

**Notes on
Enlightenment Now
Book by Steven Pinker
Notes by William Gasarch**

For another review of this, see Scott Aaronson's blog post
<https://scottaaronson.blog/?p=3654>

1 Chapter 1: Dare to Understand

The Enlightenment:

1. Reason is our only guide. This precludes superstitions and hopefully will allow people to change their minds.
2. Science: Using reason to understand the world.
3. A secular foundation for morality. Religion has failed: Crusades, witch hunts, slavery, torture, cruelty, wars. Also, it was based on illogic. I am not sure they found a secular foundation for morality. Sympathy or the Golden Rule maybe, but that's not much.

The Enlightenment caused a rethink of

1. Government- it should be of the people. Rulers are not given by God
2. Economics- where does wealth come from? How to eliminate poverty. Also, specialization and trade.
3. Poverty and War were thought to be inevitable (Christ: The poor will always be with us). The Enlightenment challenged and tried to alleviate this rationally.

2 Chapter 2: Entropy, Evolution, Info

Entropy is a powerful concept and leads to better question

Poverty's cause is easy: Entropy (not sure I got that)

Wealth needs an explanation. And once explained we can fight poverty.

Over time we have always found better sources of energy, fighting against entropy.

Evolution did not adapt us for the modern world.
Over time our intelligence and our reason lead to win-wins.

3 Chapter 3: Counter Enlightenment's

Its a Western Idea. So what if it is? So if Indian Society wants to burn widows, thats okay, thats just there way. If Arab societies want to deny women education and have them marry at the age of 9, well okey-dokey, so long as they don't bend to western ways that are alien to their culture and will lead to cultural genocide.

Religious objection. If you believe in an afterlife than health and happiness on earth are not a big deal, so you don't care that people get out of poverty, no longer fear being killed by their neighbor, etc.

Religious objection- need to take leaps of faith.

MY OPINION- Actually this is fine if you need to realize they are leaps and admit you are wrong when you are. (Scientists DO take leaps of faith.)

Nationalism (or other -isms where the group is more important than the people) People are unimportant or expendable, its the group that matters. (The Catholic Church Pedophile crisis is an example of this.)

Eco-warriors- we are unimportant, the earth must live on instead. We must deny ourselves. Merges with the climate change people little but is actually a dumb way to solve the problem.

Too Goodism- with the world so comfortable people are now conformists automata. Combat sharpens one. CS Lewis once said *the only think better than a good friend is a good enemy*.

4 Chapter 4: Progressaphobia

Reasons for pessimism about progress

Reason can't solve all our problems (True but so what— it can solve many of them)

Optimism Gap-People tend to think that in the future THEY will be better off but everyone else will be WORSE off

Same with other problems- WE dont' have teen preg or poverty but OTHERS do. So things are NOT getting better.

If it bleeds it leads — only bad news get reported

Talking about students- we talk about the bad ones mostly (Not quite fair- we talk about the extreme ones.)

Bad things are discrete and easier to report on. Good things are much more long term. Saudi Arabia: BAD- that journalist killed, DISCRETE. GOOD- slowly opening up, women can drive for example.

Availability Heuristic-people estimate the prob of things based on the ease with which it comes to your mind. But bad things are more available. Availability error. Med students think every rash they have is fatal.

How to avoid- look at cold sober statistics. His other book- Better Angles, documented meticulously that things have gotten better- e.g., violence has declined. But the curve is downward (good) but fuzzy and with bumps so people can point to the slight upward ticks.

People have a hard time thinking long term.

People also fill the void- *isn't trolling a form of violence* Which is nonsense.

Bad is better than good: We can imagine feeling A LOT worse, but only a little better. This should be good news- we are already close to the top for feeling good.

Pessimism may be one-upmanship.

If an academic says *things are worse, see those Corporations doing bad things* (which could be correct for some corps) he is saying We academics are BETTER than those businessmen.

If a businessman says *Those academics are spreading stupid ideas to our children, destroying our society. (which could be true for some)* he is saying businessmen are better than academics.

Trump benefited from people thinking all of these negative things- Immigrants weren't a problem until he said they were and pointed to whatever problems we do have and blamed them on immigrants.

American cynics goes back to Watergate/Vietnam (Thats gotten to be a simplified cliché- I wonder if its even true. Certainly its not that simple.)

