03 A Distinctive Way of Being 🔊

03 A Distinctive Way of Being

What is terrorism?

the desire for excitement

the desire for ultimate meaning

The desire for glory







https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sio9kNnDXwc Can Terrorism Be Defined? (4:25)

03 A Distinctive Way of Being



the desire for excitement

I have become a Somali you could say. I hear bullets, I dodge mortars, I hear nasheeds [Islamic songs] and play soccer. Sometimes I live in the bush with camels, sometimes I live the five-star life. Sometimes I walk for miles in the terrible heat with no water, sometimes I ride in extremely slick cars. Sometimes I'm chased by the enemy, sometimes I chase him! I have hatred, I have love. It's the best life on Earth!

03 A Distinctive Way of Being

What is terrorism?

the desire for excitement

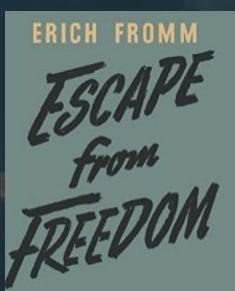
the desire for ultimate meaning

The desire for glory









FREEDOM IS FRIGHTENING----WHY? A psychologic warriers down mark choice beforen fight to automnte a rom and achievement of democracy.

distinct type of being



being with self-consciousness

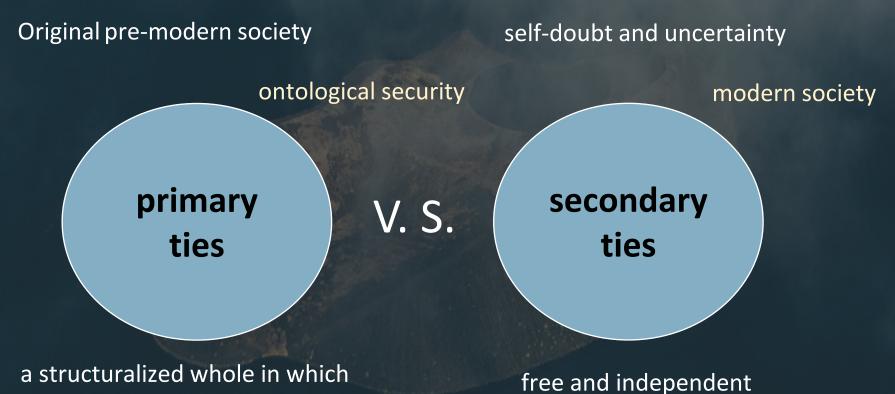
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6m84C G5iRf4 Erich Fromm on Happy Normal People (1977) (4:29)

ontologica I security

the process of individuation

separate, lonely, and frightened





he has an unquestionable place

Fromm identifies two main strategies

positive solution





becomes an automaton

The other main strategy of escaping the self that Fromm identifies involves submitting to a powerful leader.



Authoritarianism

The tendency to give up the independence of one's own individual self and to fuse one's self with somebody or something outside of oneself in order to acquire the strength which the individual self is lacking.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KH-ZuQjT8o4

Erich Fromm on Destructiveness & Authoritarianism (6:04)

unconsciously some power within themselves drives them to feel inferior or insignificant

symbiosis

sadism

masochism

those individuals who enjoy having control over other people



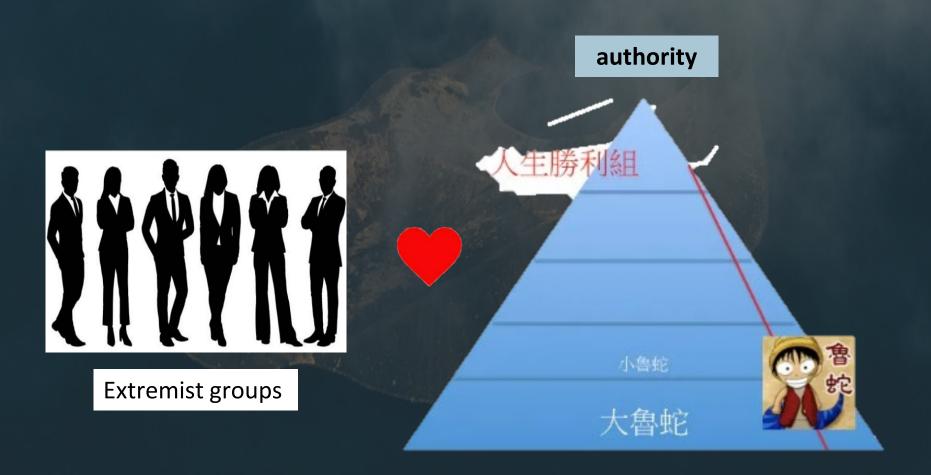


the desire for ultimate meaning

Joining a terrorist group allows members to submit themselves to a group they believe is overwhelmingly strong.







