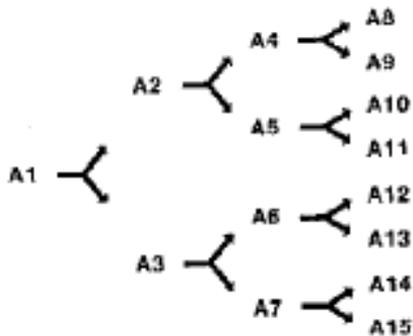


THE ARMOURED WORLD

By Nicola Glielmi

Reich claimed that to understand any function was necessary to find a Common Functioning Principle (CFP) which the function originates from. The CFP is larger and deeper than its variations. These latter, therefore, can not transcend it and their potential development is not infinite, but limited to and defined by the original function. It does not matter how much the functions, that are derived from a same CFP, can evolve and become more and more complex. The common origin won't change. An example can be found in the biological psychiatry.

Notwithstanding the research in this field has become more and more accurate locating, for instance, receptors more and more selective, it will never be able to abandon the chemical-physical approach, that in turn stems from the mechanistic model of the reality. The energetic nature of mental functioning will be always excluded in this approach. Emotions will be always considered as the result of interactions amongst chemical substances, that occur in certain areas of the brain. Therapy will inevitably consists, for who follows this model, in giving chemical substances. In case the results will not be satisfying, one will try to deepen the research in this direction and to find out new details, to discover new molecules, but the general mechanistic vision of the human mind it will be never questioned.



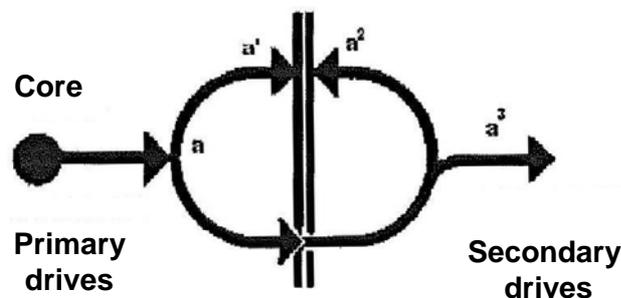
A stands for CFP that determines and totally influences all successive variations

Reich often was accused to have sexualised everything, even more than Freud. But the fact is he underlined, in a totally spontaneous and natural way, the huge contradictions implicit in Freud's libido theory, where the cause of the neuroses was attributed to sexual problems and that many patients, sometimes seriously ill, did not show any sexual problem. This position was supported by many other psychoanalysts. By the discovery of the orgasm function, that was able to explain also this apparent contradiction, Reich placed unintentionally himself out of the vision of sexuality as

seen at the time by almost everybody. He entered the world regulated by the natural functioning and not by the armouring. Any social relationship seems logical inside its own reference context that usually is considered as the best or the only possible. For instance the infibulation, that seems to us a horror, assumes a completely different meaning for populations that still practice it. It represents the evidence of their acceptance of a social rule. The family of an uncircumcised child draws a social ostracism, and the young girl feels different from the other girls.

How can external influences, even the most pathological, permanently modify the individual structure? Reich gave the response to this and that was astonishing: when a child, in any moment of his growth, meets a constant and menacing obstacle to its natural functioning, splits its structure in two antithesis. The former continues pushing towards the outside for its satisfaction, while the other, identifying with the external repression, will more or less completely block it. It comes to the incredible paradox that the external prohibition is interiorized and maintained alive just from the instinct which the repression was exerted against. It is exactly from this instinct that the repression draws its energy from and is maintained alive. In any case, either this process lasts for a determined period or becomes permanent, inevitably a **chronic armouring** forms, that is able to permanently works, even when the external prohibition is no longer active. The ego of the person is, at this point, totally identified with the repression. It is as the current of a river blocks its own flowing, by its own energy, when the normal flow is not allowed.

Emotional block



Reich considered man the only living being to have developed a chronic armouring.

There still remains two questions to be clarified. They are the following:

1. How is it possible to tell the difference between an armoured society and one that is not?
2. What did induce man to armouring?

