

## UNDERSTANDING TODAY'S VICTIM & ENTITLEMENT MENTALITY IN AMERICA

It is instructive to compare America from its founding nearly 250 years ago until around 1960, with the America of today with its totally unashamed *Victim/Handout/Entitlement* mentality. The late Robert Bork made some almost prophetic and certainly very perceptive comments & observations about this way back in 1996:

“Despite complaints, often politically motivated, about the economic hardships endured today by the American people, **it is blindingly obvious that standards of living, even among the poorest, are far above any previous level in this or any other nation’s history. Affluence brings with it boredom. Of itself, it offers little but the ability to consume,** and a life centered on consumption will appear, and be, devoid of meaning. Persons so afflicted will seek sensation as a palliative, and that, today’s culture offers in abundance.

“**This brings us to the multiple roles rapidly improving technology plays in our culture.** America was a nation of farmers, but the advance of technology required fewer and fewer farmers... Hard physical work is inconsistent with hedonism; the new work is not. **With the time and energy of so many individuals freed from the harder demands of work, the culture turned to consumerism and entertainment.** Technology and its entrepreneurs supplied the demand with motion pictures, radio, television, and videocassettes [now DVD’s, online channels, video games, social media, live streaming, etc.-*mwe*], all increasingly featuring sex and violence. **Sensations must be steadily intensified if boredom is to be kept at bay.**

“**A culture obsessed with technology will come to value personal convenience above almost all else, and ours does.** That has consequences... Among those consequences...is impatience with anything that interferes with personal convenience. **Religion, morality, and law do that,** which accounts for the tendency of: (1) modern religion **to eschew proscriptions and commandments** and turn to counseling and therapeutic sermons, (2) morality **to be relativized;** and (3) of law, particularly criminal law, **to become soft and uncertain.** Religion tends to be strongest when life is hard, and the same may be said of morality and law. A person whose main difficulty is not crop failure but video breakdown has less need of the consolations and promises of religion.

“**The most frightening aspect of the march of technology, however, is the potential for reshaping human beings and their nature through genetic science.** No one can predict what the full consequences of that technology will be, but horrifying prospects can easily be imagined. **There seems no possibility that this technology can be halted...**and little likelihood that the ability to reshape humans will not be used...

“**The possibilities of technology in all of these areas—from lightening work to providing ever more degenerate entertainments to reengineering humans—are far from exhausted...**”<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Robert Bork, *Slouching Towards Gomorrah* (Regan Books: New York, NY, 1996), pp. 8-10, material in brackets [ ] added by me. -Mike Edwards