



2023 Year in Review

Introduction

The work of the Caux Round Table for Moral Capitalism evolved during the year to respond to evolutionary changes in our world community.

As the world order gave in to forces of fragmentation, the search for human fundamentals – basic needs for well-being and redeeming foundational values and behaviors – the Caux Round Table focused more on vision than on practical business and financial opportunities and constraints. We sought to provide unique “value added” to assist in building out the new thinking necessary for securing the common good on a global basis.

From the first meeting at Mountain House, Caux, of what would become the Caux Round Table for Moral Capitalism, participants responded and adjusted their thinking and recommendations to focus on problems, disagreements, injustices and distempers in our global community. They tried to address problems as persons of goodwill seeking to be responsible stewards. They sought analyses and diagnoses from which action plans could be inferred.

In retrospect, all their work and recommendations, time and again, grew out of an active moral sense, as understood by Aristotle, Mencius the Buddha and Adam Smith. Thus, in 1994, the Caux Round Table Principles for Business came together as a wholesome integration of the Japanese ethic of kyosei – mutual engagement for mutual benefit, the Catholic social teaching of respect for human dignity and a stalwart American dedication to stewardship in enterprise.

I call to your attention to three such contributions:

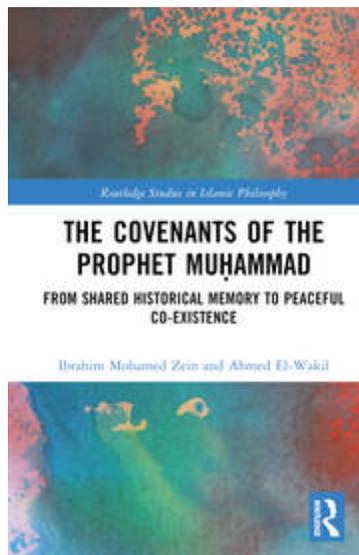
1. The statement of participants at our Global Dialogue as a contribution to a global ethic of responsibility (more below).
2. Our visit to Najaf, Iraq and learning more about the covenants of the Prophet Muhammad to respect other communities and in his formation of the first Islamic political community in Medina. There, we learned from leading Shi'a academics and clerics of their tradition of peaceful co-existence.
3. Articles in our monthly newsletter, *Pegasus*, drawing attention to intangible assets of social capital and human capital, which provide the foundation for a moral capitalism and constitutional democracy (more below).

Meeting with Pope Francis

We presented to Pope Francis a report on our visit to Najaf, Iraq, expressing our appreciation for the teachings of Ali, the fourth caliph.

Covenants of the Prophet Muhammad

Our colleagues Professor Ibrahim Zein and Ahmed El-Wakil of Hamad Bin Khalifa University, College of Islamic Studies, published with Routledge the book, [*Covenants of the Prophet Muhammad: From Shared Historical Memory to Peaceful Coexistence*](#).



On October 7, when Hamas attacked Israel and with the subsequent war in Gaza, we realized that our work on the covenants might have promise in application to the relationship between Jews in Israel and Palestinians.

Sufficiency Economy Philosophy

In April, we participated in a “brainstorming” session in Bangkok, Thailand, convened by Thapana Sirivadhanabhakdi, CEO of ThaiBev, to consider, from a global perspective, the constructive wisdom provided by the practice of sufficiency economy, as advised by the late King of Thailand, His Majesty Rama IX. Working from a paradigm given by the Buddha of the “middle way,” His Majesty and others pointed out the constructive effects and reliability in economic endeavors – from small farms to great companies – of acting from reasoned premises with moderation and from a position of resilience to the “slings and arrows of outrageous fortune.”

This Thai approach aligns with while deepening the moral and spiritual foundations of not only “moral capitalism” but of Catholic social teachings on subsidiarity and solidarity and Islamic teachings on the imperative of keeping the *mizan* or “balance.” There are congruences also between the Thai approach and the doctrine of the mean in the Confucian tradition and the Japanese Shinto commitment to having a place within nature and not going against it.

Community Policing

Locally, in Minnesota, we considered how our principles for government could support better community police partnerships in providing safety, with respect for all.

Moral Capitalist Initiative

We started planning an online educational effort to provide certificates in moral capitalism and moral government, with instruction provided by modules on YouTube.

We also took the first steps to create a self-assessment questionnaire on one’s capacity to be a leader. A personality profile revealed by the questionnaire would be provided, along with a handbook on leadership seeking to implement the Caux Round Table’s moral priorities.

Initiation of Book Club

We launched a book club to commence in 2024 to take advantage of Zoom meeting technology and provide more opportunity for our network to discuss and reflect on important presentations of how our world works and why we are where we are.

Publications

Two Caux Round Table commentaries were published, one in *Directors&Boards* on capitalism and its discontents and the other by the Singapore Institute of Directors on reflective thinking.

New Board Member

John Harrington, former commissioner of public safety for the State of Minnesota and former police chief of the City of St. Paul, joined our board.

Fellows

Silvano Maria Cardinal Tomasi, former Thai Foreign Minister Kasit Piromya and Professor Jake Hoskins of the Atkinson School of Business, Willamette University, were appointed fellows of the Caux Round Table.

Global Dialogue

The Global Dialogue was held on July 26 and 27 in Caux, Switzerland. The theme was foundational principles for a new global ethic. About 25 people from around the world attended.

You can read the statement of conclusions [here](#) and the proceedings [here](#).

