



Four cornerstones for living in freedom and order

How can Malawi be transformed? What would be one of the most important worldviews to understand in order to be successful? Look at the concepts of the bible and how the West transformed it in history.

by Markus Reichenbach March, 2021

Introduction how to become successful in building a prosperous nation

Content

<i>Abstract</i>	2
<i>Introduction</i>	3
<i>The foundation for living in freedom and order</i>	4
1.1 Is the law still over me?	4
1.2 Do I have the only power?	5
1.3 Do I have to be accountable and to whom?	5
1.4 Does my position still serve the people?	6
<i>Conclusion</i>	6

Abstract

If people want to change a nation, they have to think about its leaders. Everything begins with leadership. A nation will have what the leaders are.

The US wanted to establish democracy in Afghanistan, but it didn't work. They must now go home and confess that they have failed. Why, because they only tried to change the system and not the leadership. As Vishal Mangalwadi said. It would indeed be better to send 10'000 missionaries to Afghanistan than 10'0000 soldiers.

A nation cannot be changed by changing the structure. A structure cannot disciple people. It is the other way around. Converted people can change a structure to get a good product.

A nation can be transformed only when the leadership is transformed. Transformation does not start out there, but within each individual. Transformation is only possible when leaders start changing their own thinking about what is good and bad.

Transformation can only happen when change happens. When leaders change and do things differently than before. But how can they change? They can change when they start to change their minds and their hearts. This is the subject of worldview.

Now consider the four cornerstones of building a great nation. Leaders should ask themselves the four questions to find out if they are ready to build a stable and prosperous nation. Whether they are ready to transform a nation?

- Is the law still over me?
- Do I have the only power?
- Do I have to be accountable?
- Does my position still serve the people?

Introduction

and in the knowledge that only those who use their freedom remain free, and that the strength of a people is measured by the well-being of its weakest members¹,

People think that democracy and human rights are the guarantee of prosperity and freedom. But is that true?

In the last century, most of the African nations became independent. They got a constitution, a parliament. A democratic system like the West has. But did it work?

The Americans spend a lot of money on the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. But it seems worse than before. They spend money to help them build a democracy. But it didn't work. In the end, the Taliban, and ISIS took the country and destroyed it. It seems that a democratic system did not work in the other parts of the world. But why doesn't a democratic system work in these countries?

Is the bible really the source of democracy?

John Wycliffe wrote in his Bible book that a democracy is government by people and for people. But do people still believe that?

The first time the word democracy was used was by Cleisthenes 508 BC a Greek thinker. Greeks also invented the word, but Greece was never a democracy. No more than the 10% of the population or probably much less ever participated in political decisions. Only the citizens, those who owned property, had a vote, the rest were women, children, slaves, peasants or foreigners who had no rights. This is not comparable to today's idea of democracy. Today it is that everyone has rights, like, everyone is equal before the law, freedom of speech and so on.

Democracy comes from the Greek word demo, which means people, and the Greek word cray, which means rule. The people are the government, the ruling power. In Greek, that didn't work. Socrates rebuked the politicians for the power game they played in this so-called democratic system. He therefore proposes an aristocracy. Aristocracy puts power in the hands of a small, privileged ruling class. Rule by the best and that was the philosophers. They have the most understanding of how to make a nation function well. The politicians did not like Socrates and forced him to drink poison or leave the city, the so-called polis. He chose to drink the poison rather than leave the polis.

The 10people in Greece had no universal right. They did not have the understanding that all men are equal before the law. They did what they thought was best for the city or let's say for themselves. Who decided what was best? It ended up in a power game where people tried to outsmart others through rhetoric games or money.

Somehow it seems that the Greeks' idea has a problem.

It didn't work for the Romans either. The Romans did not talk about a democracy, they tried to establish a republic. But it ended in chaos. It ended in a dictatorship under Caesar. The Romans had the same problem as the Greeks. They had no understanding that all men are equal before the law and they had no common law. They too had the first idea of civil law with the 12 Tables, but it didn't work.

¹ Swiss Preamble

Some may think that the French Revolution brought democracy. It's probably the best application of democracy, where everybody could do what they wanted. But it was terrible, it was anarchy where everyone ended up killing everyone. Napoleon stepped in to solve the chaos. But instead of the promise of *liberté, fraternité, égalité*, it was a dictatorship, but not just for France anymore. Europe became a new empire under Napoleon and was swallowed up by the brutal ideology of France. The French idea of anarchy did not work. Instead of bringing freedom, it brought oppression and war.

The socialists' idea did not work out either. Their idea followed the French Revolution that all are equal and all have the same right. Marx thought that the evil in the world was that people had something and others did not. So, the enemy of freedom was private property.

The communists forced people to give up their property. The peasants no longer had land, they only worked for the community. Everyone was supposed to work only for the community. But it ended in poverty. Every country that became socialist ended up in poverty. Man was no longer so selfish and he didn't go to work if he knew he had to work for others, as he probably wouldn't do anything. It killed creativity and motivation to start new things. Even communism felt that ideology was taken up by the social democrats. But did it work? Look to the socialistic countries like Cuba, Venezuela, Mozambique and so on. Did it work? I think I am allowed to say no.

So, what is the right understanding to live in a world where freedom and order can be guaranteed? Let's look at four cornerstones to build a great nation.

