

NOTES ON MODERN WORLDVIEW

WORLDVIEW THEMES OF MODERNITY

1. NATURAL/SUPERNATURAL DUALISM:

- **THIS WORLDLY – other worldly**
- **ANDROCENTRIC – theocentric**
- **MATERIALISTIC SECULARISM – spiritualism**
- **MARKET ECONOMY AND CONSUMERISM – gift exchange and redistribution**
- **SCIENCE – religion**
- **PUBLIC SPHERE – private sphere**

MODERN WORLDVIEW: DUALISM

SUPERNATURAL

gods,

angels & demons

NATURAL

humans

animals

plants

matter

God
RELIGION

▶ other worlds

▶ miracles

▶ private faith

Human
SCIENCE

▶ this world

▶ natural laws

▶ public truth

The Emergence of the Modern Worldview

MEDIEVAL WORLDVIEW

GOD
creator



CREATION
angels, demons
humans
animals
plants
matter

GREEK-MODERN WORLDVIEW

SUPERNATURAL
gods
angels and demons

this worldly supernatural -- excluded

NATURAL
humans
animals
plants
matter

Religion:

- other worlds
- miracles
- private faith

Science:

- this world
- natural order
- public truth

HEBREW AND GREEK WORLDVIEWS

Hebrew

GOD

CREATOR

**Angels
Humans
Animals
Plants
Matter**

CREATION

Greek

**GOD
Angels**

SUPERNATURAL

**Humans
Animals
Plants
Matter**

NATURAL

The Public/Private Split in North American Life

PUBLIC SPHERE

WORK

- mechanistic, control
- rationalized
- managed
- production, profit

SCIENCE

- public truth
- facts

INSTITUTIONAL CHURCH

PRIVATE SPHERE

HOME

- relational
- freedom, emotions
- choice
- consumption,
entertainment

RELIGION

- private truth
- faith

COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP

2. MECHANISTIC ROOT METAPHOR—organic metaphor

**2.1 *This world is like a machine—
the world is full of living beings***

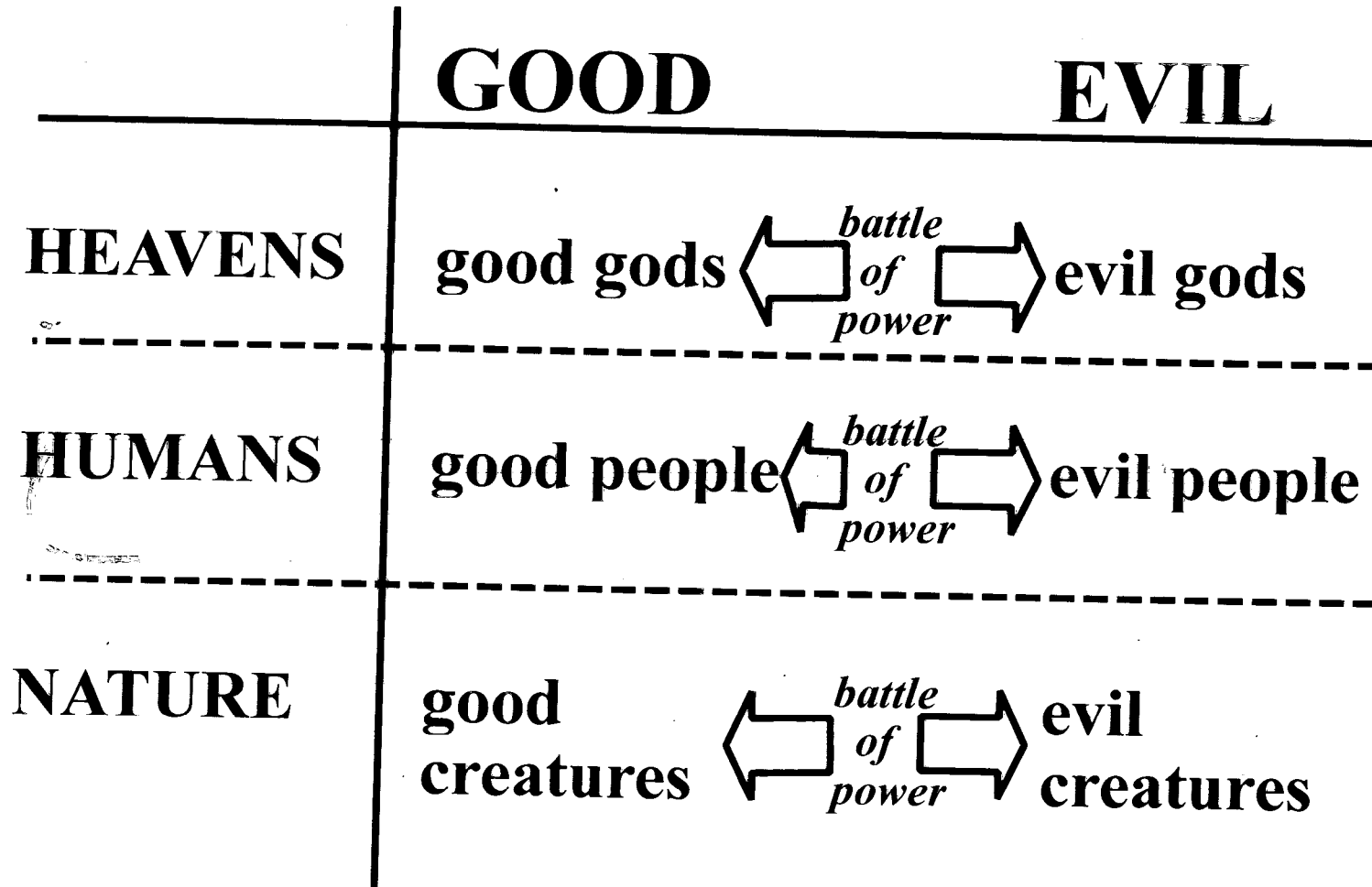
**2.2 *Componentiality –
interdependence of all things***