Pegasus

During 2023, *Pegasus* focused on what is foundational about our ethical principles as expressed in concepts like civility, civilization, education, wealth creation, open systems, human reasoning, AI and the interrelationship among these motive concepts and moral capitalism. The operative faculty which provides such a foundation for human flourishing is, in our opinion, the “moral sense,” as was proposed by, among others, Aristotle, Mencius, the Buddha, Judeo-Christian scriptures and Adam Smith. The need in this time of discontent, uncertainty and fragmentation is to return to the best fundamentals of the human experiment in living justly.

Some of the more unique articles from this year’s issues included:

- [“What Good Are Manners and the Moral Sense?”](#) by Stephen B. Young
- [“Will the Coming Combination of AI and Oligarchies Produce a New Feudalism?”](#) by Michael Wright
- [“Fratelli Tutti: “The Art of Encounter””](#) by John Dalla Costa
- [“Capitalism and Its Discontents”](#) by Stephen B. Young (*reprinted from Directors&Boards, annual report 2023*)
- [“Selections from Culture Time at BLANCO”](#) by Frank Straub
- [“Just Show Me the Way”](#) by Stephen B. Young

This year's issues of *Pegasus* will address ideas and tensions among our understandings of education/citizen, morality/merit, civilization/state, moral sentiments/self and national interests, fear/love, democratic/authoritarianism options and the increasing global interest and influence of the Caux Round Table principles on future business and governmental decision-making.

Dayton Award

We presented our annual Dayton Award for Distinction in Moral Capitalism to Mary Kowalski and Kris Kowalski Christiansen, respectively the owner and CEO of Kowalski's Markets, for realizing the ideals of stakeholder capitalism and to Kyle Smith, CEO of Reell Precision Manufacturing Corporation.



Brandl Program

The annual Brandl Program, honoring the late John Brandl, former dean of the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, for his uncommon quest for common ground, took place on February 2 at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs on “What Should Be Done with Minnesota’s Historic Budget Surplus?”

Zoom and In-person Round Tables

The in-person and Zoom round tables held during the year included:

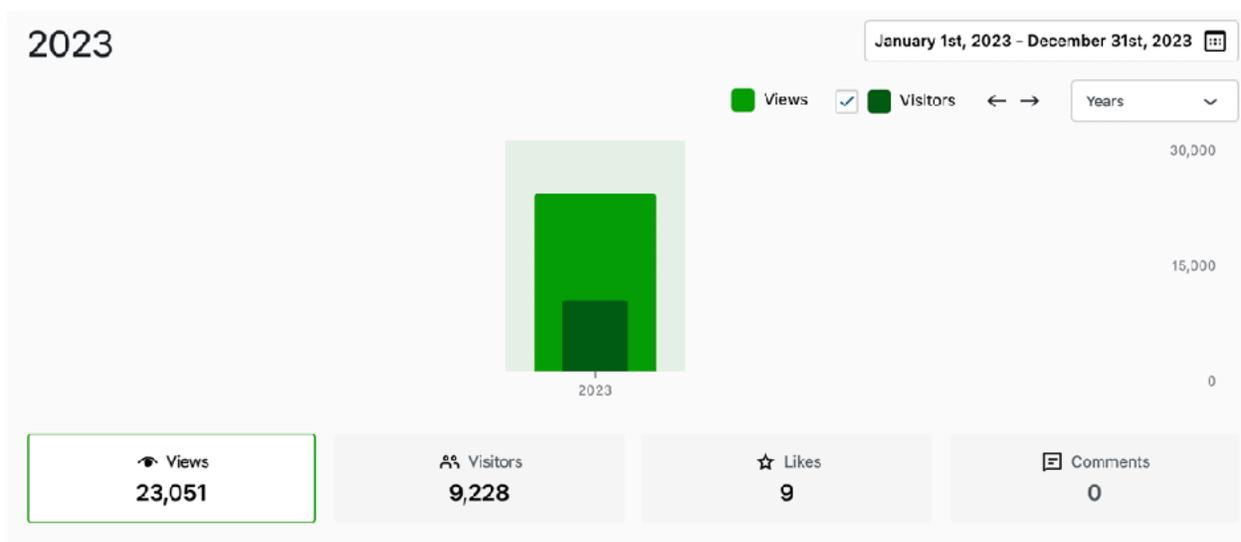
- In-person on “What Should We Do with Minnesota's Historic Budget Surplus?”
- In-person on “Does America Need a Renaissance of Civic Virtue?”
- Zoom on “Is Karl Marx Still Relevant in these Days of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Seeking to Repeal “Racial” Capitalism?”
- Zoom on “Can We Find Grace in Our Lives?”
- In-person “To Reflect on Who's Right and Who's Wrong: Business in the Crosshairs in Our Culture War”
- In-person on “The Durham Report: How Can We Improve the Integrity and Accountability of Federal Investigations?”
- Zoom on “Expanding the Global Dialogue”
- In-person on “What Has Happened to Us?”
- Zoom on “Moral Perspectives from Bangkok and Tokyo”
- In-person on “Safety in Our Schools”
- Zoom on “What Happened in 2023 and What Does it Mean for the Long Run?”

Email Notices

We sent to our participants commentaries and notices on the intersection of the Caux Round Table principles and recommendations with events and relevant actions of businesses and governments.

Website and Social Media

Approximately 9228 people visited our website throughout the year.



We posted regularly to our social media, which included new videos to YouTube and posts on Facebook and Twitter.

Leadership

Board of Directors:

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Bob MacGregor – United States
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Yury Blagov – Russia
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John Dalla Costa – Italy
Jose Luis Fernandez Fernandez – Spain
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Recep Senturk – Turkey
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Gaurav Vashist – United States
Eraj Weerasinghe – United States
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