

Intro to Pferalism

The 'ism' that doesn't suck (for most people)

Who gets what and how is it decided? This two part question has been around as long as we have. One part is about the distribution of energy, goods, and services (**economics**), and the other is about the distribution of power / influence (**politics**). In answer to these simple questions, recall the two Golden Rules:

- 1) Treat others as we like to be treated, and
- 2) He who has the gold makes the rules.

Let's talk about economic 'isms' first and let the political, rule-making part hang for the moment. The front runners nowadays are variants of Capitalism, Socialism, and Facism, with [Agorism](#), 'the new kid' bringing up the distant rear. Although the latter may appeal to the anarchists among us, it has scant chance of catching on as a standard resource distribution system because by design it starves the state into oblivion - and that's not going to happen.

Pferalism is more like an ideology than just another resource distribution system. And surprisingly, not disruptive in its adoption. Hear me out.

Although it's fairly common in practice, the pferalism label takes some explaining. The term "feral" generally applies to domesticated animals that escaped servitude or have been abandoned by their masters. Domesticated animals learn the rules and follow them to get fed and curry favor with their masters. Over the centuries, we civilized humans, to varying degrees, have effectively become domesticated as well.

Transcending domestication means becoming pferal. The 'p' in 'pferal' is there to denote **people** and is silent as with Pfizer, Pflugerville, Psychosis, and Pterodactyl. Being pferal doesn't mean uncivilized, wild, rude, defiant, or unruly, it just means the current set of standard isms sucks for us common folks and it's time to move on. Musical chairs is fine for a party game, but the real-life version sucks. Just ask a homeless person.

The Roots of our Predicament are Systemic

We humans are an adaptive species - maybe that's why domestication seems normal to us. And 'normal' includes the common belief that our problems are traceable to the greedy, deceitful, violent aspects of our human nature. Who can deny that we have these traits? But what if our social and economic institutions are configured to subtly exacerbate them?

What if the standard set of isms set us up for 'us vs them' thinking and while 'we' pit our energies against 'them', the powers-that-be cleverly snatch our natural sovereignty and increasingly domesticate us to benefit themselves?

Please let me clarify; 'Us vs them' in team sports is healthy and fun - who doesn't enjoy a good, rowdy contest between well-matched opponents? But when it comes to deadly conflict (war) it isn't so fun for the front-line contestants. Just ask a veteran.

A quick look at our history will help me explain further. When Western Europeans settled the North American continent, they brought diseases, horses and other domesticated animals along with them. They also introduced a couple of ideas that stuck, namely;

- 1) A standardized, **debt-based monetary and banking system** (which included paper currency and credit, forming the foundation of the modern economy), and,
- 2) The concept of **private, individual land ownership and commodification**, where land could be bought, sold, and used as **collateral for loans**.

Besides transcending domestication, resolving our predicament means dealing with the overlay of these two intertwined ideas. That means **rethinking our ideological framework**.

From the general understanding that money is necessarily debt-based by fiat (because the-powers-that-be say so) to other numerical units of value that can be exchanged for money, goods, or services because we (the market) say so. For example, have you checked the price of [Bitcoin](#) or [Ethereum](#) lately? I digress.

Additionally, the ideological shift includes rethinking the belief that Gaia's body parts are commodities to be 'owned' by humans and adopting the idea of Territorial Stewardship in favor of 'owning' real estate. This adjustment is more of a conceptual thing than a legal thing, in that few if any laws need to be changed - we 'just do it' as the saying goes. Land stewards are afforded the same legal protection as 'landowners', they're just a bit more thoughtful about what they extract and put back into the land space they occupy.

And by 'stewardship' I mean we claim our space just as we do now, but decidedly leave it in better shape than we found it. Now 'better' is subjective, I realize. Especially when we're talking about food production at scale and building settlements (cities) in the modern fashion. But apart from these arguably necessary exceptions, can we agree that 'better' means aiding soil vitality and water detox? And can we also agree that the prevailing resource and power distribution models (isms) tend to dis-favor stewardship?

And while we're speaking of us vs. them-ism, our predicament has other divisive factors worth noting too since they touch upon our cultural roots and core beliefs. Especially when it comes to religion (Christian, Muslim, Jewish, etc.), and politics (republican, democrat, etc.). While we quarrel and bicker over the merits of 'ours' vs the pitfalls of 'theirs', our domestication is just that much more embedded in our thinking.

At this point, you may be thinking "so what?" or "why bother", and I get that. That's exactly what I would have thought before this idea of pferalism popped into my head. And as ideas go, it's about as contagious as a hangnail.

But if you're one of the rare type of person that's curious about how to 'move the needle' in a positive way with minimal disruption to your lifestyle and social standing, consider the following:

Think of the Earth as a bank powered by sunlight and internal sources (e.g. volcanos, etc.). On and just under the surface, the material means to live is loaned to us - after we're gone, we and everything we've built will be repossessed by the bank.

Earth-as-a-bank does not use dollars to conduct its business of supporting life. It uses energy instead. The energy we spend subsidizing this regenerative economy can extend our stay, individually and collectively, for as long as Nature will allow.

When we make a regenerative energy deposit to reduce and repair the harm we do, maintaining and upgrading what's left otherwise, we ought to get a receipt for our energy deposit, don't you agree? Just as we would by making a cash or check deposit at a conventional bank. And by the way, we can design these receipts to reflect their estimated value in the natural, energy-based economy.

These (digital) receipts can be traded on the market for dollars as a numerical commodity on an electronic bulletin board maybe or via blockchain tech like with cryptocurrency nowadays, except that each receipt is 'backed' by publicly-verifiable evidence of regenerative human effort. Meanwhile, our deposits yield food and medicine for us, and just as importantly, habitat for the flora, fauna, and fungi in the wild - upon which incidentally, our very lives depend.

So, that's pferalism in a nutshell. No more disruptive than mining or buying crypto, it's just that the units of value have a regenerative pedigree instead of an extractive one.

The units of which I speak are called regenerative energy tokens or RETs for short. They're the receipts for the regenerative energy deposits (REDs) at the earth-bank, but are adjusted by a potency index (P) to make them more-or-less fungible (having the same value) from Nature's point of view. For a more detailed explanation of the RED/RET system, you can check out the companion piece to this one by clicking [here](#).

Elton Hammock
Austin, TX
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