**2.3 *The world is ruled by laws –
negotiations***

**2.4 *The highest value is order –
value relationships***

**2.5 *An engineering mentality –
live out of control***

INDO-EUROPEAN WORLDVIEW



INDO-EUROPEAN MYTH

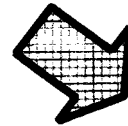
COMPETITION



VICTORY



PROGRESS



EVOLUTION

CAPITALISM

DEMOCRACY

The Modern Worldview

SUPERNATURAL

HEAVENS

GOD
Angles &
Demons

RELIGION

faith, private truth
other-worldly problems
miracles
sacred

**EXCLUDED
MIDDLE ZONE**

MATERIAL
UNIVERSE

NATURAL

Humans
Animals
Plants
Matter

SCIENCE

experience, public truth
this-worldly problems
natural order
secular

MODERNITY

Homeless Mind. Peter Berger

Modernity < techno.og. production
bureaucratic organiz.

1. SOCIAL ORGANIZATION

Factory - Technology
Bureaucracy - Organ.

1.1 Mechanistic approach:
- engineering mentality
- human control of nature
and social order

1.2 Standardization and
Reproducibility

1.3 Task divided into subtasks

1.4 Measurement: production,
profit

2. WORLDVIEW

2.1 Componentiality: Breakdown of things into atomic interchangeable parts that can be manipulated

**2.2 Interdependence of components, and sequences:
"formula approach" - same events produce same results**

2.3 Separation of means & ends

2.4 Implicit generalized abstract systems

2.5 Problem solving inventiveness - "tinkering mentality"

2.6 Orderliness-clear categories taxonomic, mechanistic causality

3. PERSONALITY STYLE

3.1 Componentialization of self:

- public: anonymous self, roles, rationalized**
- private: personal self**

3.2 Alienation between selves

3.3 Emotional management in public sector

3.4 Assumption of maximization of self

3.5 Multirelationalism--sense of many things happening at once

- >dissociation: not my problem**
- >meaninglessness**
- >anomie: see no order**