

2022 Year in Review

Introduction

During 2022, the Caux Round Table for Moral Capitalism found itself confronted with changes in the world – in international relations, in thinking about capitalism and in the rise of new cultural dynamics seeking post-modern “transformation” of Western societies.

The major theme which emerged is the end of something, leading to an interim era of confusion and upset, which will, in turn, resolve itself into a new global paradigm for the next 250 years.

Books and articles in major media were written on the collapse of the post-World War II liberal international order and the post-collapse of the Soviet Union globalization of finance and commerce within that order. Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, a throwback to darker ages of ethnic chauvinism, provided a metaphor for this collapse of order. China’s ambitions to provide global leadership based on “Chinese characteristics” was a similar emergence of the parochial in place of the universal.

Growth has slowed in the U.S. and narcissism, as a cultural norm, is on the increase. Concern faded for the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations. National socialisms, following Hegel’s deification of the state, are once again in vogue in many countries (see the October issue of *Pegasus*). In September, when we sought advice from our fellows, they were united in proposing that there is a trust deficit around the world which is causing people to withdraw from active commitments.

Round tables among Caux Round Table participants brought forth a question as to the need for a “renaissance,” a return to the fundamentals of moral integrity and a deeper humanism. The current transitional era of inflation, supply chain interruptions and populist nationalisms has created a difficult environment for leaders to focus on and implement the principles of a moral capitalism. Jargon – “ESG” – has replaced serious thinking about stakeholders and the proper division of labor between private markets and government funding of public goods.

We need vision before taking action. If you don’t know where you are going, it is said, any road will get you there. Vision, forethought and design thinking still depend on *ethos*, as Heraclitus said while, far from Greece, Confucius came to the same conclusion. The Book of Proverbs, in the Judeo-Christian Bible, says in one verse that where there is no vision, “the people perish.”

There is much to be gained by searching for that “truth,” which does not vary with opinion, in addition to shaping, for more internalized personal reasons, our own “narratives.” We need to modulate the duality which juxtaposes individuals with systems, not surrendering to the intransigent absolutism of either polar extreme.

Thus, in our newsletter *Pegasus*, we began to explore fundamentals of civilized living: mindsets, design thinking and the moral sense, as these provide the motivational foundation and guidance for any moral capitalism and its necessary twin – moral government.

We have heard repeatedly in recent years comments on the failure of elites and leadership across the board – in academia, culture, politics, government and business. Since we believe that leadership depends on the core values of individuals, giving them vision and inspiring courage, building out new confidence in the power of the moral sense is most needed right now.

Thus, our work in 2022 began to focus on proposing solutions. We started developing a new self-assessment instrument for a “moral capitalist.” We will continue on this course in 2023 and ask for your guidance and help.

Covenants of the Prophet Muhammad

Our initiative to promote a greater understanding of the covenants given by the Prophet Muhammad to respect and protect Christians was brilliantly carried forward by our colleagues, Professor Ibrahim Zein and Ahmed El-Wakil of Hamad Bin Khalifa University in Doha, Qatar. Routledge published their book bringing to light information on existing copies of the prophet’s covenants and on the historical circumstances of his making such commitments.

In a letter of August 3, 2020, Pope Francis wrote us of his hope that “such covenants will serve as a model for the further enhancement of mutual respect, understanding and fraternal co-existence between Christians and Muslims at the present time.”

Late in the year, Kufa University in Najaf, Iraq, a leading Shi’a university, extended to us an invitation to collaborate on a seminar there to present Professor Zein and Ahmed’s book and also review the constitutional arrangements among communities which the prophet adopted for the city of Medina. The seminar will be held in early 2023.

Safe Communities

Our fellow, Matt Bostrom, former sheriff of Ramsey County, Minnesota and now an Oxford Ph.D. for his research on police-community relationships, collaborated on a strategic vision statement on making communities safe. The strategy field tested by Dr. Bostrom is to prove, with focus group discussion, the intersection of core values such as cultural competence and servant leadership between community members and sworn police officers. The strategic vision aligns with the Caux Round Table’s Principles for Government that public office (in this case, policing) is a public trust to benefit the community and not officeholders.

Building Social Capital in St. Paul, Minnesota

The Caux Round Table has come to the firm conviction that social and human capitals are the

foundations of wealth creation through enterprise and entrepreneurship. In our city of St. Paul, an institution which created the social capital of community leadership was abandoned in the mid-1990s. It was regular, informal brunches of persons from different walks of life in St. Paul, but centered on business leaders, professionals and more socially prominent families. For many years, there has been no mechanism in the city to recruit, engage and broaden the stock of leadership social capital. This void had a negative impact on human capital, as individuals were not given opportunities to build their interpersonal skills and good faith relationships around addressing community concerns and promoting solutions to perceived problems. Trust is perhaps the essential energizer of social capital. When it is not cultivated, social capital stagnates or even dissipates.

The Caux Round Table received a grant from the St. Paul & Minnesota Foundation to explore ways of restoring intentional formation of leadership social capital.

The Atkinson School of Business

The Caux Round table has entered into a collaboration with the Atkinson School of Business at Willamette University in Oregon. We plan to work with Dean Orn Bodvarsson and his faculty in integrating the principles and metrics of moral capitalism into business education, especially in online modules for micro-certificates.