There are divisive effects that can accompany the process of escaping uncertainty.

As Fromm originally identified in *Escape from Freedom*, the strategies people employ to experience a firm sense of security and belonging can also lead to the denigration and humiliation of others who do not share their own in-group identity.

Understanding how extremist groups offer recruits a strong sense of identity and belonging makes an important contribution to understanding why members are willing to engage in violent and destructive behaviour.

WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE

"A brave work of electrifying intelligence and passion, optimistic and revolutionary, destined to endure" . Die New Text Twent New Kerne

THE DENIAL OF DEATH

"One of those rare masterpieces that will stimulate your thoughts, your intellectual curiosity and, last but not least, your soul Einsberh Kebler-Ross, sether of On Deth and Dyng

ERNEST BECKER

ERNEST BECKER

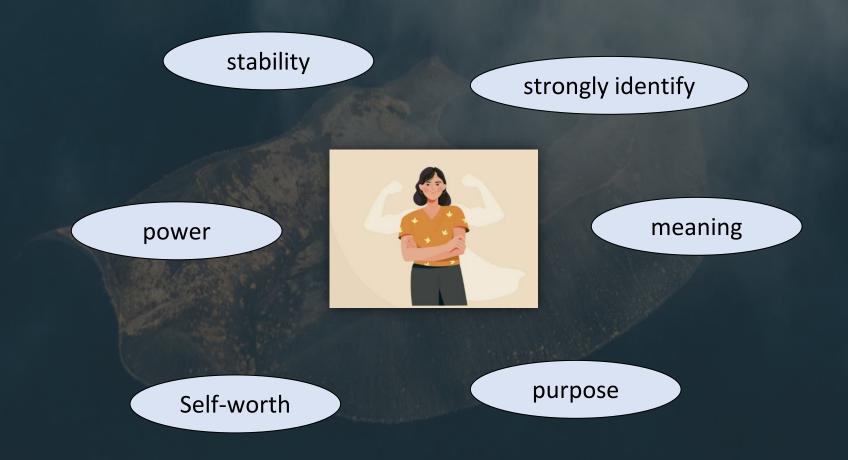
Protection care managements of the first and first and first protection for the protection of the first and first protection of the first and first protection of the first and first protection of the first protection of th

How people cope living with the knowledge of their own impending mortality?



cultural hero system

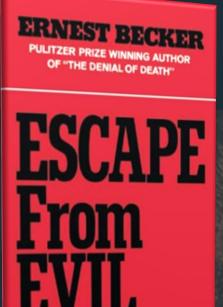
cosmic heroism



The other main form of defense is provided by the desire to stand out, to make a difference, to be *heroic*.



Whether people manage to achieve the 'high' heroism or the more mundane everyday heroic actions all forms of heroism protect people from the prospect of dying without significance.



War, torture, violence and genocide are often the result of heroic attempts to isolate and eradicate evil in an attempt to make the world a better place.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qWNT3NYmeEI

Ernest Becker and the Fear of Death (8:49)





As Cottee and Hayward recognise, the dream of being heroic is a narrative found in many other secular and non-secular terrorist organisations.

Individuals are provided with a sense of ultimate meaning, they can defend a cause they firmly believe in and make heroic sacrifices by fighting a war against those they believe to be an aggressive and oppressive adversary.

> Indeed, the 'driving force' of violence, war and genocide arises from the strategies people employ to cope with their mortality awareness. The aim is to that one is something special.

Becker is explaining why people censure and scapegoat 'filthy' others for bringing chaos and disorder into society.

06 Extremism, Violence and Self-Esteem 🔊

06 Extremism, Violence and Self-Esteem



06 Extremism, Violence and Self-Esteem



How low self-esteem can lead to dangerous, aggressive and violent behavior.

06 Extremism, Violence and Self-Esteem



Roy F. Baumeister

'violent people tend to have highly favorable opinions of themselves'

Rather than identifying with feelings of inadequacy and worthlessness, aggressive and dangerous people are often arrogant, conceited and 'often consumed with thoughts about how they were superior to everyone else.

Indeed, even those who believe they have high self-worth may be simply compensating for feelings of vulnerability.



07 Conclusion

Fromm emphasized how the need for a firm sense of security and belonging is often accompanied by intolerance. Symbiosis can only alleviate rather than eliminate feelings of isolation and aloneness.



Instead of unreflexively gaining feelings of heroism by 'narcissistic scapegoating', once people can fully understand their need for cosmic heroism it may be possible to find more creative, dignified and lifeaffirming ways to feel heroic.

THANKS FOR WATCHING