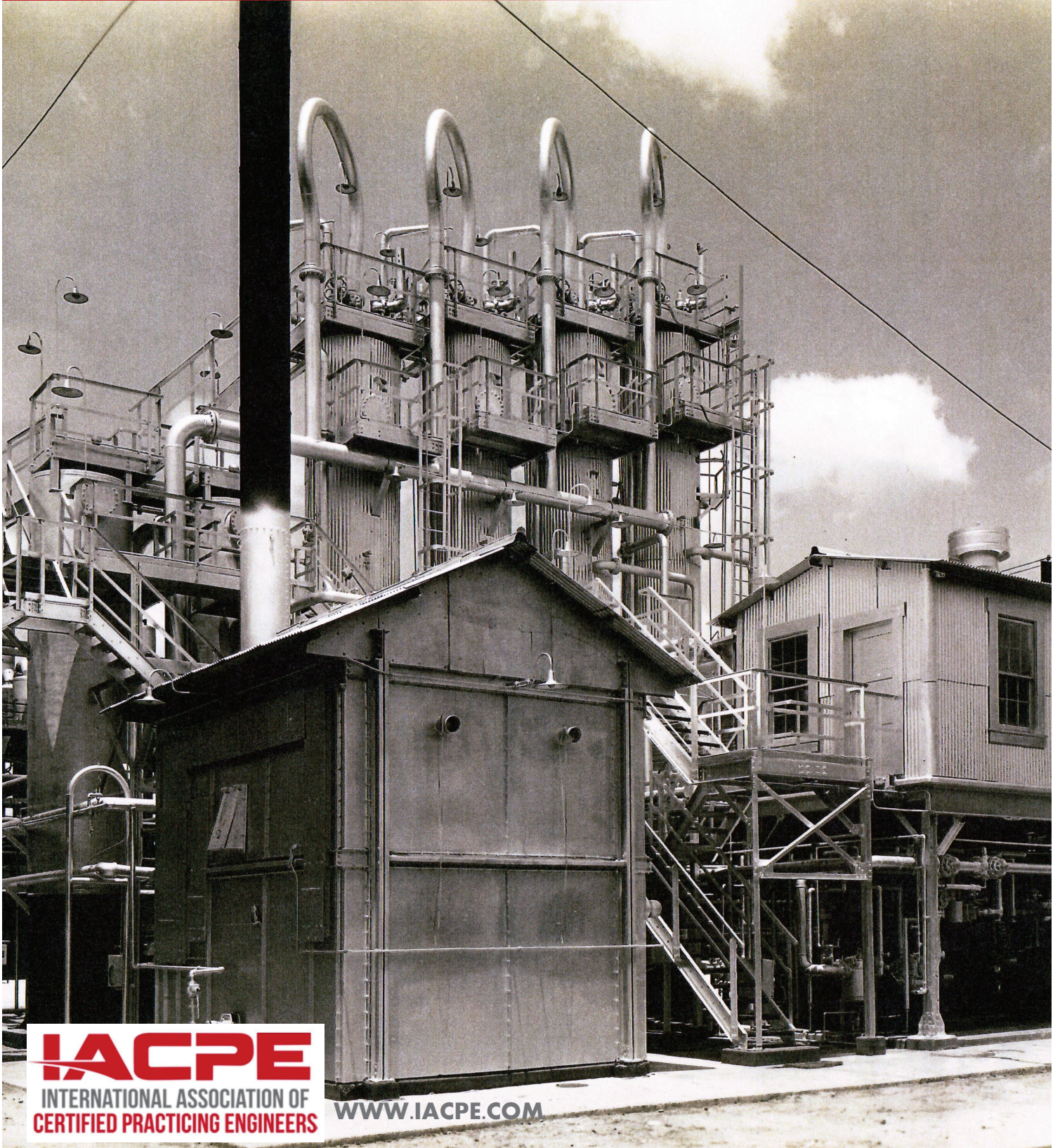


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Generations

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According to a Chinese proverb, "Wealth does not pass three generations" -- the first generation builds the wealth; the second generation is inspired to preserve it by witnessing the hard work of their parents; and the third generation, having never witnessed the work that went into the creation of this wealth, squanders it.

