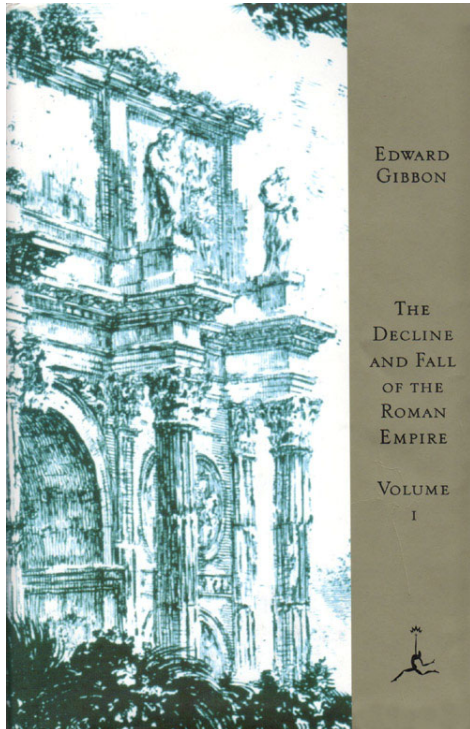


Edward Gibbon (1737-1794). **THE DECLINE AND FALL OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE.** Volumes I - III. (J.B. Bury, Text Editor). 1995 The Modern Library Edition. New York



*Edward Gibbon, in **The Decline And Fall Of The Roman Empire**, has always been my Cynosure.....Gibbon's mind was surely the most powerful and most lucid one that has appeared so far in the whole distinguished company of Western Historians...Gibbon [produced] a masterpiece of historical research, construction and writing which had no superior in its own Genre in any literature. –Arnold Toynbee*

Gibbon (1737-1794) in *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* noted that **religious warfare** was unknown among the polytheistic cultures of antiquity but appeared with the rise of the monotheistic religions.

It is the belief of this writer that Embodied Human Love that has been sacrificed to Divine Disembodied Love (Spirit) for Eternal Salvation by the monotheistic religions is the principal cause of violence against the human body with its many consequences that threatens the survival of *Homo sapiens*.

Christianity, the most violent of the monotheistic religions, captured this ethic in **The Crucifixion**, where an agonizing death on the cross was offered as the ultimate expression of Christian Love:

*God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, that everyone who has faith in him may not die but have eternal life. It was not to judge the world that God sent his Son into the world, but that through him the world might be saved (**JOHN 2:16-17**)*

God, the Father is wholly responsible for the agonizing death of His Son on the Cross: “So the Word became flesh; he came to dwell among us, and we saw his glory, such glory as befits the Father’s only Son, full of grace and truth”: for one purpose—**The Crucifixion (John 1: 1-14)**.

Christian Love represented in The Crucifixion equates Pain, Suffering and Death with Love, as the gateway to Eternal Salvation and has condemned Humanity to the loss of EMBODIED HUMAN LOVE, the gateway to PEACE ON EARTH.

GOD, THE FATHER ATTEMPTED TO CORRECT HIS BOTCHED CREATION BY COMMITTING THE ULTIMATE CRIME OF DIVINE FILICIDE.

Recent advances in developmental neuropsychology have confirmed that somatosensory affectional deprivation during the formative periods of brain-behavioral development induces brain-behavioral abnormalities that mediate the depression, homicidal and suicidal behaviors

commonly observed in the failure of maternal-infant/child affectional bonding and that of youth sexual affectional bonding—the neurodissociative brain vs the neurointegrative brain. See Tbl 1 below.

<http://www.violence.de/prescott/bulletin/article.html> <http://ttfuture.org/violence>
<http://www.violence.de/prescott/bulletin/barack.html>

Additional commentary

Gibbon observed:

The policy of the emperors and the senate, as far as it concerned religion, was happily seconded by the reflections of the enlightened, and by the habits of the superstitious, part of their subjects. The various modes of worship which prevailed in the Roman world were all considered by the people as equally true; by the philosopher as equally false; and by the magistrate as equally useful. And thus toleration produced not only mutual indulgence, but even religious concord ... (Gibbon, 1995, Vol. I, Chapter II p.22)

The elegant mythology of Homer gave a beautiful and almost a regular form to the polytheism of the ancient world. (p. 23).