The foundation for living in freedom and order

1.1 Is the law still over me?

In order for people to live together in freedom and order, they must agree on a common standard. For a company and an organisation this would be the values, for a state the constitution and for the Christian the ten commandments.

Islam would not fall into this category. They do have a common law, but it is not the same for everyone. The people with the highest authority have the right to give the correct interpretation of the law. In Islam, it would be the Imam who has the right to give the interpretation.

But in Christianity it is different. By translating the Bible into the common language of the people, everyone could examine the common law. It was a common for all the people. It stayed about the people, but it was not of the people. It remained above the people and that made the West a stable and prosperous nation where people could live in freedom and order.

***For a stable nation, people must agree on a common law
that everyone has access to.***

It must be open to everyone; everyone must have access to it. Anyone who has the law in their hands should be able to stand up to authority and tell them they are in the wrong.

Many nations today have a constitution, but often it doesn't work. It doesn't work because people have no means to stand up for what is wrong. There is no right to stand up for injustice.

Leaders should ask themselves: Is the law still above me? Is there something I can and must measure my thinking and my behaviour against?

1.2 Do I have the only power?

Separation of powers vertically and horizontally

Therefore, a nation must ensure the separation of powers. Normally, nations have a separation between the executive, legislative and judicial branches. The reformer John Calvin said: "It is not good that one should have too much power. Sooner or later, he will abuse it to his own advantage."

Christians understood the deep problem of the human race. They understood why during time in history people became dictators and abused their power. They understood that man is a sinner. He would never be able to bear too much responsibility. Therefore, it must be clear that responsibility is shared. Leaders must ensure that they do not get too much power. Nobody should have too much power.

Switzerland doesn't have a president. They have seven ministers who have the same authority. They have to find an agreement. Most people don't understand that this can work. It's slower than having a president. But it is much safer. This system guarantees that power is not abused and that has helped to turn Switzerland into one of the richest nations.

Power must also be separated vertically. Responsibility for a decision should always be at the lowest possible level. The decision should be taken at the level where the people have to bear the consequences. It will not be good if the people in the office decide what the farmers have to do. That will lead to a revolution. Leaders need to ensure that decisions are made at the level where the work is done.

For a stable nation leaders are required to disciple people.

If people are not able to take responsibility, then leaders cannot give them the responsibility. So, leaders must always ask, what can I do to equip people. To equip them to do the work that I do. They are not allowed to sit on the chair and fight for their position. They are always looking for ways to equip people to receive the same level or even more than themselves.

It would be so dangerous if leaders start to think they are the only ones and no one can replace them. It would be so dangerous if it is not clear how people can replace you.

Leaders should ask themselves: Do I have too much power? Do I have the only power? Is there a way to replace me? Do you think others could do it just as well and maybe even better?

But even that is no guarantee that power will not be abused. How can you make sure that the separation works well?

1.3 Do I have to be accountable and to whom?

Leaders need to build a system of accountability. They need to be accountable for what they do. People have the right to ask critical questions. Everything they do or decide is written down and can be read by others. There is no place for secrets or actions behind the curtain.

When leaders get to a place where they are not accountable, it becomes very dangerous. Leaders will fall, it is just a matter of time.

Leaders have to make sure they don't walk alone and always have partners by their side.

Leaders must be accountable that they do not abuse their power. Leaders must have the attitude of not taking what does not belong to you.

Leaders have to choose the right way even they lose something. Leaders keep their hands off the things that don't belong to them. They do not accept gifts for their work and do not allow bribery. Always say it is better to lose money than relationships.

Christians have also found a key to this problem. How can people ensure that others do not take what is not theirs if no one sees it? Christians believe in God, who sees it when no human being can see it. He will see in the darkest corner of the world. As long as Christians have the fear of God, it works. The fear of God keeps those in authority in check.

If leaders want to build a stable nation where freedom and order prevail, they must ensure that the accountability network works.

Leaders should ask themselves: to whom I am accountable to? How can I see what I do? Do I write down what I do?

1.4 Does my position still serve the people?

The Prime Minister means the first servant. The first servant, as Jesus was. Jesus as the greatest leader in the world preached it all the time. If you want to be the first, become a servant like he was. A leader in a functioning society must be a servant. Leaders are not given a position to become great. Leaders are given a position to serve others. Leaders are not given a position to become great. Leaders are given a position to serve others.

The greatest leader is the greatest servant.

This will guarantee that a stable and prosperous nation, where there is freedom and order, will come out.

Leaders should ask themselves: Which people am I serving? Is it just to gain my own interest or am I serving others first? Who is benefiting? This test must be done again and again.

Conclusion

Everything starts with leadership. A nation will have what the leaders are. If people want to change a nation, they have to think about its leaders.

A nation cannot be transformed by changing a system. It can be transformed only when the leadership is transformed. Transformation does not start out there, it starts within each individual. Transformation is only possible when leaders start changing their own thinking about what is good and bad. Transformation can only happen when change happens, and it has to start in the minds and hearts of leaders.

Dr Benjamin Levi advises that people need 5 principles to build a democracy.

5 principles of Democracy²

1. What power is given to you?
2. Where you get it from?
3. To how's interest to you is it?
4. To whom you are responsible to
5. How can people get out of you?

Change is possible but only when it changes and this has to start inside of the leaders in position.

² From Dr Benjamin Levi Moses