SO- what do we mean by progress. The following have ALL gone better:

Life is better than death Health is better than sickness Sustenance is better than hunger Abundance is better than poverty Peace is better than war Safety is better than danger Freedom is better than tyranny Equal rights is better than bigotry Literacy is better than illiteracy Knowledge is better than ignorance Intelligence is better than dull-witendness Happiness is better than misery Opps to enjoy family, friends, culture, nature is better than drudgery and monotony

ALL of these can be measured and, world wide, have increased over time.
And nobody seems to know about this good news.

5 Chapter 5: Life

Life expectancy has gone up in ALL continents.

Less child mortality is a minor factor, it REALLY has gone up.

Quality of life has also gone up, even among old people.

6 Chapter 6: Health

Vaccines (a victim of their own success!) better sanitation Surgeries
all vastly improved health, life, and quality of life.

Some disease completely eradicated: Smallpox and Polio.

These took SCIENCE most of all, but also money and INTERNATIONAL
cooperation between governments- so I am PESSIMISTIC about this sort of
thing now, and gain, victim of its own success.

This helped the poor MORE than the rich, which led to LOWER birth
rates since they no longer fear their children dying.

7 Chapter 7: Sustenance

Chris Rock: We are the first generation in history where Poor People are
getting fat.

Lots of progress on farming techniques using SCIENCE and technology.

Less starvation, less famines, more food is in ALL countries, even very
poor ones.

Also- cars and trucks can get food to where its needed before it rots. We
can store food in refrigerators and eat it later. So not just farming technology,
impressive as that is, AND is still happening (e.g., dwarf wheat)

Malthus was wrong in two ways: 1) When people got better fed they had
LESS kids, so no more exp kid growth. 2) Technology made farming MUCH
MORE productive.

8 Chapter 8: Wealth

Lump fallacy: There is only so much stuff, so we need to be careful how to divide it.

Wealth CREATION- science, technology, new ways of doing things has CREATED wealth.

The Gross world product has skyrocketed in the last 100 years (page 81)

Better than you think- things get better and cheaper over time.

Inventions used to be hit-or-miss, but with science easier to predict.

Economics plays a role here also—you can get the goods you want from trade to complete your projects.

In peoples own self-interest to trade rather than fight.

Cronyism in England gave rise to open economies (Page 83) he doesn't say why,

Rule of law and Government: enforceable contracts. (So how come Trump stiffs so many people?)

ALSO attitude- there was a NEG attitude towards the rich since they were seen as tawdry (perhaps not spiritual). That changed. Voltaire appreciated business men,

European countries escaped poverty in 1950's, but poor countries are doing it now.

Extreme poverty is plummeting- Page 87 (Darling wants to know how this is possible if there are now so many refugees.)

Why is China better off now:

Decline of Communism and generally state-planned economy

Decline of Maoism- so NOT every aspect of society is the state

The end of the Cold War- stopped many civil wars (GEE- I thought it also started some)

Globalization- It has helped far far more than it has helped but has been a convenient scapegoat. It creates winner and losers but FAR MORE winners.

Some sneer at this as *merely material goods*- tell that to the African family who will have literate daughters who goto school and will have comfortable lives.

9 Chapter 9: Inequality

This is a false problem- Poverty is the problem, not inequality. The confusion comes from the lump fallacy.

(1) Inequality is not even a problem for envy— the more (2) inequality the HAPPIER people are- perhaps they have hope. People want allocations to be FAIR, not necc EQUAL. (Page 101, 102)

Gini- Global Inequality Index- measures how much inequality the lower it is the more equality.

It peaked in 1960 and has been going down since then. Poor countries are getting richer far faster than rich ones are getting richer.

People who complain about how little modern capitalist society treat the poor badly, it was much worse in pre-cap society. All countries now spend MORE of the wealth on the poor than they used to (Page 108)

Wagner's law- as a Capitalist society is more successful people will vote themselves more and more benefits.

The book thinks this is okay.

The 1950's were NOT the good old days with less poor people. 25% of all people were poor then. (Page 114) People don't understand this because the poor are now better off then they were,

10 Chapter 10: The environment.

Technology has made LESS pollution-per-person

Global warming- he is confident that the technology will work itself out. He does not seem to deal with the political problems.

11 Chapter 11: Peace

Number of conflicts has gone down in the last 200 years with LOTS of bumps (WW II) but has been straight down since 1950, with Syrian war being a slight uptick.

