

Wokeism as a cult

 cnav.news/2023/02/13/accountability/executive/wokeism-cult/

By Terry A. Hurlbut

February 13, 2023



The Twitter Files have wound down, but those who exposed it have found better game. Michael Shellenberger, for example, has locked in on the phenomenon of *wokeism*. In two threads over the weekend, he shows it for the cult that it is. In fact his insights have filled a book, which he introduces in the thread. And the most important of those insights is that wokeism *causes* the very harms against which it *purports* to fight.

The specific wokeism of LGBTQ+

Wokeism takes its name from the misuse of the past tense of the verb *to wake* as a past participle. This faulty usage first appeared in the “Black Lives Matter” movement. Now it applies more generally, and refers to “awakening” to the alleged oppressive nature of civilization. Wokeism is, in fact, the application of critical theory.

The specific application of *queer theory* is at issue in Shellenberger’s first thread (February 11, 2023, 5:01 p.m. EST). But he’s not talking about how absurd it is to think that God mistakenly mismatched souls and bodies with respect to gender in scores, hundreds, thousands, or tens of thousands of cases. He’s talking about how clinics, dedicated to the “treatment” of gender dysphoric youth, have been pressuring their patients to opt for surgical mutilation and hormonal poisoning. Several clinic workers, in American and Great Britain, have been sounding an alarm about such pressure.

So Mr. Shellenberger dropped this thread (odd numbers only):

Whistleblowers in UK & USA are alleging widespread abuses in treatment of gender dysphoric children with puberty-blocking drugs & surgeries

US "What is happening to them is morally & medically appalling"

UK "Will we look back in ten, 20 years and be like, 'What did we do?'"

pic.twitter.com/7D1AnccBpG

— Michael Shellenberger (@ShellenbergerMD) [February 11, 2023](#)

2. In response to a major increase in dysphoric children coming to the transgender clinics starting around 2015, both UK (Tavistock) & US (St. Louis Children's), rushed to prescribe drugs rather than pause to investigate potential reasons for the increase.

pic.twitter.com/FXZFyxhCz0

— Michael Shellenberger (@ShellenbergerMD) [February 11, 2023](#)

4. The clinics did not track patient outcomes

UK: "Former therapists who prescribed puberty blockers admit they do not know 'how many children [have since] changed their mind.'"

US: "One doctor wondered aloud why he would spend time on someone who was no longer his patient" pic.twitter.com/qDL0jdTL39

— Michael Shellenberger (@ShellenbergerMD) [February 11, 2023](#)

6. Whistleblowers in both UK and US say clinics caved into parents who insisted their children were trans even when there was evidence the parents were: abusing their children; had Münchausen syndrome by proxy; were homophobic and didn't want gay children. pic.twitter.com/Lx2YHMwf0u

— Michael Shellenberger (@ShellenbergerMD) [February 11, 2023](#)

There is good evidence that gender dysphoria is a social contagion

<https://t.co/0Jrv7F91Se>

— Michael Shellenberger (@ShellenbergerMD) [February 11, 2023](#)

<https://t.co/xa9plMoluo>

— Michael Shellenberger (@ShellenbergerMD) [February 11, 2023](#)

“How did an NHS service medicalise so many autistic and same-sex-attracted young people, unhappy teenage girls and children who simply felt uncomfortable with masculine or feminine templates, with so little knowledge of the causes of their distress or the effects of the... <https://t.co/VTZrSpt8GR>

— Michael Shellenberger (@ShellenbergerMD) [February 11, 2023](#)

Toward the end of his thread, Shellenberger drew attention to a clinic called the Tavistock Centre. *CNAV* contributor Linda Goudsmit [mentioned it](#) three years and eight months ago. John Coleman, Ph.D., [cited](#) Tavistock (est. 1947) as an institution making a frontal attack on the sexual nature of human beings. In reaction to this thread, one user cited a book recounting Tavistock’s collapse.

<pic.twitter.com/2W9hwRHU2Z>

— Bill Jones (@BillJon78838853) [February 11, 2023](#)

Another user speculated on the three motives for acts of the kind Shellenberger described: money, politics, or madness.

We need to understand why these people are doing this.

Is it money? Is it politics? Is it madness?

To stop this & prevent this from happening again, we need to find out why.

— Rebecca V-Devoted Reality Believer (@RebeccaAVelo) [February 12, 2023](#)

Yes! Exactly this!

— Rebecca V-Devoted Reality Believer (@RebeccaAVelo) [February 12, 2023](#)

A general thread

One other user put her thoughts into an essay, saved it as an image, and shared it on Twitter. In three words: *follow the money*.

Follow the money <pic.twitter.com/GMYHE0LJtl>

— Get Christie Love (@divalious6) [February 12, 2023](#)

And one father predicted that many of the children so treated, will take legal action.

I told my teenagers a few years ago that the day is coming where kids will be suing doctors, therapists, and parents. There will be a reckoning when there are thousands and thousands of sterilized young adults who finally realize what was done to them.

— A Patient Man (@_patient_man) [February 12, 2023](#)

But Shellenberger recognized that this is only part of the problem. Wokeism applies also to climate activism and deliberate campaigns to raise racial tension. To address that, he dropped another thread, which he began by “quote tweeting” the anchor tweet of Saturday’s thread.

