

kasNotes On Common Sense By Thomas Paine (And Minsky)

By Kevin A. Sensenig
2021
United States

Sources

Common Sense
By Thomas Paine

The Emotion Machine: Common Sense Thinking, Artificial Intelligence, And The Future
Of The Human Mind
By Marvin Minsky

My Notes

Thomas Paine, monarchy, and the representational state

In Common Sense (1776), Thomas Paine enumerates and elucidates things wrong or problematic with a monarchy, from the time of the Old Testament, through to England then current. More over time, about my own reflections on his writings here.

But he proposed a representational democracy; what he steps from (say five people in a new land) is synthesis and integration to presumably the representation of the people as such, simply because of their number requiring said representation. But in both instances, synthesis and integration would be givens -- and common sense. The people are already that smart. More over time.

This contrasts with the current situation, where at the meta-political level, disputative positions and philosophies are not synthesized or integrated systems, and the state at the national level (aside from parts or layers of the federal that work beautifully) is somewhat or very fragmented; and neither "side" (and they are dualistic-forming sides) gets its duration view in place. That is, the definition is political, and every act in the private sphere gets scrutinized in the political sense -- IF. Certain things are stare decisis (it has been decided), and such seems also to be accepted as the norm -- to some significant fragmentation and debt, where the People in many instances (who are participant and feel such in their own integrated and synthesized lives) put together and assemble their own set of things, from corporations and small businesses and commerce, to churches and mosques and sanghas and other religious and philosophical groups, to common interests and enjoyment of this or that including the arts. Each of these is seen as resilient and duration to n degree or some apropos interval, and so forth -- and in terms of its own meaning, association, and funding.

So something happens as it is stepped up the ladder, and the hierarchy at the top, no matter the merits (setting them aside for now), is the result of the said deficiencies.

In The Emotion Machine (2007), Marvin Minsky proposes any number of what he terms

Ways To Think, and that we draw from many types and fields and categories and domains of resources in our minds and the external world. He has diagram-and-description, and elegant exposition that is also practical and complete, and can be extended in the mind of one considering his theories. He pulls from many different fields and practical everyday life. It's brilliant. So this is inferred as 'common sense thinking'!

Thus we have two themes. Minsky, Paine, and the book publishers were able to assemble (or put together or integrate) these original and thoughtful and analytic-esprit insights. Also, in both Common Sense and The Emotion Machine, Paine and Minsky consider the person to be Free -- and religion has its own sense in addition of liberation and freedom, (say, Buddhism), or salvation (say, Christianity) -- or following The Way (say, Tao) or God (say, Islam) and the insight or freedom of that, within and without. This has, of course, its various individual, societal, and social implications.

This document is to be expanded on.