The philosophers of Greece deduced their morals from the nature of man rather than from that of God . . . (p. 23)

Reasoners of such a temper were scarcely inclined to wrangle about their respective modes of faith or of worship. It was indifferent to them what shape the folly of the multitude might choose to assume; and they approached, with the same inward contempt and the same external reverence, the altars of the Libyan, the Olympian, or the Capitoline Jupiter. (p.24).

It is not easy to conceive from what motives a spirit of persecution could introduce itself into the Roman councils (p. 24)

Rome gradually became the common temple of her subjects; and the freedom of the city was bestowed on all the gods of mankind. (p.26)

! We have already described the religious harmony of the ancient world, and the facility with which the most different and even hostile nations embraced, or at least respected, each other's superstitions, A single people refused to join in the common intercourse of mankind. The Jews...multiplied to a surprising degree in the East, and afterwards in the West, they soon excited the curiosity and wonder of other nations. The sullen obstinacy with which they maintained their peculiar rites and unsocial manners seemed to mark them out a distinct species of men, who boldly professed or who faintly disguised, their implacable hatred to the rest of human kind. (Vol 1. Chapter XV: p. 348).

The conquest of the land of Canaan was accompanied with so many wonderful and with so many bloody circumstances that the victorious Jews were left in a state of irreconcilable hostility with all their neighbors. (p. 350).

...Yet even in their fallen state, the Jews, still asserting their lofty and exclusive privileges, shunned, instead of courting, the society of strangers...The painful and even dangerous rite of circumcision was alone capable of repelling a willing proselyte from the door of the synagogue. (p,351).

TABLE 1. TWO CULTURAL BRAINS

LIMBIC-SUBCORTICAL EMOTIONAL BRAIN

		<u>PAIN</u>	<u>PLEASURE</u>	
		<i>Theistic Religions--Patrilineal</i>		
N E O C O R T I C A L	P A I N	Pythagoras (c.525 BC); Zeno-Stoicism (c.300 BC);		
		Aristotle (c 350 BC); (Maimonides (1135-1204 AD)		
		St. Augustine (354-430 AD). St.Thomas Aquinas (c.1250)		
			Gender Inequality	
			Sexual Puritanism	
			Addictive Synthetic Drugs	
			Authoritarian Control	
			<i>Pain Is A Moral Good</i>	
			<i>Depression-Violence-War</i>	
			NeuroDissociative Brain	
		Science of Pain-Depression		
		BioMedical Health Model		
		Legislative Gender Inequality		
		Politics of Betrayal		
		<i>Earth Religions--Matrilineal</i>		
P L E A S U R E	P L E A S U R E		Democritus (c. 400 BC;)	
			Epicurus (c.325 BC)	
			Lao-Tzu (c.565 BC)	
			Lucretius (c. 99-55 B.C.)	
			Thomas Jefferson (1743-1836)	
			Gender Equality	
			Sexual Liberty	
			Natural Botanical Drugs	
			Egalitarian Freedom	
			<i>Pleasure Is A Moral Good</i>	
		<i>Joy-Happiness-Peace</i>		
		NeuroIntegrative Brain		
		Science of Pleasure-Happiness		
		BioBehavioral Health Model		
		Legislative Gender Equality		
		Politics of Trust		

Prescott, J.W. (2002). Presented at: Society for the Scientific Study of Sex: "Sex and the Brain" Midcontinent & Eastern Regions June 13-16, 2002 Big Rapids, MI and Society For Cross Cultural

Research 32nd Annual Meeting Feb 19-23, 2003 Charleston, SC. From: Prescott, 2005.,
<http://www.violence.de/archive.shtml>
Affectionate/Non-Nurturant Primitive Cultures
http://www.violence.de/prescott/letters/Profiles_Peaceful_v_Violent.pdf

Prescott, J.W. (2005): Prevention Or Therapy And The Politics of Trust: Inspiring a New
Human Agenda. *Psychotherapy and Politics International* 3(3): 194-211 John Wiley &
Sons, <http://www.interscience.wiley.com> <http://www.violence.de/prescott/politics-trust.pdf>

Prescott, J.W. (1995). Violence Against Women: Philosophical and Religious Foundations of Gender
Morality. *New Perspectives*. (March/April). Hemet,
CA <http://www.violence.de/prescott/women/article.html>

DVD: THE ORIGINS OF LOVE & VIOLENCE: SENSORY DEPRIVATION AND THE DEVELOPING BRAIN. 2008
<http://tfuture.org/violence>