

THE “DARK TRIAD” OF ECONOMIC CRIMINALS

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These fraudsters and those corrupted; these grubbers and those smugglers. By watching the evening news on the television, we may have the feeling that we are surrounded by economic criminals. Surrounded by people living as outlaws, people stealing the state and enterprises, and people deceiving other people. Is this the case? Has our society been filled and seized by these types of individuals? If the answer is yes, do they have specific characteristics? The answers to both questions are negative. However, economic criminals have three important personality characteristics that are not easily found in common people. They are narcissists, with a Machiavellian mental ability, and psychopathic characteristics.

As narcissists they have arrogance, megalomania and they imagine themselves as having unlimited success. They have the need for admiration, they exploit interpersonal relations for their personal benefit and they believe that others are jealous of them. Also, they are imperious and rude. With the Machiavellian mental ability, they exploit the egoistic feelings of most people and they believe that “the end justifies the means”. They have cynical views about the human nature and they are not sentimentalists. Also, they are cool tacticians, by always planning and measuring their movements. As psychopaths, they are frivolous and exaggerated. They lie, deceive and manipulate others. They live parasitically, selfishly and anti-socially. Finally, they are neurotic, choleric, flamboyant and unpredictable.

The economic criminals have, in their behaviour, all the aforementioned elements related to narcissism, Machiavellian mental ability, and psychopathy. Their combination develops to the

so-called “Dark Triad”. It is a “triad” that creates a socially malevolent character, with a tendency for self-projection, and sentimental coolness, dishonesty and aggressiveness. It creates a human being committing crimes with intention and expediency. The law breaking is not due to “bad timing” or to a difficult life or financial situation. His or her contravention is directly related to own character. These people live in anomie or in the limits of legality and they always try to escape from arrest. They have a tendency to criminality, like rapists and thieves. They do not break law due to extrinsic or contingent circumstances (economic crisis, debts, or commitments). Their crimes are systematic, continuously and consciously. They do not have any hesitations or inhibitions, if they have to commit violent actions. They do all these in order to achieve their objectives and to avoid arrest.

The acquisition of “easy money” and minimum effort is expected human attitude and behaviour. Most of the people do not externalise these dispositions and together with the self-regulation mechanisms and the social restrictions, they keep these behaviours in a state of “hypnosis.” However, in the case of economic criminals, the tendency for “criminality” is externalised and eventually is executed. Because, by doing this, these people gain a personal satisfaction, self-fulfilment and social eminence. The economic crime is always premeditated. This means, the economic criminal knows very well what he/she is doing and why it is being done, which is the expected personal gain, as well as, the observable danger from the unlawful act.

Any systemic efforts aiming to justify economic crimes, offer mitigations to the general public on fraudsters and corrupted. All their actions are by intent, in order to achieve social acceptance of the law-breakers. Society’s healthy members have the obligation to “curettage” the “cancer cells”. They survive as a burden for the social whole, by using their “dark triad”, as well as, their venalities with the political and financial elites. Tolerance to economic crime, equates to connivance. The indifference for the economic criminals, leads to their multiplication.

As Antonio Gramsci wrote, indifference is parasitism, and perversion. It is not life. The indifference is the deadweight of history and the raw material that ruins intelligence. As long as society remains apathetic, it creates the conditions and the prerequisites for the development of non-fiction Gotham cities. The only difference from the movies world is that in real life, there are no saviors such as Batman, prepared and willing to save us.

Our partisanship and alertness is the answer to indifference and the resistance to the economic criminal. As long as we watch our lives through television windows, fraudsters will thresh the highways of anomie and will keep on accumulating illegal wealth. History does not forgive, neither returns back.