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sease, ecological disaster or environmental degradation grow exponentially, it is clear that there is a profound need for the much more holistic and organic practices of scientific thought long nurtured by the Yi Jing and favored in Chinese and other East Asian societies.

The Power and Weakness of the

Anglo-American Corporation It is difficult to understand contemporary problems related to medicine, scientific method and thought habit without reflecting a little on the role of the corporation over the period of growth of Western power. Clearly, the entrepreneurial spirit of corporate entities facilitated the exponential growth of high cost and high-risk ventures fundamental to the building of empire. Government entities would have found such activity difficult, if not impossible.

The British East India Company(8) the Honorable Company was a central force in the extension of British power, perhaps nowhere more conspicuously than in the use of the opium trade to accumulate wealth for Britain and undermine traditional authority in China. Such entities were highly innovative and highly successful but were essentially predatory on non-European communities. In this, even before the early 19th Century, they were aided by the reassurance of various forms of clarity and deductive rigor in introducing forms of intellectual apartheid.

These international corporations mobilized the services of seminal economic theorists like Adam Smith and David Ricardo to rationalize and legitimize their activities and even seed a secular priesthood of academic economists to propagate the orthodoxies of their preferred global order.

An the same time, an increasing number of writers suggest that the corporation, accustomed to operating freely in little regulated marketplaces, became predatory even in their own home communities. For instance, in Unequal Protection, Thom Hartmann (9) has suggested that a series of transformations in the United States of America in the 19th Century led to the victories of the corporation turning bitter ..for those who won, , , , , ' .

The essence of Hartmann' s book is the history of the corporation in America and its conflicts with, and undermining of law and democracy. He seeks to show how corporate values and powers have come to dominate the world, for better or worse. He sees the victory of those playing the corporate game at the very highest level over the past two centuries turning bitter in unexpected ways, not only for the less advantaged of the 6 billion humans on planet earth but also for the lives and families of the victors.

Hartmann sees no one untouched by addictive and harmful foods and medicines, by an increasingly toxic environment, by experimental and careless science, by fragile and top-heavy economies, or by hollow and plasticized cultures. He argues that these and many other contemporary problems are traceable back to the frenetic systems of big business that result from the doctrine that corporations are persons, with the legal rights of persons. Most importantly, as persons that mobilize vast resources and never die naturally, corporations have been able to dictate the processes and outcomes of the American legal system and, consequently, the processes and outcomes of the American political system.

The systemic obligation to focus on and ensure short-term profit has ensured that corporate interests

reflect less and less the needs of human persons and more and more on the narrow and unnatural demands of corporate persons - essentially profit-driven managers and stockholders. This has progressed to the stage that Japanese experience has prompted some to talk of the corporation as a new form of evolutionary life, disposed even to cannibalize the human beings on whom it depends to function (10).

Critics of the corporation, like Hartmann, remain marginalized in Western society but they have focused growing attention on the fact that people in Anglo-American heartlands feel increasingly like people in lands previously

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