Why? Trading is more lucrative than fighting.

(From Sapiens book) Land is no longer that important, brainpower is, and unless a country kidnaps Serge Brin, I think we are safe.

We no longer thing in terms of might-makes-right.

We are now repulsed by wartime atrocities. Abu Grab was terrible, but WE CARED.

In WWII when ALLIED soldiers marched through Italy they Raped women. We would not tolerate that today.

The 1945 UN treaty makes war ILLEGAL- and the UN can (and did for Gulf War I) fight back. But the norm is now in place. He cites this as the MAIN reason for peace. Related— WW II made war seem less attractive, especially since with Technology we can kill SO MANY people. The A-bomb may also have had a negative effect on the notion of war.

In the late 1950's Eisenhower wanted Cuba to PROVOKE it to go to war, but they didn't. Kennedy inherited this mindset. Generals urged him to use the Cuban Missile Crisis as a pretext, but he did not. Of more importance here is that he thought, even hawks thought, that they NEEDED a pretext.

There are exceptions (Russia-Crimea) but they are rare. Especially historically. In the past there was a notion of War (even violent wars against citizens) as being noble. No more.

War as a noble thing in itself is gone. We enter wars regretfully.

12 Chapter 12: Safety

Homicides have declined over time as people settle their differences differently and stopped dueling. And stopped thinking dueling was noble. Governments help this in that there is an alternative way to settle differences.

Homicide rates vary tremendously.

Law and order and good policing have a massive positive effect. A quote *An effective rule of law, based on legitimate law enforcement, victim protection, swift and fair adjudication, moderate punishment, and humane prisons is critical to sustainable reductions in lethal violence.*

(BILL NOTE- what if the cops are the bad guys)

Lasser focused deterrence. Also technology has made theft harder.

If item X (e.g., marijuana now, alcohol in the 1920's) is illegal then if someone steals it you can't go to the cops so you'll take the law into your own hands. Hopefully Pot becomes legal and no longer a problem.

People dying in car accidents is in decline (seat belts and other safety measures).

Life getting more precious? (BILL NOTE- people have less kids so each one is more precious.)

LOTS of causes of death and injury have declined by better technology but ALSO people CARE more. Gov has had a hand in this in demanding that products be safer.

13 Chapter 13: Terrorism

VERY few people die (or even get injured) by terrorists, but the FEAR of it and the SUDDENNESS and the IT COULD BE YOU

Trends hard to know since *terrorism* is an inexact term.

14 Chapter 14: Democracy

Number of democracies has in the long term increased.

The breakup of the USSR created some.

Quietly, Africa and South America have more.

Over time people see that democracies WORK- people are happier there. Even gradually

Stalin's Russia was less happy than Putin's Russia.

Why does it work? NOT because voters pay attention and vote intelligently. But because they COULD- they serve a CHECK on the government. (Term limits on presidents help also.)

If citizens have a legal and effective right to complain- not just voting- this is a happier place. They don't resort to violence, and neither will the rulers. (So an ind. Judiciary is also important.)

Human Rights- hard to measure since we are now looking for it harder, and charities publicize it more. But it does seem to be going down.

Cap punishment is down- only China, Iran, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and the USA. (The USA is odd in that the PEOPLE like it- in other countries the politicians didn't give them the option.)

15 Chapter 15: Equal Rights

Cops kill blacks and white equally (BILL NOTE- A Nate Silver col complained about how just getting the data on this is impossible as the cops don't keep good records.)

Polls and google search data show that not only do people CLAIM they are less prejudice, they really are. (Tell them the *Darling got her MRS* think)

Poverty among blacks has fallen from 50% in 1960 to 25% in 2011. Other stats also good (Page 211)

Hate crimes, even against Muslims, in America has decreased. (BILL NOTE- under-reporting?)

Tell them the contradictory stuff about killing Gay people.

IN EVERY country, even the Islamic countries, peoples attitudes are getting more liberal in terms of accepting people of different races, ethnicities, religion. (Page 227). (BILL NOTE- so the Iran Treaty abrogation was a real mistake)

The biggest factor, accounting for 70% in being more tolerant is Education.

Children treated better now also— in 1921 there was a need to convince farmers to keep their boys in school (how about their girls?) Now school in America and many countries is compulsory.

