

# Priocracy

## Designing a system of political economy based on the love paradigm

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My system design interest was sparked decades ago on reading Erich Jantsch's *Design for Evolution* (1975) and Erich Fromm's *The Art of Loving* (1957). Fromm wrote of an all caring, globally responsive, ethical love called *Agape* by the Greeks, *Metta* by Buddhists and *Prema* by Hindus, a love that entails learning – both understanding its rationale and practicing it. Extolled by billions of religiously and spiritually inclined persons, it remains to be systematically enacted. Seriously lacking is a practicable vision of love's revolutionary economic and political system implications.

For an introductory insight into love's economic paradigm, I recommend a jazz track by Alice Coltrane entitled, 'A Love Supreme' (1972). Swami Satyadananda opens the track with these words:

*LOVE ... Love knows no business. Love knows no bargain. Love never expects anything in return. Love knows only giving, giving, and giving without waiting for a thankyou.*

We've all experienced love's giving economy. Love's first economic lesson is conveyed wordlessly, immediately upon our arrival to this world. Is love's economy rational? If so, could this ubiquitously practiced 'family value' be extended to civilise and unite the global family? There are no experts to tell us. No one has experienced a priceless world economy. Given our habituation to the trade and tax paradigm, the proposition that we might steer toward a trade-free and tax-free world future can seem naïve, overly idealistic, even somewhat mad. Yet Fromm stood to argue that the cultivation of all-caring, agapeic love for strangers offers the *only* rational solution to our global problems.

What is the rationale for Love's trade free and tax free economic ethic? *What if* those extolling this ethic committed in all integrity to enact it? How might a love-based political economy practically operate on a global scale? What would be its benefits and attractions? What role might the internet play? Would love's economy provide greater economic security in the face of scarcity than the competitive market? Could it outcompete the market? How might Love's economy interface with the market and flourish in its midst? Having pursued these questions for decades, I have some ideas.

My work-in-progress system design/vision is called Priocracy to distinguish it from similar designs (eg. Fresco's 'Resource Based Economy'). Priocracy is based on an ethic of global care and responsibility implicit in agapeic love; those in greatest need (humans and other species) warrant our priority attention and action – our *priaction* – regardless of their ability to offer exchange value. Priocracy is a post-market, 'give-freely, get freely', cosmopolitan economic game whose world serving players (not workers) self-organise in response to global *priority* needs – to the child that cries and the world that cries. They are resourced by, and serve as trustees of, a free-access, global resource trust. Players inform and are informed by an online GPS information system using 'holochain' to track player moves, projects & services, as well as resource stocks and flows.

Priocracy is an integrity-based, honorary, world service system. Players join via a *priocratic oath*, a public declaration of personal commitment to exercise the ethical right and responsibility to serve impartially – in the common interests of all people – to relinquish national allegiance, not participate in national identity branding and refuse to contribute to national military defences. Thereby, with love-based integrity, will each player serve to steadily disarm the world.

Priocracy can be planted in the world as an act of social innovation and entrepreneurship by interested players – no need to impose it on electorates. The transformative impact of Priocratic organisation on the world's most degraded urban and rural landscapes warrants imagining.