Towards a New Global Ethic

The Caux Round Table opened discussions with the Venerable Anil Sakya, a Caux Round Table fellow, former Thai Foreign Minister Kasit Piromya and Nick Pisalyaput, a deputy director of the Sasin School of Management, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, to adopt Theravada Buddhist insights into the middle way, seeking balance and equilibrium for better stakeholder capitalism. The planned collaboration between the Caux Round Table and Sasin will highlight the principles of sufficiency economy, proposed by His Majesty King Rama IX of Thailand.

In 2023 and subsequent years, the collaboration will seek to draw upon other Asian wisdom traditions such as the *Doctrine of the Mean* and the *Tao Te Ching* from China and Shinto insights into nature and our place in the cosmic flow of circumstances.

The Moral Capitalist

Recognizing the need to shift emphasis from systems to individuals – promoting human and social capitals – the Caux Round Table began development of a self-assessment metric using criteria of being a moral capitalist. Rich Bents, a Caux Round Table fellow and a partner at Future Systems Consulting and Michael Hartoonian, associate editor of *Pegasus*, are leading the design effort to select appropriate criteria and formulate questions for a self-assessment instrument.

Pegasus

We published 12 issues of our monthly newsletter, *Pegasus*. Some of our more unique articles included:

- “The Art and Architecture of Moral Capitalism”
- “The Charmed Structure of Friendship”
- “The Moral Capitalist: Dimensions, Attributes and Assessments”
- “Moral Capitalism and the Middle Class”
- “History of the Study of Business Management (Administration): From a Discipline to a Potential Profession”
- “The Mindset of the Moral Capitalist”
- “The Design of Ethical Behavior and Moral Institutions”

Dayton Award

In 2022, the Dayton Award recognizing leadership was presented to retiring Minneapolis Police Chief Medaria Arradondo and retiring St. Paul Police Chief Todd Axtell for their leadership in community policing consistent with the Caux Round Table principle that public office is a public trust and in recognition that no moral capitalism can thrive in conditions of lawlessness, including abusive government.

Zoom and In-person Round Tables

We held a number of Zoom and in-person round tables throughout the year, which included:

- Zoom with Klaus Leisinger on his new book, *Integrity in Business and Society*
- In-person on “What is a Civic Business?” at Kowalski’s Markets
- In-person on Ukraine
- Zoom on “ESG – Salvation or Wishful Thinking?”
- In-person on “What Might Make for Moral Capitalists?”
- Zoom on “Banana Republics: Worthy of Note these Days”
- In-person on “Why Can’t We Talk to Each Other?”
- Zoom honoring former co-chairman Bob MacGregor
- Zoom on Mindsets

New Video Playlists

There are now 190 videos available on our YouTube channel. These videos explore factual, definitional and normative attributes of recurring social themes that impact people all over the world. From bitcoins to deficit spending and to the role of monopolistic misinformation, these discussions afford a deeper look into the complexities of social/political/economic relationships. Taken together, these videos form an intellectual synergy that can serve citizens well and provide

an excellent complement to any advanced study of ethics and economics. The videos are categorized into the following working content areas:

- The Decision Styles Inventory
- Global Markets
- Humans & Technology
- Prices & Valuations
- Sustainability & Growth
- Religious & Philosophical Perspectives
- Ethics & Markets
- Round Table Principles & the Moral Community
- Money & Finance

Email Notices

Email notices on relevant and timely topics were sent out two to three times a week throughout the year.

Website and Social Media

Our website received tens of thousands of hits throughout the year. Our Twitter and Facebook pages were updated, on average, 5 to 10 ten times a week and we released several new videos on YouTube every month.

New Board Members

In 2022, both David Kansas and Kendall Qualls joined the Caux Round Table's board of directors.

A graduate of Columbia University, David has been president of American Public Media. Previously, he was an editor for the Wall Street Journal, focusing on markets and investing. He was editor in chief of TheStreet.com, writing *TheStreet.com Guide to Investing in the Internet Era* (1999), which was an Amazon best seller. He has also written *The Wall Street Journal Guide to Money & Investing* (2004), *The Wall Street Journal Guide to the End of Wall Street as We Know It* (2009) and *The Wall Street Journal Guide to the New Rules of Personal Finance* (2011).

Kendall Qualls is the president of TakeCharge, a non-profit organization promoting the idea that the American dream is alive and well for all Americans, regardless of race or social standing in life. TakeCharge strives to unite Americans, regardless of background, toward a shared history and common set of beliefs.

Previously, Kendall was an executive in health care companies, serving as chief commercial officer and executive vice president of PotentiaMetrics; vice president of global marketing for

Covidien Products (part of Medtronic); and as sales director for oncology products at Roche Pharmaceuticals. He also worked for Bristol Myers Squibb and Johnson & Johnson.

After graduating from Cameron University, Kendall served in the U.S. Army (field artillery), rising to the rank of captain. He attended the University of Oklahoma, where he received a master of arts in communication (1988); Oklahoma City University, where he received a master of science in economics (1990); the University Michigan, where he received a master of business administration (2011); and completed executive education programs at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School (2016).

Mr. Qualls' articles have been published in the New York Post, Washington Times, the Federalist, Real Clear Politics and the Minneapolis Star Tribune.

Leadership

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Kendall Qualls – United States
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