DOMINATION PATTERNS

Investigating why so many people were, for example, susceptible to Hitler's messages of hate, scapegoating, and oppression, studies have shown that growing up in authoritarian families where the normative ideal was male

dominance and children were harshly punished, is typical of highly prejudiced people who admire "strong leaders."

Other studies have shown that people growing up in authoritarian, male-dominated, punitive families tend to vote for "hard" punitive policies, such as funding for weapons and building prisons, while voting against "soft" or caring policies, which they associate with the feminine.

These kinds of findings indicate that families that are highly punitive and male dominated tend to make people vulnerable to denial, which extends to other areas, such as denial of climate change and human rights violations in families and countries.

This denial also leads to deflection of fear and pain into scapegoating and the election of strongman demagogues.

The domination system keeps women "in their place" and distorts political choices by privileging "hard" or "masculine" policies over "soft" or "feminine" ones.

Moreover, the ranking of male over female is a template children internalize for other in-group vs. out-group thinking — be it of different races, religions, or sexual orientations.

Societies oriented to the domination side of the social scale have:

- strongman rule in both family and state;
- ranking of men and "masculinity" over women and "femininity";
- abuse and violence to maintain rankings of domination – man over man, man over woman, or man over nature.

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