

The Corporation
3rd in a series © 2010
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In the last column we determined that since the corporation is a “legal person”, we could examine its personality the same way a psychiatrist would examine a patient. So we compose a list of *personality traits* and examine each one to determine the character of the corporate person.

Callous unconcern for the feelings of others. YES [] NO []

As mentioned in previous columns in this series, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) made possible for American corporations to leave for other countries where labor is much cheaper than here in America. This does not necessarily mean the products we buy from any particular corporation will be cheaper, it may only mean corporate investors (shareholders) get bigger returns on their investment. When a corporation leaves the United States, jobs are lost, probably never to return. We need to thank our *elected* leadership for this.

When a corporation that has left the United States for another country with much cheaper labor, there comes a time when those corporate employees (read slaves) are now making \$0.75 an hour instead of \$.30 (30-cents) an hour. Corporate management eventually reaches the conclusion that the people in this country are no longer desperate enough to work for less money than starvation wages, so the corporation moves their operation to a location where the people are more desperate and will work for \$0.30 (30-cents) an hour so the investors can receive a higher return on their investment and management can get huge bonuses. The corporation, who is managed by real human beings, does this with absolutely no concern for the human beings whose lives they are devastating nor the country who has been their host.

Therefore, under the personality trait: “**Callous unconcern for the feelings of others. YES [X] NO []**”; we check the YES box. Concern for people, communities and country’s can only come from the management of a corporation and its board of directors. But if the moral principles held by the Board of Directors and management have no such concerns, then neither does the corporation. “S_IT” rolls down hill from the top and if that is what *the top* is full of, then... you fill in the blanks. Next trait...

Incapacity to maintain enduring relationships. YES [] NO []

Quite often the laws and public policies of countries do not suit corporate management. But the corporations often have greater power than most governments by virtue of their ability to bring money to the leadership elite of a country. Therefore, the corporation enters into negotiations with the leadership of a particular country and, determined to have “their way”, the corporation most likely will buy off the country’s leadership in one form or another, same as in the United States. In order to get around the laws and policies of a particular country, a *special ZONE* is often created for the corporation where the laws and public policies of the country have no force and effect.

Enter the *Expert Processing Zone*: It is billed to the people and world as a first step in new development. In reality it is a *free trade enclave* which the corporation has negotiated with some third world government. This *zone* is fenced in like a prison and all who work there are searched coming in and going out.

As more and more *Expert Processing Zones* are created in third world countries, the countries (or their leadership) enter into a competition with each other to entice the corporations to their particular country to fill the pockets of the leadership with “clinkies” [a metaphoric phrase for ‘money’]. Country after country are forced to come up with ways to entice corporations to come to their little de-nationalized pocket. Yet, the workers of the country don’t make enough money to have three meals a day, let alone feed their own local economy.

Therefore, under the trait: **Incapacity to maintain enduring relationships** YES [X] NO [] we mark the YES box. Next trait...

Reckless disregard for the safety and well being of others. YES [] NO []

In this arena we look to see if there is harm to human health from ‘dangerous products, toxic waste, pollution and/or synthetic chemicals.’

In the 1940's a *chemical revolution* occurred. It became possible to develop virtually unlimited new chemicals, never before seen in the world. As the *petro-chemical* (read OIL) industry grew, warning signs emerged that some of these new chemicals could pose hazards. While the early data could be considered trivial, or anecdotal, there eventually emerged a body of data to the extent that we now know dangerous synthetic chemicals have permeated our work place, our consumer products, our air and our water. Chemicals which produce cancer, birth defects and some other toxic effects.

If *someone* were to take a gun and shoot you, crippling or killing you, that is clearly a criminal act. However, if the same *someone* exposes you to chemicals which are known to kill you [eventually], the only difference is how long it takes you to die. We are now in the midst of a cancer epidemic in which one of every two men will get cancer in their lifetime and one in every three women will get cancer in their lifetime.

In their greed, a corporation with slimy leadership will even allege criminal charges against an employee in order to steal that employee’s engineering and software development!

But corporations don’t stop with harm to humans, there is also harm to animals through habitat destruction, factory farming, experimentation and other activities, all of which are very inhumane.

Therefore, under the personality trait: **Reckless disregard for the safety and well being of others.** YES [X] NO [], corporations receive a check mark in the YES box.

p.s. For those who do not know, since 2002, most business photocopy machines have hard drives in them and record an image of every document scanned. When the photocopier is retired and sold as a used machine, every document ever scanned by that copier is on the hard drive and

available to anyone with the sophistication to remove the hard drive and access it. This opens the door to knowing Social Security numbers, medical history's, bank account numbers and access codes... you name it.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iC38D5am7go>

More examination of the personality traits of corporations to come... stay tuned.