

UTOPIAN SUPREMACY

How Selling Utopia Destroys Societies

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What happens when being right matters more than getting it right?

Utopian Supremacy rarely begins with an obviously dangerous idea. It begins with something real: a wound, an injustice, a danger, or a problem that decent people want to solve. Wanting to improve society is not the problem. Human beings need hope, ambition, cooperation, and reform. The decisive shift occurs when an imagined future is given greater moral authority than the people living in the present.

At that point, the plan rises above the people. Opposition is no longer treated as disagreement about method. It becomes opposition to justice, safety, equality, health, national renewal, or compassion itself. Property can be reassigned, choices overridden, speech restricted, institutions dismantled, and suffering dismissed as the temporary price of a better world.

Utopian Supremacy occurs when confidence in an imagined outcome is used to place the plan above the people, the theory above the evidence, and the planners above correction.

The missing X-ray: why another view matters

An X-ray taken from the front can show what looks like a moth-eaten area in a vertebra, raising concern about cancer. But bowel gas overlapping the spine can create the appearance of a hole in the bone. **One view is not diagnostic in this case.**

A second view, taken at ninety degrees, can help distinguish an apparent defect from actual bone damage. **The image was real. The interpretation needed testing.**

Our disagreements can work the same way: each person may see something real, yet mistake that view for the whole diagnosis.

Five signs that the future has begun to rule the present

- 1 Moral elevation.** The destination is placed above ordinary political choice. It is presented as justice, survival, or goodness itself.
- 2 Moral compression.** Real tradeoffs are denied. Freedom and safety, equality and variety, or compassion and responsibility are treated as if only one side has moral standing.
- 3 Asymmetric sacrifice.** Those directing the plan gain status and authority while others surrender choices, resources, relationships, or opportunities.
- 4 Immunity from evidence.** Bad results do not count against the theory. Failure is blamed on enemies, misinformation, incomplete implementation, or insufficient power.
- 5 Removal of exit.** People cannot refuse, leave, build alternatives, or recover what was taken. A failed compulsory experiment can cost a generation.

The book's challenge is deliberately symmetrical: apply the test not only to movements you oppose, but also to institutions, political tribes, and solutions you support. Most people recognize dangerous certainty in someone else. The harder task is to recognize it in ourselves.

How a noble promise becomes a self-protecting system

1 PROMISE	2 CENTRALIZE	3 FAIL	4 INTENSIFY
A real wound is joined to an idealized destination.	Power concentrates and contrary signals lose legitimacy.	Incentives distort and the intended beneficiaries carry the cost.	Failure is blamed on resistance and used to justify more authority.

Recognize the warning signs. Ask better questions.

Utopian Supremacy helps readers recognize when worthy goals begin protecting bad decisions. It gives you practical questions for judging policies, institutions, and movements, including those you support. Who pays? Who decides whether the plan is working? What happens to the person who says no? What evidence would make the leaders change course?

Understand why good people join

Promises of a better world offer hope, belonging, moral purpose, and relief from uncertainty. Understanding that appeal helps explain how decent people can support systems that harm the very people they intend to help.

See what the plan leaves out

No planner sees every local condition or consequence. The book examines the knowledge carried by prices, customs, professional judgment, families, and experience, and asks what disappears when one view becomes supreme.

Recognize when feedback is being lost

Speech, criticism, elections, and the freedom to leave carry warnings that leaders need to hear. Suppressing them can make an institution look orderly while leaving it unable to recognize its own mistakes.

Spot the cycle that rewards failure

A promise concentrates power. Results disappoint. Resistance or insufficient authority takes the blame. The proposed remedy is more of the same. Learn to ask when persistence has become protection of the plan.

Follow power and consequences

The book contrasts leaders whose standing depends on results with those protected by control of language, procedure, and the definition of success. It asks whether authority remains connected to responsibility.

Recognize a better alternative

Preserve criticism, choice, and the ability to correct mistakes. Test ideas on a limited scale, judge real results, and keep decisions close enough to their consequences that failure can lead to learning.

Read it with someone you often disagree with.

Order your copy, then invite a friend, relative, or colleague with a different outlook to read it too. Use its questions to explore political disagreements and other unresolved issues. You do not have to reach the same conclusion to understand each other better.

Hope needs room for correction. The book argues for ambitious improvement that remains answerable to evidence and to the people who live with its consequences.

About the author

Dr. Mark Dyrholm DC BComm brings three decades of experience across clinical practice, professional regulation, governance, public policy, and political leadership. His clinical work taught him that one accurate view can still produce an incomplete diagnosis. He applies the same discipline to institutions and their real-world results.

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