

The Satanist Mandeville: Prof. Un-Sinn's Idol?

Bernard de Mandeville (1670-1733) was a founder of the Hell Fire Clubs, a satanic cult, that exerted extraordinary influence over a succession of early 18th-Century British governments, and whose outlook continues to inspire the Libertarian movement today—and also, apparently, Prof. Hans-Werner Sinn.

Mandeville's best-known work is *The Fable of the Bees: Private Vices, Publick Benefits* (1714), in which he argued that man is inherently evil and consumed by uncontrollable passions: greed, lust, rage, violence. Since this is man's nature, Mandeville argued, the best society is that which is least intrusive, which makes no effort to impose any form of natural law. For Mandeville, the idea that man was created in the living image of God is not only untrue; it is the seed of destruction.

Mandeville wrote:

...Thus every Part was full of Vice,
Yet the whole Mass a Paradise
Flatter'd in Peace, and fear'd in Wars
They were th' Esteem of Foreigners,
And lavish of the Wealth and Lives
The Ballance of all other Hives.
Such were the Blessings of that State;
Their Crimes conspired to make 'em Great;
And Vertue, who from Politicks
Had learn'd a thousand Cunning Tricks,
Was, by their happy Influence,
Made friends with Vice: And ever since
The Worst of all the Multitude
Did Something for the common Good.

This is the view that was adopted by David Hume, Adam Smith, Jeremy Bentham, and all subsequent charlatan philosophers and economists of the British East India Company. Revolt against this evil was the essential feature of the American Revolution and the nation-state concept embedded in the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution.—*Jeffrey Steinberg*