

CONDITIONS FOR MIND CONTROL
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THOUGHT REFORM = LANGUAGE + SOCIAL & PSYCHOLOGICAL INFLUENCE

In a thought reform program:
the self concept is destabilized
the group/leaders attack one's evaluation of self

SELF: 2 Elements in one's self-concept

Peripheral Sense: adequacy of public & judgmental aspects, social status, role performance, conformity to social norms

Central Sense of Self: adequacy of intimate life, confidence in perception of reality, relations w/family, goals, sexual experiences, traumatic life events, religious beliefs, basic consciousness and emotional control

When you attack a person's self-concept, aversive emotional arousal is created

6 CONDITIONS THAT NEED TO BE PRESENT IN ORDER TO CONSTITUTE MIND CONTROL:

1. CONTROL OVER TIME
Especially thinking time
Use techniques to get a person to think about:
 - . the group
 - . beliefs of the groupas much of their waking time as possible
 2. CREATE A SENSE OF POWERLESSNESS
Get people away from normal support systems for a period of time
Provide models of behavior (cult members)
Use in-group language
Use of songs, games, stories the person is unfamiliar with or they are modified so that they're unfamiliar
New people tend to want to be like others (acceptance, feeling part of a group)
 3. MANIPULATE REWARDS, PUNISHMENTS, EXPERIENCES IN ORDER TO SUPPRESS OLD SOCIAL BEHAVIOR
Manipulate: social rewards
intellectual rewards
REWARDS: support positive self-concept for conformity to new thought system
PUNISHMENTS: attack person's self-concept for non-conformity
- Effects of behavioral modification (reward/punishment):
DEPLOYABLE AGENT:
1. accept a particular world view
 2. procedures for peer monitoring w/feedback to group
 3. psychological, social & material sanctions to influence the target's behavior

When there is control of external feedback, the group becomes the

only source
-- there are no reality checks

BEHAVIORS REWARDED: participation, conformity to ideas/behavior,
zeal, personal changes

BEHAVIORS PUNISHED: criticalness, independent thinking,
non-conformity to ideas/behavior

PUNISHMENTS: peer/group criticism, withdrawal of support/affection,
isolation, negative feedback

THE PERSON IS DEPENDENT UPON THE GROUP FOR EXTERNAL
VALIDATION OF SOCIAL IDENTITY

RESULTS: confusion, disorientation, psychological disturbances

Manipulate experience:

altered states of consciousness (trance)
hypnosis

Hypnosis: (see Ericksonian hypnosis)

speaking patterns

guided imagery

pacing of voice to breathing patterns

parables, stories with imbedded messages

repetition

boredom

stop paying attention to distractions, focus
inwardly to what's going on inside you

the use of one's voice to get people's attention
focused

Chanting, Meditation

Teach thought-stopping techniques

Work them up emotionally to a negative state:

re-experience past painful events

recall negative actions/sin in past life

Then rescue them from negative emotion by giving them a new
way to live

4. MANIPULATE REWARDS, PUNISHMENTS, EXPERIENCES IN ORDER TO
ELICIT NEW BEHAVIOR
Models will demonstrate new behavior
Conformity: dress, language, behavior
Using group language will eventually still the thinking mind
5. MUST BE A TIGHTLY CONTROLLED SYSTEM OF LOGIC
No complaints from the floor
Pyramid shaped operation with leader at the top
Top leaders must maintain absolute control/authority
Persons in charge must have verbal ways of never losing
Anyone who questions is made to think there is something
inherently wrong with them to even question
Phobia induction:
something bad will happen if you leave the group
if you leave this group, you're leaving God
Guilt manipulation
6. PERSONS BEING THOUGHT REFORMED MUST BE UNAWARE THAT THEY
ARE BEING MOVED THROUGH A PROGRAM TO MAKE THEM DEPLOYABLE
AGENTS, TO BUY MORE COURSES, SIGN UP FOR THE DURATION, ETC.

You can't be thought reformed with full capacity, informed consent
You don't know the agenda of the group at the beginning or the full content of the ideology

THOUGHT REFORM SYSTEM:

Coordinated programs of coercive influence and behavior control
Use of pop psychology techniques found in sensitivity training and encounters groups

2nd Generation Thought Reform Systems (attacks on central elements of self):

1. enlist recruit's cooperation, offer something they want (personal growth, salvation, etc.)
2. obtain psychological dominance by making the target's continuing relations contingent upon continuing membership
3. use seduction by developing bonds and encouraging targets to believe the group can provide something
4. develop dependency by direct social pressure to influence a decision that the group has special power or knowledge or can solve a problem; the people in the group are made to seem interested in what is best for the target -- then they "up the commitment level"
5. shift the target's social and emotional attachments to individuals who have already accepted high commitment and are conforming to the behavior

WHILE

6. decreasing the target's outside relationships
increase the CHANGES in the target's:
income
employment
personal friends/social life
finances
sexuality
THIS INCREASES THE THREAT TO THE PERSON IF THEY WANT TO LEAVE
THREATS: ARE TO THE INDIVIDUAL'S
stability of identity
emotional well-being
7. the community standards become the ONLY standards available for self-evaluation

CULTS AND CULTIC RELATIONSHIPS

CULT - the political and power STRUCTURE of a group
CULTIC RELATIONSHIP - those relationships in which a person intentionally induces others to become totally or nearly totally dependent on him/her for almost all major life decisions and inculcates in these followers a belief that he has some special talent, gift or knowledge

PRIMARY IN OUR DISCUSSION OF CULTS IS THE PRACTICE AND CONDUCT OF THE GROUP, NOT ITS BELIEFS

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