Robert Owen’s Quest for Universal Harmony

Further Reading

- A New View of Society & Other Writings by Robert Owen, 1813 (1991)
- Life of Robert Owen by Podmore (1906)
- Life of Robert Owen by G D H Cole (1930)

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Extracts from his published works.
Child Care & Workplace Nurses

Parenting Classes

Education

Social Inclusion & Early Intervention

Quest for Universal Harmony
Working Conditions

Owen’s extremely advanced system of factory management, which he pioneered at the New Lanark Mills gained him credibility, not only as a successful businessman, but also as a benevolent employer. He proved that commercial success could be achieved without exploitation of those employed; his approach to social and economic organisation was extended beyond the mill floor into every aspect of village life.

"The working classes may be injuriously degraded and oppressed in three ways:
1st. When they are neglected in infancy.
2nd. When they are overworked by their employer, and are thus rendered incompetent from ignorance to make a good use of high wages when they can procure them.
3rd. When they are paid low wages for their labour."

(On the Employment of Children in Manufactories, 1818)

"The lowest stage of humanity is experienced when the individual must labour for a small pittance of wages from others".

(From a Paper Dedicated to the Governments of Great Britain, Austria, Russia, France, Prussia and the United States of America, London 1841)

"Eight hours’ daily labour is enough for any human being, and under proper arrangements sufficient to afford an ample supply of food, raiment and shelter, or the necessaries and comforts of life, and for the remainder of his time, every person is entitled to education, recreation and sleep". (Foundation Axioms of Owen’s “Society for Promoting National Regeneration”, 1833)

Employment Training

"Train any population rationally, and they will be rational. Furnish honest and useful employments to those so trained, and such employments they will greatly prefer to dishonest or injurious occupations. It is beyond all calculation the interest of every government to provide that training and that employment; and to provide both is easily practicable".

(A New View of Society - Essays 1813-1816)

Women

Robert Owen’s views had particular appeal for women. At a time when men were hostile to women’s rights, he courted controversy by denouncing marriage, as it then existed, as a form of slavery for women.

"Women will be no longer made the slaves of, or dependent upon men.... They will be equal in education, rights, privileges and personal liberty."  (Book of the New Moral World: Sixth Part, 1841)

Community Responsibility

Robert Owen drew up a list of rules for the inhabitants of New Lanark. These encouraged community responsibility, religious tolerance, and other good habits amongst the villagers.

"Parents shall be answerable for the conduct of their children, and householders for their lodgers".

"None of the inhabitants of same village shall injure any of the fences about it, or upon the farm, whether stone, dyke, railings, or hedges; nor any of the houses, ground, or plantings, nor any of the company’s property, of whatever nature it may be; but, on the contrary, when they see children or others committing such damage, they shall immediately cause them to desist from it, or if that shall not be in their power, give notice at the principal counting-house of the offences, and who are the offenders".

"As there are a very great variety of religious sects in the world (and which are probably adapted to different constitutions under different circumstances, seeing there are many good and conscientious characters in each), it is particularly recommended, as a means of uniting the inhabitants of the village into one family, that while each faithfully adheres to the principles which he most approves, at the same time all shall think charitably of their neighbours respecting their religious opinions, and not presumptuously suppose that theirs alone are right".

(Rules and Regulations for the Inhabitants of New Lanark, 1800)
The Environment

Campaign for Universal Harmony – Human Rights & Peace

The social system – constitution, laws and regulations of a community (1992).

Amidst the events of daily life, every person should be prepared to act, to practice and to internalize the values and principles of the community. The individual should be equipped to act, to practice and to internalize the values and principles of the community.

Care for the elderly & infirm

The constitution is of the core of the social order, the laws are of the core of the social order. The constitution is the fundamental law of the society, the laws are the operating rules of the society.

It is the universal right of every citizen to be protected from the hazards of society. Every citizen should be protected from the hazards of society. The citizen should be protected from the hazards of society.


Health & Preventive Medicine

Campaign for Universal Harmony – Human Rights & Peace

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During these times:

Schools should be provided and governed with the aim of ensuring that the students are capable of understanding the laws and regulations of their community. The students should be taught to respect the laws and regulations of their community. They should be taught to understand the consequences of breaking laws and regulations.

The teacher and parent should be involved in the process of teaching and raising the students. The teacher and parent should be involved in the process of teaching and raising the students. They should be involved in the process of teaching and raising the students.

Teaching and learning: They will never work and prevent them from working.

They will be surrounded by gardens, have sunshine of space in their direction, to keep the air healthy and pleasant. They will always work and prevent them from working.