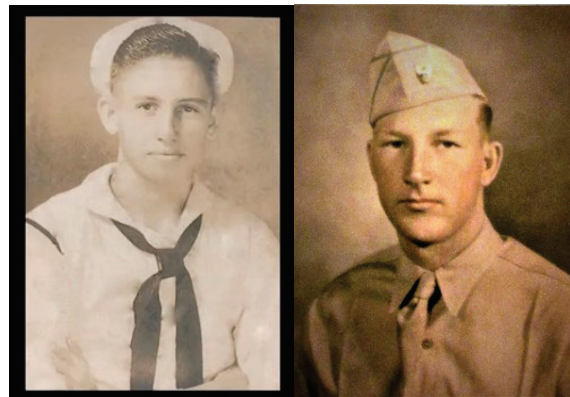
Middle East proverb "My grandfather rode a camel, my father rode a camel, I drive a Mercedes, my son drives a Land Rover, his son will drive a Land Rover, but his son will ride a camel,"

Afghan proverb "The grandfather was born in a tent. He remembers living in a tent. He will lead the people well. The father was born in a tent. He remembers both living in a tent and living in a palace. He will lead the people well. The son was born in a palace. He has never lived in a tent. He will not lead the people at all."

It is clear that we are seeing this in the world today. My father was born in 1926. In 1929 the great depression hit and in 1934 his father died. He dropped out of school in the 7th grade to farm so the family would have food to eat. It is clear from the family pictures they were undernourished. My father is in the middle -- very thin.



At 17 he joined the Navy to fight in WW2. (Pictured below on the left.)



My mother's brother, WW Barnes was a very successful fisherman in Panama City Florida, he joined the Army at the age of 26 and died in France in WW2. (Pictured above on the right.)

This is called the greatest generation. They survived the great depression, fought in WW2, and then came home and built the USA into a great economic power. My father and his brothers only knew that life was hard, and you had to work hard to survive. My father and his brothers worked an average of 70 to 80 hours per week.



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My father worked 40 hours a week as a welder in a chemical plant in Pensacola, Florida. When he came home, we would work on houses in the evenings and every Saturday. Every Sunday we would go to church twice.

My generation is now attempting to maintain the wealth, but we are not doing a very good job. I would work about 60 hours per week in a refinery and then went to night school two nights per week for eleven years to get an engineering degree. Still hard working, but not nearly as hard as my father and his brothers. I am approaching 70, my generation is basically completed. But in general, my generation did not work as hard as I did.

Today's generation rarely works forty hours per week but expects everything that my father had while working 80 hours per week. They have not seen a major depression, not been hungry, not fought in a major war, and certainly never worked hard. This being born in a palace leads to some interesting facts.

1. Drug Addition - Fifteen percent of the USA has an addictive personality with drugs and alcohol dependency. Every time I fly into Singapore the airline is required to announce that Singapore has a policy of death to drug traffickers. I do not really like that statement, but the thing I like less than that statement is that 107,081 people died in USA of drug overdose in 2022.
2. Mental Health - Ten percent of the USA has mental issues, if you travel to any major city in the USA, you will think it is also higher than 10%.
3. Trainability - Average world IQ is 85 to 90. The US Military will not allow anyone to join that is below 82 IQ, as they are functionally untrainable. So about 40% of the world's population is functionally untrainable. Details of IQ measurement are controversial to some, but however you measure it, the increasing complexity of society is making it harder for the 'average' person to keep up.
4. Honesty - Given the choice to accept a bribe, or reject the bribe and do the right thing, a very high percentage of the people in the world will take the money. There is a direct correlation between corruption and the living standard of the population. The IQ may have a part to play here – they are just not smart enough not to take the money – they are not smart enough to understand they are hurting themselves and their family.

