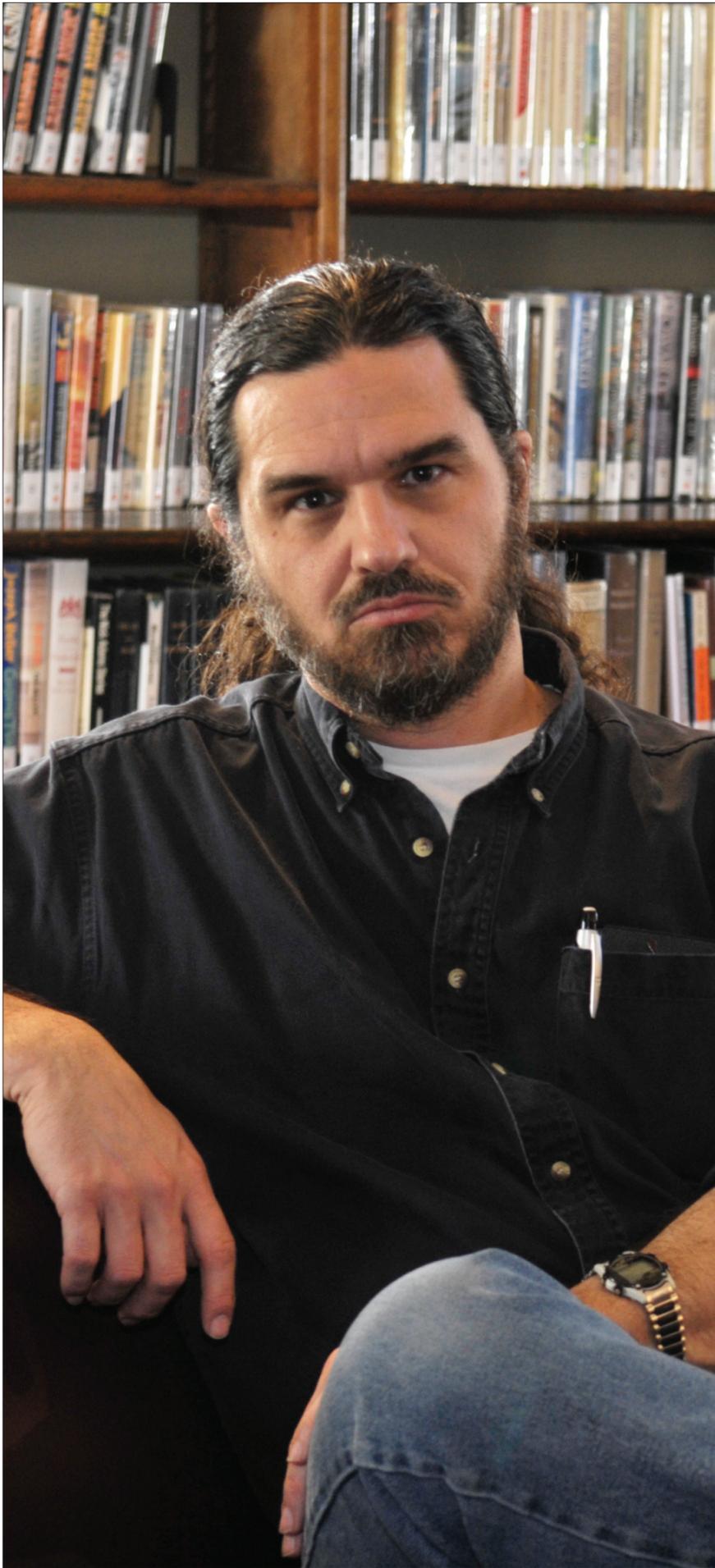


Deconstructing

a dysfunctional civilisation



Roch Théroux 2008

Can Social Anthropology contribute anything to our understanding of the “culture wars” being waged in the West? The typically unexamined concept of **religion** is a critical issue to such discussions. In this essay the author regards religion simply as a belief system, presupposing that all humans need meaning and beliefs to sort out their existence. A secondary issue, which is almost as critical, is the question: What is Truth and where do you find it?

The West has ALWAYS been somewhat schizophrenic in terms of religion, with Western elites harbouring elements of pagan Greek and Roman thinking while the masses retained elements of pre-Christian European religions. From this perspective then, the **Renaissance** was an attempt by some Western elites to set up Greek philosophy as basis to push aside the authority of Scripture. But as science came on the scene, it began to erode the great prestige of Greek philosophy. Western neo-pagan elites had bet on the wrong horse. Realizing that the prestige of Greek philosophy was on the wane, they needed something new and the rising prestige of science offered an opportunity too good to resist. This led to the Enlightenment and to the setting up of science as a source of TRUTH. While the Modern worldview proposed a scientific/materialistic view of the world, for a long time it lacked a credible origins myth. It was hard to get rid of the Creator/God, as there was no logical explanation for the origin of the cosmos or of life. This explains Dawkins’ observation In **The Blind Watchmaker**: “Although atheism might have been logically tenable before Charles Darwin, Darwin made it possible to be an intellectually fulfilled atheist.”

Though **the Modern worldview** rose to its most dominant position in the first half of the twentieth century, in the latter part of that century its influence began a slow decline, opening the door to **the Postmodern belief system**. While the Modern view rejected the authority of Scripture, it did not reject the concept of Truth (and expected science that provide it). However, postmoderns reject not only the Bible as Truth, but also the concept of Truth itself, even if it is based on science. Though the main focus of this book is the Postmodern belief system, before understanding postmodern beliefs, one must understand what postmodernism is a reaction to. The only “truth” left to postmoderns is the individual, feeding his urges and desires. As the buzz-phrase goes: “Everyone has their own truth”. Darwinism is still necessary for postmoderns since it overthrows the Sovereign God and Lawmaker. Naturally postmoderns hate the concepts of moral absolutes and judgement as these violently contradict the basis of their religion, which admits NO authority over the individual (nor tellingly, over the State).

Initial chapters in **Flight vol. 1** identify core postmodern beliefs and groups promoting them, going on to examine the potential ethical and social consequences of a coherent application of postmodernism in the West, leading us to issues like euthanasia, politically correct forms of censorship, environmentalism, artificial intelligence and animal rights.

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