

## Something You Would Put in a Museum

*By Mike Harris*

What constitutes a museum? New York City's Museum of Natural History, the Paris Louvre Museum of Art. Outstanding museums dedicated to a specific purpose. Maybe what this world needs is already in a museum?

Libraries, in my view, are museums dedicated to stored knowledge. In my opinion libraries are the most important museums of all. The knowledge accumulated in libraries recalls all the triumphs and failures of the human race. What could be more important than why the powers of the world, from Egypt, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome, Spain, France, Great Britain, and now the United States of America, fail? Why does the human creature achieve domination and proceeds to destroy himself? Why can he not learn from his own saying, "Power corrupts, total power corrupts totally?" All the aforementioned powers had their moment on the world stage and faded to just a few lines of history. What can we seem unable to learn?

In the past, what I seem to glean as a root answer is the affirmation that "to the victor belong the spoils." That domination of the vanquished leads to corruption and failure. Is it not time some smart human tried a different path? Yes, there was an attempt when the League of Nations was formed, but there was something not quite right about it and it did not achieve lasting peace or prosperity. What was missing and why is it failing, and what can we learn from its continuing failure? I will be the first to admit I do not have answers.

New economies emerged that at first showed promise: socialism, communism, seemed to show brief promise but failed. Capitalism or some form of it has prospered and shown the ability to grow and survive.

Capitalism stumbles and recovers stronger than before the misstep. Why? Could it be that it tends to stumble, because it slips into the fatal mistake of "to the victor belong the spoils?" Up to now that path led to failure and just before it becomes too late capitalism pulls back.

Just Saturday morning the T.V. noted that there were forty-one wars on the planet, what a terrible waste of resources! Just thinking if someone were only smart enough to be able to harness all the wasted energy of forty-one wars what progress and prosperity this planet might enjoy.

So let's think of what is the root of these wars. In my opinion it seems that there is more than one reason. The first that comes to mind is that the have not's want what the haves, have! The haves are loath to share what the haves, have. The second is the age-old "to the victor belong the spoils." There is a saying, "give a man a fish and you have given him a meal, teach him how to fish and he can sustain himself." But how to do this without compromising the existing balance, is something to contemplate.

Libraries are full of thoughts on how to solve problems. Just maybe it would be worthwhile to go back and see what we may have missed. Just because we are part of the haves of the planet might we not prosper more if we found a way to spread knowledge that could be meaningful and still preserve the balance? Solve the have not problem by enlightenment instead of keeping them in thrall and the slavery of ignorance that leads to the only solution, force, i.e. war. I am not smart but I cannot accept that there aren't bright minds on this planet who only need encouragement and protection while they find the necessary answers. I do not know but I sure would like to support a new approach. Something to think about. The museums might have some real answers.