5. First World? There is a divorce rate of over 50% in most of the 1st world nations – hard to call any country with a divorce rate of over 50% 1st in any measure. This is due to a lack of morals and forgiveness. Family is the building block of society. The family is the unit that ensures children are fed loved protected nurtured and raised in the virtues they need to become the responsible citizens of tomorrow, but family breakdown has become epidemic with nearly half of children experiencing the dissolution of their parents' relationship.

The collapse of marriage rates particularly among low-income groups has exacerbated poverty and disadvantage the impact of family breakdown on children is profound it is the single biggest predictor of poor teen mental health and correlated with worse outcomes in every aspect of adult life. The support of extended family has been weakened and loneliness increased as young people have moved away from their communities.

In the first world countries - one in seven adults (14%) now takes anti-depressants and suicide is the most common cause of death for young men. Our families are in crisis and the social fabric of our neighborhoods is also unraveling. Shrinking membership organizations and religious attendants have eroded a sense of common purpose.

A reluctance to prosecute petty crimes like shoplifting and a failure to integrate immigrants have eroded social trust. Deindustrializing and globalization have ripped the economic heart out of many of our towns. As manufacturing has declined communities have been left empty, without a shared economic endeavor our families and our neighborhoods are caught in a spiral of decline and our nations well.

Freedom, prosperity, and happiness are not values, they're not a map, they're not even principles. They may be the fruits of a successful society, but they're not its roots. No good tree bears bad fruit and to restore the fruit we must first attend to the roots. The true roots, the foundation stones of a civilization are not freedom,

prosperity, and happiness, but the pursuit of good deeds, hard work, and truth in action. (1)

6. Democracy - As a child I was taught that a democracy was the best – now that I see how people vote, I am not sure I believe it anymore. They do not vote in their own best interest.

A democracy is always temporary in nature; it simply cannot exist as a permanent form of government. A democracy will continue to exist until the time that voters discover that they can vote themselves generous gifts from the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidates who promise the most benefits from the public treasury, with the result that every democracy will finally collapse due to a loss of fiscal policy, which is always followed by a dictatorship.

The average age of the world's greatest civilizations from the beginning of history has been about 200 years. During those 200 years, these nations always progressed through the following sequence: From bondage to spiritual faith; From spiritual faith to great courage; From courage to liberty; From liberty to abundance; From abundance to selfishness; From selfishness to complacency; From complacency to apathy; From apathy to dependence; From dependence back into bondage. Alexander Fraser Tytler -- 1780

The US Founding Fathers understood this concept. They made a representative government, and limited who could vote. We have expanded voting rights, which is a good thing – if we train our citizens to vote wisely. Here we are failing – sometime the correct thing to vote for is not in our best interest, and we lack the will and the values to do the right thing. We can keep voting ourselves money – but the end is bondage. We have voted to legalize alcohol and some drugs – is this really the best given our addictive personalities?

Given this list – which is not good – what are some things we can do to improve the human condition.

1. We must have a war on drugs and drug traffickers – 15% of the population has addictive personalities (not my statistics, go search) – this is like leaving the sheep out for the wolves, we must have some shepherds. We need to go after the wolves hard and there may only be 35% capable shepherds. In Malaysia and Singapore, they put high taxes on alcohol, I would be in favor of this given the instabilities and low IQs.

2. We must get some values back. We must understand that taking bribes and being dishonest hurts ourselves. This is also an IQ thing; many people are not smart enough to see the correlation. They view it as my turn at the hog trough, but remember hogs live in very poor conditions. It is very easy to review the average salary in a country and compare that to the level of corruption – almost the same. If we want to raise the standards of living in the world we need to go after corruption. We must train our voters to vote wisely – which is subjective – but must be better than we are doing today.
3. Empathy – 65% of the population has challenges. We need to understand the challenges and help the less fortunate.

References

How can we begin to reverse Cultural Decline?
British Member of Parliament, Miriam Cates

