

Jordan Peterson on British GQ

Same-Sex Parenting

- Homosexuality has been around for a very long time
 - Giving them the same rights of marriage and parenthood seems to be the appropriate social response
- We don't know what form of parental modeling is optimal for children
 - We know for sure that having one parent is worse than having two
 - It is likely that having two parents is better than having one
- We don't know what type of exposure to role models is necessary for children to learn functional gender roles
 - Having no one from the other sex around might be a problem for children as they learn to be adults

Environmental Issues

- It is very difficult to distinguish valid environmental claims from ideologically motivated claims
 - Modern environmentalist smuggle in their anti-capitalist and anti-human sentiments
- People stricken with poverty don't care about carbon dioxide
 - Coal-based energy is currently the cheapest form of energy available to us, and it stops people from starving
 - People get concerned about the environment as they get richer
- The supposed crisis of over-population has been blown out of proportion
 - Projections top out at about 10 billion
 - The likelier problem in about 100 years is going to be too few people, not too many
- Investing in early-infant care, especially in developing countries, is a more viable solution
 - Human ingenuity lead to the development of golden rice to tackle hunger
 - More people leads to more creative thinking

Me Too Movement

- People in power have used it to get away with reprehensible sexual behavior
 - The movement has helped some of those people to account
- The movement has also pushed forward the dangerous idea of always believing the victim
 - We should not abandon the presumption of innocence

Dealing with Violence

- It's not self-evident that we need to overcome violence
 - Defining violence isn't that straightforward
 - Use of force in self-defense is also violence, but necessary
 - If we overcome violence, we may lose other useful traits along with it
- There are better strategies for dealing with aggression
 - If a child is aggressive, you don't want to inhibit their aggression
 - When you repress something, it generally returns with a vengeance in another form
 - You want to socialize them so that they can become sophisticated in how they use it
- De-emphasizing competition and rewards in games is not a good strategy
 - You want to reward people who're good at doing something necessary

Hierarchies

- Most human hierarchies are based on competence, not power
 - If you want to be successful in life, you need to be competent at something useful
 - This will move you up the hierarchy, and also make you an attractive mate
- Hierarchies are not a social construction
 - They are prevalent throughout the animal kingdom, even with creatures as primitive as lobsters
 - This runs contrary to the Marxist proposition that hierarchies are a consequence of capitalism
 - The demand for equality of outcome is a misguided attempt to flatten hierarchies

Crisis of Meaning

- Over the past 50 years or so, we've concentrated on rights, privileges, freedom and pleasure
 - Those are useful in their place, but ultimately shallow
- People are hungry for a discussion of relationship between responsibility and meaning
 - People can find meaning and strength by voluntarily adopting responsibility
 - Our culture confuses men's desire to do so with the patriarchal desire for tyrannical power
 - The tampon king of India

Tyrannical Patriarchy

- The assertion that our society is male-dominated is misleading
 - People make that assertion based on a tiny sub-strata of hyper-successful men
 - This ignores the fact that a huge proportion of disaffected people are men
 - There are asymmetries between genders, but both genders have generally co-operated
 - Most people in prison are men
 - Most homeless people are men
 - Most victims of violent crimes are men
 - Most people who commit suicide are men
 - Most people who die in wars are men
 - Most people who do worse in academics are men
- Modern society has a patriarchal structure to some degree
 - The fundamental basis of that structure is not power; it's competence
 - When you hire somebody for a job or to perform a service, it's based on their competence, not on their tyrannical dominance
 - Universities are more focused pushing their ideological agenda than on providing quality education
- It is the least patriarchal society in existence
 - The emancipation of women was brought about by technologies developed by the same hierarchical structures
 - Birth control pills
 - Tampons
 - Sanitary facilities
 - Household machinery

Corruption of Universities

- Universities are ratcheting up their prices, while simultaneously degrading their quality
- They are more focused pushing their ideological agenda than on providing quality education
 - They espouse the doctrines of identity politics, which are both harmful and untrue
 - This makes them inhospitable, especially to young men
 - Their ideologies are particularly destroying social sciences and humanities
 - Physical sciences are safe so far, but not for long
 - It was a determining factor in the 2016 US general elections
 - Hillary Clinton would've kept the working class vote and become president if she hadn't played cozy with the identity politics types

Social Media

- Social media has its uses, but people tend to show their worst on social media, especially Twitter
 - Rewards impulsivity due to constraint on characters
 - Anonymity heightens the desire to be provocative
 - People who're feeling irritable are likelier to respond to provocation
 - We're not wired to interact with random strangers

Multiculturalism

- Multiculturalism's idea of putting together multiple cultures without an over-arching structure is faulty
 - People from different cultures can co-exist in harmony if they all play a set of common rules
 - When this doesn't happen, it leads to conflict and war
 - People can retain their own cultural norms and identities, but we also need to operate in a shared framework of values