

Jane

Final Draft # 3

Which Way is the Best Way?

Our country has been a land full of chaos. We have been facing a variety of challenges these past months up to the present. There was the attack on The World Trade Center, the disastrous downfall of the economy, and the very recent tragic death of the kidnapped journalist. There were also numerous attempts of similar attacks by terrorist who, fortunately, were unsuccessful. The kidnappings, deaths, and other tragic circumstances that's been taking place can make each of us re-think of what one could have done or should have done to prevent all of these commotions to have come about. Frans de Waal explained in his text, "The Ape and the Sushi Master", that we have been taught and should reconsider the acts of kindness and altruism towards all situations around us. Lani Guinier agreed on the idea of reciprocity in the government that will wipe away discrimination, as she explains further in her text, "Second Proms and Second Primaries: The Limits of Majority Rule". These ideas of re-considering a more humanitarian approach on different circumstances especially on the on going war that America's been having are ideas Mary Kaldor construed in her essay, "Beyond Militarism, Arms Races and Arms Control". They all believe that there are other ways in setting about ideas that we have been brought up with and ways that we can re-think otherwise. In some cases, re-thinking gives way to obtaining better solutions and explanations to questionable theories and methods. Yet, in other cases, re-thinking of

alternative strategies might cause more tragic consequences depending on the circumstances.

Some of the tragedies we've been facing in our country today are just some of the consequences that we've obtained from decisions our government has made in the past. Our country has been attacked by acts of terrorism numerous times the past years. In my opinion, this could be due to the interfering of America with the wars between different religions in other countries. Its purpose might be to help the subordinate country to succeed but might've angered the opposition causing them to attack us. The war against terrorism that is on going right now is a decision made by the government subsequent to the attack on the World Trade Center. Kaldor addressed this issue in her text regarding the idea that being in a military war against terrorism should've not occurred, but instead, there should've been a more humanitarian approach. She suggested, "The most hopeful approach to the contemporary problem of controlling war, nowadays, is not through arms of control but through the extension and application of international humanitarian law and human rights law" (10). Kaldor is very concerned about the rights of the innocent people being affected by these wars. Not only people who are fighting the war get affected, but also the unheard voices that get killed. The on-going war has taken lives of several people, both military soldiers and civilians. Guinier corresponded to the human rights of every individual in going about the approach to fix the problem of inequality of who is heard and who's not. Guinier suggested, "To redeem that promise, we need to put the idea of proportionality at the center of our conception of representation" (345). She was implying the way our system is right now could be the cause of some discrimination that is happening in case of the voting system that we have. Kaldor believed that only if one

just might consider thinking of a more of an altruistic approach, then everyone can benefit. This is an idea de Waal would agree upon that people were brought up with kindness and altruism; a less severe consequence might've be an outcome to this type of situation.

However, some ideas of re-thinking may not always work on certain situations like September 11. In my opinion, it would have cost the people who were closely affected by the tragedy more grief if the president has decided not to attack the terrorists. If the president has decided to go about it the "nicer" way, it would have angered most of the citizens of US, especially those individuals who were affected by the most. America is one of the most powerful countries in the world and as a result, we have helped several countries along the way. However, in situations where terrorists attack innocent victims, a decent approach would have prevented from capturing the ones responsible. America has captured several terrorist leaders that can be held responsible for the attacks and in this situation; I think military attack was the only way for this to happen. In instances like voting, the outcome of re-thinking might take so long that it might not even be worth all the trouble. There might be a lot of other factors to consider. Guiner somehow saw that there would be a lot of work needed for her ideas to be successful. She states, "To get full benefits of cumulative voting, however, it would also be necessary to change the process of government decision-making, away from majorities model toward one of proportional power" (344). There would be hard work needed to obtain the changes that we wish for. Even de Waal would somewhat believe that it might be difficult to change some people's ways. He states, "The question becomes whether animals and people possess the knowledge of to act selfishly. In nature, the future is mostly hidden behind a

veil of ignorance” (322). It is very difficult not to think of our own well being and only think of other’s well being. We sometimes might feel this is selfish, but de Waal believes that it is a part of our personalities. Not everything can be thought over and be done something about. It would all depend on the circumstances that re-thinking can be a benefit to others.

Re-considering a more humanitarian method of solving other problems, on the other hand, would make some difference in some situations that’s been happened lately. An example would be the death of the journalist in Pakistan. The reason for kidnapping was a demand for the release of some terrorist leaders in our country. Looking back to how this was started, the World Trade Center was attacked by terrorists, so the US government declared war against them, which resulted to deaths and terrorist leaders being captured. Angered terrorists resulted on kidnapping. Both sides are practicing acts of retaliation in this case. According to de Waal, “Forgiveness prohibits revenge but not punishment. Punishment is necessary component of justice, whereas revenge—if let loose—only destroys” (354). To retaliate against the enemy by the same means of attack will only make things worse. Since now that the journalist was killed, Americans are more raged than ever. Feeling of revenge will come to each of us towards this unfortunate ordeal. According to Kaldor, “...new wars are very difficult to contain and very difficult to end” (5). I agree that once a war has started, it may take years to end and may take more lives one can imagine, as years would go by. People must try to go about the feeling of revenge in a more tolerant manner even if they have the power to do so. Being powerful can’t always be the answer to that problems and changes we want. Guinier would agree that, “For in the end democracy is not about rule by powerful—even

a powerful majority—nor is it about arbitrarily separating group to create separate majorities in order to increase their share” (345). It is the idea of being kind and equal to others. The idea of re-thinking of other ways might result in less tragic consequences.

Our aim should be to re-think of ways that there would be lesser consequences for our actions. People must realize the different outcomes from every aspect of their action. An outcome of re-thinking that people was brought up with kindness towards other can make us realize the different positive approach to problems that’s been going on. As Kaldor states in her essay, “The point is to provide a schematic account of what is happening in the field of warfare so as to be able to offer some new ways of thinking about possibilities for controlling or limiting means of warfare...”(2). Her goal is to provide an alternative way of fighting against terrorism and other causes of war. In most cases, re-thinking can help create an improved way of living especially when it comes to situations where it affects many innocent people. It gives us chance to realize what will be the best tactic to go by. There are also some cases where time is an important factor and re-thinking of other ways would not be an option. It is possible to be in this situation. In situations like it, it might cost more that tragic consequences than there already is. A person can only judge what can be re-evaluated and what needs to be attended to at once. Our world is full of chaos that is impossible to get rid of. Only a person would be the judge on how to handle things and consider who will be affected. It is safe to re-think of other methods of approach, it will all depend on how one will go by of doing it. There’s always more than one way to go by, but always think of the most sensible way where there would be the least affected, yet will make a whole lot of difference in the world.