The Contribution of Panda

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22 June 2021

The contribution that Panda has made to the current Covid event may be difficult to understand because we have been propelled into a strange complex age. To understand Panda’s contribution it is necessary to understand this age. With the advantage of hindsight, it becomes clear that, for a long time, this age’s pending arrival can be observed. The form of the age was sketched by George Orwell in his famous book *1984*. What is probably not clear even to those familiar with *1984* is that this age also signals ***the end of science***.

In the West, the age of *1984* and the end of science was not ushered in by a totalitarian state *per se,* as one would expect. It was achieved using a two-step *modus operandi* which itself is very simple.

* The first step involves ***dogmatic assertions*** and
* the second step is ***bigotry***.

How this is being applied to the Covid matter is clear. Step one comprises dogmatic assertions such as: “Covid is a terrible, contagious, infectious pandemic in which millions upon millions ***will die***”. Here, it should be noted a prediction of the future is involved. The future cannot be observed. Step two uses bigotry. The word bigotry is probably the most mis-stated word in the English language to the extent that it is now changing its meaning. Bigotry exists where a person holds a view ***and is then intolerant of any view which is contrary to that view***. The important part of the meaning of bigotry is the intolerance. So, the second step is not to allow or tolerate any view which is contrary to the dogmatic views. These views are usually captured in slogans which contain half-truths such as “flatten the curve”. Persons who hold any view which is contrary to the asserted dogmatic view, will, like their contrary view, not be tolerated. Since in the west they cannot be eliminated (yet), they become non-persons and their views become non-views. They, nor their views, can be heard. In the current situation they are ***deplatformed***.

Of course, the above is par for the course in communist and other totalitarian regimes. The surprise is how it became part of the West, bypassing parliaments and individuals not being protected by states since, if nothing else, this new age violates constitutionally enshrined freedom (liberty) of expression.

The operation of the above system can be illustrated with Covid in a totalitarian regime. In the case of any disease, the first to detect it will be, hopefully, a normal everyday medical doctor treating patients. And that is exactly what happened in Wuhan. Dr Li Wenliang, when encountering the problem of Covid in late December 2019, raised the alarm, mainly on social media. This view was contrary to the established dogmatically asserted view. Shortly thereafter, therefore, the bigots in the form of the police arrived and he was forced, like Galileo centuries before, to recant, which he did. A few days later he was dead. Several others were detained at the same time for “spreading rumours” about the disease. Views outside of the party view are not tolerated.

The Wenliang event explains why the *1984* age is also the end of science. Bacon’s Scientific Method ushered in the Scientific Age. Bacon’s famous aphorism, the only thing we can know is what we observe, was correct. Dr Wenliang was scientifically stating an observed truth. His patients had been infected with something new. He had to recant the observed truth; that is why the *1984* age is the end of science.

One should compare the Dr Wenliang event with an earlier one in the West. As indicated, medical problems, if detected, should be by doctors because they will be the first to observe the phenomenon. In September 1961, in Germany, a pediatrician, Dr Widukind Lenz (1919-1995) noted a sudden increase in birth deformities. He also realised that 50% of the mothers had taken Thalidomide. He raised the alarm and a mere two months later, November 1961, the use of Thalidomide was stopped. Notwithstanding this, it is estimated worldwide that 10,000 babies were born with deformities. But it should be noted the authorities did not arrive to arrest Dr Lenz for spreading rumours and force him to recant his statement, nor did the mainstream media attack him, nor was he fired by his employer. There were no bigots in play. His alertness saved an untold number of persons being born with deformities.

So, what is different today? Today, for the first time, any views other than the Dogmatic Asserted Views are suppressed; bigotry at work. In the *1984* world, it is the “party line” or suppression. Anything other than the “party line” is not tolerated. Any views but the “party line” must be silenced. This is thus also the end of science. Science exists because of objective facts, the data. In the place of cold objective facts are ever changing confusing irrational dogmatic slogans. It started with “We need to protect the health infrastructure”. We need to “Flatten the curve”. When predicted millions of deaths did not appear, it changed to “Cases”. When cases did not appear, it was the fear of the next “Wave”.

**Contribution of Panda**

It is against this background that the contribution of Panda can be understood. The West can only be extricated from the *1984* Age and the end of science if the power of bigotry is broken. For that, New Galileos and Martin Luthers are required. It is just over 500 years ago that Martin Luther stood before bigots and famously proclaimed, “Here I stand, I can do no other, so help me God”. Or, in the case of Galileo, having recanted, he was heard to say, “The earth moves”. All Dr Wenliang was saying is “people are infected”. All Dr Lenz was saying was “babies are being born deformed and their mothers took Thalidomide”. In the *1984* Age it takes enormous courage to state simple facts – the truth. This is the essence of the scientific age.

To my mind, the contribution of Panda is that it has the courage to present and interpret the facts. The facts they presented are not hidden. They are there to be seen by all. This interpretation of these facts calls into question all the actions of the state in dealing with the pandemic in its unprecedented manner. But, in revealing the facts, Panda’s views, like that of Dr Wenliang, went against the “party line”. The West has lost a great deal of freedom and that freedom will only be regained if people have the courage to stand against bigotry, which is what Panda has done. Unlike other state intervention, the Covid intervention abridged the liberty of individuals to work and the end of ability to work is the end of the free market and economy. Panda was also one of the first (if not the first) to attempt to objectively assess the impact of the state intervention on the economy. Not surprisingly, Panda has been subject to attack but remains unbowed.

**Citation**

In my view Panda should be recognised “For courage to set out and interpret the facts surrounding the Covid pandemic, in the face of opposition, and thereby calling into question the unprecedented state intervention into the lives of ordinary individuals and the economy”.