

On contemporary cognitive states - Postliterate - Medium

By Postliterate

Source: <https://medium.com/@postliterate/on-the-contemporary-cognitive-states-ba6d383538fd>

The current state of the super-middle class seems to contain a bifurcation into two extremes: neuroticism and cognitive anarchy. The neuroticism spoken of herein manifests not even in potentially positive ways, e.g., in generating stringent moral codes and a strong sense of decency and self-overcoming. This is likely because the neuroticism spoken of herein has existed in its whole lifetime alongside “cognitive anarchy.” Cognitive anarchy is a chronic mental state whose major characteristics are a lack of self-identity and a paralleled lack of self-regulation. Cognitive anarchy creates a state of mental and physical filth, inside of which much of the newest generation of youth finds itself in. The two bifurcations are able to live in such harmony because as the self explodes outward without restraint (à la cognitive anarchy), often the ego follows it (à la neuroticism). Thus, the unrestrained hedonism of cognitive anarchy which demands instant gratification often results in the creation of a large ego which generates insecurities and a complacent, hugely negative mental state. This complacency, as the extension of the hedonism of cognitive anarchy, manifests as a fundamental laziness. Then, as laziness creates no change in oneself, the ego again criticizes oneself in the same way as before, and the pattern of neuroticism remains in motion.

Following this logic, it is therefore not the sole problem of “social media” for creating a generation which is neurotic to the point of suicidal ideation and yet simultaneously hedonistic and sedentary. Social media must be viewed as merely an inevitable by-product of a larger developing social logic, and the issues social media creates are not actually creations, but exacerbations of the effects of more fundamental logics. Hedonism and suicidal ideation are one and the same; therefore the behavior and outcomes of social media are not novel, but are merely feeding off existing social logics and exacerbating their effects.