

Many people define justice as "doing the right thing." This is an easy answer, to be sure. But what is "right?" This is the question that most people don't think about.

"Righteousness," as we may put it, is not tangible; some people say that it doesn't exist at all. Each man is right in his own thought. How, then, may we have justice in a world full of individualists?

Quite simply, justice exists because we create it. Without man, there would be no justice, and overall no need for it. Justice is a compromise between most average humans. It was established long ago, in the hierarchy of cavemen, so that each man could protect himself from the others. The gist of this pact is that the notion that "If I agree to not kill you, you agree to not kill me." This is applicable in many fields, from stealing to murder. It is a way to cap the destructive potential of man. Robert Nash, creator of the Nash Equilibrium, stated that different organisms will coexist with each other and sometimes cooperate, to ensure the best result.

So who are those that go against justice? Are they human? Of course. The difference between a law-abiding citizen and a criminal cannot be seen physically, but psychologically. They reject the silent pact between humans. Indeed, at some degree, they reject all human institutions. They are the remnant of our pre-human days, the days of lawlessness and natural selection. It is their belief that the strong deserve more than the weak, and that no other man can stop his goals. Truly, criminals are not inhuman; they are simply rebels against the institution of humanity. So, for the sake of argument, let us assume that justice exists, as an unspoken bond between most humans, made concrete in constitutions and laws. Should people who go against the law be defended, nay, have the "right" to be defended? This is a good question, but first we must answer, what is a right? This is even more difficult to define than justice. A right can be defined roughly as what an individual expects to be granted to himself by other individuals, and vice-versa. Should all people have the same rights? But do rights

exist at all, especially in America? I highly doubt it, and I shall exemplify my view in the following example.

In 1941, at the onset of World War 11, the Japanese Empire led a surprise attack on America through the Assault on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Americans were shocked. They said that it was unjust. In an act of fear, the United States government signed into law an act that would effectively uproot and re-locate hundreds of thousands of Japanese-Americans, many American citizens, to "camps." These people had the "right" to a trial by jury, the "right" to due process. They received none of this. They had no rights. Why? Because, in the opinion of the majority, their "rights" were "unjust." We must always remember that, unfortunately, the rights of the individual are usually overruled by the opinion of the majority. From slavery, to discrimination, to these American concentration camps, rights do not exist. All that remains is subjective justice, justice as viewed by the majority.

Now that we know the true meaning of justice and the malleability of rights, it is time to discuss the state of our judiciary and legal system. As defined by our Constitution, it is the responsibility of the legislature to create policies and laws and the responsibility of the courts to execute it. Well, you can probably see what today's problem is; our courts are competing with our corrupt legislators in the act of making policy. The people view this as wrong, and that is what makes our justices "unjust."

We must come to the defense of the indefensible to insure that "justice" does not become tyranny. All-powerful justice, with no opposition, is tyranny. Our own all-powerful opinions will destroy us. We must have opposition, arguments against our views, so that a fair trial does not become and out-of-control lynching. It happened to African-Americans throughout the 19'~ and 20th centuries. It happened to the Japanese during World War 11. And it is happening today, in the persecution of Islamic Americans and the passing of the

constitution-breaking PATRIOT ACT. We must defend these people, not for their sake, but for our own sake. We must preserve our lives. That is justice.

I end this article, not with a summary, but with a prophecy of warning. Those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it, and only through an analysis of the rise of tyranny in history can we see the pattern that is emerging today. We must challenge authority. We must convince others, not of our righteousness, but of their wrongness. We must preserve an equilibrium, a neutrality. Only from neutrality may true justice emerge. Only from neutrality may we be free. Rights and justice come and go, but human nature is eternal.

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