1) During the period Reich spent to study the social influences on the sexuality, he came into contact with the work of numerous anthropologists such as Morgan, Engels, Bachofen, Malinowski, Roheim and the same Freud. The picture that surfaced clearly showed that the passage from the matriarchal to the patriarchal society represented the element of connection between an existence based on the auto-regulation and that dominated by a compulsory regulation induced by the armouring. A clear example of this transformation has been reported by Malinowski that, through his studies on the people living in the Tobriand islands, was able to identify the typical behaviours of a sexual-repressive society present in individuals belonging to the ruling class. The reason of the sexual repression was due to economical ones (these aspects are detailed reported in *The Invasion of Compulsory Sex-Morality* published in 1932). But the most important aspect resides in the fact that these persons showed many pathological traits typical of those of the patriarchal society, while in the people of the community, where a natural approach to living still existed, they were absent.

An armoured society considers children, women and sexuality in a way completely different from that not dominated by the armouring.

In case the armouring tendency in a society prevails, and this is presently the case on our planet where no longer examples of matriarchal societies exist, children receive less physical manifestation of love, are dominated by the family, segregation between sexes applies, less indulgence is present, and the natural needs are refused because of their adaptation. Freedom in the women is reduced, sometimes totally, and are considered inferior to males, the taboo of virginity is present, it is not allowed to choice the partner and to control fertility. In a strongly patriarchal society usually genital mutilations are present, sexuality is drenched with anxiety, guilt, and it is trapped by highly restrictive rules, sexual intercourses amongst adolescents are prohibited or strongly censored. Such society will be violent, authoritarian, highly hierarchized, sadistic, and it will promote in any way compulsory monogamy and brutally impose the authority.

These are only few examples of how a society based on the repression of the natural life imposes its rules. Situations of social interactions are infinite and any culture on this planet has found an own way to allow the armoured civilization to continue existing.

There exists of course an intensity gradient of negation of the natural life, that can be brutal and much evident, but also much vague and more difficult to grasp. However, what is pooling all these aspects, the CFP, is the armouring that in addition to be individual is also social. Any natural and spontaneous motion is blocked, negated, and killed by the secondary layer of the armouring. A similar structure, both at individual and social level, will act in a brutal and destructive way. Any natural impulse, in presence of an armouring, transforms in a destructive motion and the broader, deeper, and more solid is the secondary layer, the more aggressive is the

force needed to break it, in case the repression is not able to reduce the vitality of the biological core.

An other characteristic, in addition to the psychological brutality of the secondary layer, that is always present in individuals of an armoured society is the **escape from the essential**. By this term we want to outline the generalised tendency to avoid a full contact with ourselves and with the reality that surrounds us, privileging meaningless, formal, outward, and superficial forms of social interactions. Armoured man, understandably, makes everything to avoid the painful contact with its own inner prison. Besides, the superficial contact allows a not completely destructive social activity, that would happen inevitably in case the secondary layer can manifest itself without brakes.

These considerations explain why the orgonomy science is practically unknown and his founder died in prison, and forgotten.

The correct application of Reich's findings, that can be summarised with the return of the human race to its own peculiar natural functioning, would lead to the extinction of this armoured civilization.

2) We do not have a definite response to this fundamental question, yet. Indeed, we have numerous elements that allow us to formulate highly likely hypotheses. The above cited anthropological studies induced Reich first to consider the origin of the armouring of socio-economic nature. The aim of the negation of sexual freedom to the children of the tribe's chief, was to assure him the economical and social advantages. Later on he considered this behaviour no longer the main cause but only as a consequence of the armouring. The last hypothesis he developed in the last years of his life, found in the adaptation process to desertification the cause and the development of the armouring. Populations, forced to live in an environment that was becoming more and more arid (in which DOR slightly prevailed on the vital energy of the environment), and to bear more and more prolonged and dramatic famines, gradually transformed and adapted their structures to the new environmental conditions.

The desertification produced the **emotional desert** in the human being. The need to survive, most probably, forced whole populations to emigrate towards more fertile lands, but they took with them also the attitude towards an armoured life, infecting others societies that were at the time still free from. It is interesting, but even sad, here to note that when two cultures, one armoured and the other not, come into contact it is all the time the former to prevail over. For instance near the Tobriand islands, according to Malinowski, there existed other islands whose inhabitants, affected for a long time by the influence of the European colonizing, in particular their missionaries, showed all the psycho-pathological traits of the armoured civilization (neuroses, psychoses, perversions, and sociopathies).