

Contentment and Change

Social change and societal progress cannot be made by people who feel content. Contented people are usually the pillars of stability in society; and consequently they tend to detest uncertainty and oppose change, particularly change that threatens their cherished values and tends to undermine their social statuses. Contented people are more likely to accept fate without questioning; and nurture a culture of contentment that fosters stability and opposes change. Contentment consequently represents an obstacle that hinders economic progress, retards scientific research, and often causes technological innovations to suffer.

When people find themselves surrounded by misery and pain, and overwhelmed by despair and hopelessness, they abandon the present they live in for the sake of a past they cherish but know almost nothing about; they flee reality they know but do not like, and seek refuge in an oasis they like but do not know. And in the process, they create images, some real and most imagined, of a past that may have never existed as imagined. However, in so doing contented people give themselves and their collective consciousness a sense of harmony and peace that enables them to accept reality, while feeling and believing as if they have escaped it. Escaping actual reality to an imagined one, nonetheless, does not lessen misery or pain or replace despair by hope; it only serves to transform the consciousness of people to be more tolerant of a bad reality and less willing to risk changing it.

People that choose to escape reality rather than seek to change it are more likely to be believers in faith and fate. They are people who tend to accept their lot in life and to waste their real life waiting for a promised one, whose existence has been proven by no one. All ideologically committed people tend to live outside the bounds of history, moving either slowly toward a false dream; or moving in place toward an imagined past that promises more of what they are trying to escape.

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