Here is his nineteen-tweet thread (odd numbers):

The evidence is now overwhelming that progressive climate activists, Black Lives Matter, & LGBT groups cause the very things they claim to be fighting: higher emissions (from attacking nuclear & nat gas); more black deaths (from attacking the police); and harm to LGBT youth. <https://t.co/nqFf2wVJCd>

— Michael Shellenberger (@ShellenbergerMD) [February 12, 2023](#)

Emissions had been declining over the last decade, both in rich nations and globally, mostly due to the transition from coal to natural gas.

But then, climate activists started shutting down nuclear plants and blocking natural gas production, resulting in more coal-burning. <pic.twitter.com/GdqsApFPdh>

— Michael Shellenberger (@ShellenbergerMD) [February 12, 2023](#)

I’m not suggesting that all climate, black, or LGBT activists cause harm. Some climate activists advocate nat gas & nuclear. Some black activists demand police reform, not defunding. And some LGBT activists demand reforms to how clinics deal with gender dysphoria.

— Michael Shellenberger (@ShellenbergerMD) [February 12, 2023](#)

And beyond climate, race/policing, and trans, "homelessness advocates" demand that people in the throes of addiction/untreated mental illness be allowed to destroy themselves on the street, and become a threat to themselves. <https://t.co/wnMXoywF1X>

— Michael Shellenberger (@ShellenbergerMD) [February 12, 2023](#)

What's more, we have seen a blending of those movements with journalists in the corporate news media who routinely play the victim, a classic Dark Triad strategy, and demand social media censorship in the name of "preventing harm."<https://t.co/6SRYeXCfst>

— Michael Shellenberger (@ShellenbergerMD) [February 12, 2023](#)

We are gaining an increasingly complete account of how Woke Dark Triad activists created extremist emotional movements, fueled by rising anxiety from social media, and the unmet need for spiritual transcendence & social belonging, to successfully bully institutional leaders.

— Michael Shellenberger (@ShellenbergerMD) [February 12, 2023](#)

We frequently hear and make comparisons to past periods of widespread irrationalism: witch hunts, moral panics, McCarthyism, socio-psychiatric disorders, fascism, communism, and religious fundamentalism. Doing so is helpful in orienting ourselves.<https://t.co/8jVbTPfMFK>

— Michael Shellenberger (@ShellenbergerMD) [February 12, 2023](#)

I explore the financial, political, and religious roots to apocalyptic environmentalism and Woke progressivism in "Apocalypse Never," and "San Fransicko," and since then have collaborated with [@peterboghossian](#) to create a religious taxonomy for Wokeism.<https://t.co/coAIsEcP91>

— Michael Shellenberger (@ShellenbergerMD) [February 12, 2023](#)

Lobaczewski argues that Dark Triad type leaders take political power they create a "pathocracy," rule by the sick.

Resistance depends on the "normal," or psychologically healthy individuals, who recognize just how dehumanizing the totalitarian leaders, and their agendas, are.
<pic.twitter.com/XLo8XcUgzg>

— Michael Shellenberger (@ShellenbergerMD) [February 12, 2023](#)

"The pathological social structure gradually covers the entire country, creating a 'new class' within that nation." This privileged class feels permanently threatened by the 'others,' i.e., by the majority of normal people."

Hence the demands for censorship!

— Michael Shellenberger (@ShellenbergerMD) [February 12, 2023](#)

That thread definitely struck a few nerves. But some users got the point. See, for example:

White people, especially you women and feminized men, leave minorities tf alone! They don't need your help. You make it worse, and then you leave. I'm white, so I can say this and mean it! Mind your business.

— AliceCaterpillar (@AliceCaterpill1) [February 12, 2023](#)

Two users correctly observed that, in the not-too-distant past, the adults were not so quick to rush to the doctors. Many adolescents struggle with such feelings. Ride with it, the adults would say, and that advice usually worked. But now the “experts” are pushing treatments that change a body in ways one cannot always reverse.

Also many young boys have effeminate qualities until they hit puberty. It's ridiculous and abusive for misguided adults to misread these stages and push for life altering body mutilation.

— Frid (@fridmiller) [February 12, 2023](#)

Analysis

These two threads clearly show that wokeism is a cult, as Shellenberger says. But it's more than that. Wokeism is a weapon of civilizational destruction. That destruction takes the form of engineered scarcity, deliberate divisiveness, and sterilization by deception. The “alternative lifestyles” at issue here, all work against the production and rearing of children. “Transgender” surgeries and hormone treatments always sterilize the patient. The rest of that alphabet soup involves lifestyle choices that don't produce children even if the participants stay fertile.

“Follow the money,” one user said. But *where does the money come from?* It comes from the Denizens of [Davos](#) and others who think like them. These are the Deep State – or the “Western Oligarchs,” as the Russians call them. They either finance such efforts directly, or finance elections of politicians who will legislate the funding from public treasuries.

Under other circumstances, one would expect wokeism to fade away through attrition. But the Denizens of Davos know full well that the movement they engineered cannot sustain itself. So they will try every trick they can devise, to persuade people to adopt it. And if they *cannot* persuade, they will intimidate – or force. Hence the censorship, and proposals to incentivize wokeism and *dis*-incentivize its opposite. Because *without* censorship, people can compare notes, and realize that wokeism is not only a cult but also a fraud.