Child labor is also all but gone.

16 Chapter 16: Knowledge

Technology has made education easier: The printing press, Radio, TV, the internet. (BILL NOTE- all hailed as being good for education. Partially true.)

Education is good to spur other things in these chapters.

Education leads to a richer and better society (Stats show its not the other way around)

Exception: If the education is controlled by a religion (Spain in the 1920s, some Islamic countries now). Then the education is tilted towards the faith and not towards science and engineering and other things helpful for a society (BILL QUESTION— are the humanities helpful? I would think yes.)

Educated women have less kids (a good thing) Educated people know more about other cultures so more tolerant. Educated people can innovate in all fields. (BILL NOTE- the myth of the high school dropout who invents things in his garage is really a myth.)

ALL across the boards more people, including women, are getting an education- even in Pakistan and Afghanistan (Page 239)

Even IQ is going up up up. The Flynn affect. Even parts of IQ that are NOT knowledge based are going up.

17 Chapter 17: Quality of Life

How to measure quality of life? One was it the ability of people to make their own choices. (BILL NOTE- a bit dangerous, what if they make the wrong choices. Children especially.)

People are working LESS hours a week and retiring EARLIER. People have MORE appliances in their house so MUCH LESS time spend on food preparation, laundry, cleaning.

What are people doing with their spare time? And if they are mostly watching TV, is that bad?

Much more time spend getting kids to soccer practice.

New Topic perhaps- has electronic media been good or bad for relationships Can much more easily keep in touch with relatives that are far away (so in that regard MUCH BETTER than 100 years ago.) Plane travel much cheaper (BILL NOTE- not for the poor and maybe lower middle class.)

Obscure movies are a think of the past- DVD, streaming. Can buy books, no need to see which books get shelf space in a book store. Foods from across the world (BILL- European Kit Kat bars!)

18 Chapter 18: Happiness

A plane has a 40 minute delay. BUT ITS FLYING! WOW! People are spoiled Firstworldproblem.

Easterline Paradox- people adjust to their new affluence and are not very impressed and want more.

But even so, DIRECT correlation- the richer the country, the happier the people (Page 269).

USA is not getting happier as fast as other countries. Why? They don't say. Darn.

Bowling alone- A counter book Still connected did 40 studies and showed that people are as close to their families now as they were i the 1970's, 80,s etc.

Less at-home entertaining, but more phone and email- so its a wash. Report as many friends, and social interactions with them as in earlier eras. So is Bowling Alone wrong?

Loneliness decreases over the years (Page 276)

The myth that people are lonelier (because of Facebook) is a myth – anecdotes taken as facts. Hard stats show its not true. The way people interact has CHANGED but is not worse.

Suicide: Hard to get stats on but is NOT increasing and is prob decreasing. Factoid: Sweden's is NOT high- that was true in the 1950's but is now below the worlds average.

Depression: Very hard to measure since we now are more aware of the problem and have drugs for it (is this good or bad? Do they work?) but against seems to be declining.

America is falling behind- maybe a current short downtick. Why? With freedom is responsibility- people no longer know their place in society. We have the luxury of being able to think about big profound depressing questions (see conversation on Page 285-286.) BILL QUESTION- WHY AMERICA? They say that baby boomers and Americans were the most set-up for this kind of depression. Not sure why.

In the 1960's the bigger concerns where Nuclear War, Overpopulation, and Boredom. Boredom has been solved. We live in interesting times, but that can lead to depression.

19 Chapter 19 Existential threats

Y2K: Wikipedia says its not clear at all if there would have been a problem had people not acted.

Roboapocalypse or the singularity ARE stupid. I'm surprised some smart people like Stephen Hawking believe in it.

Hackers, Terrorists with Nukes, other such scenarios: In the past technology to prevent these has always managed to stay ahead. Why? Because as technology is used enough so that it would be dangerous it gets embedded in our social fabric– hackers would need LOTS of manpower to seriously undermine us. Same with Nukes (BILL- not convinced. It just takes one to do it, and the *we've been fine so far* is not comforting, though it does go back thousands of years.) (BILL- security prevention in computers is still pretty bad- the technology is there for it, but the cost and will are not. And look

at the coming Elections where Putin will pick our next president.)

He seems to have a tradeoff: the more fanatical you are as a terrorist (so you want to cause major damage) the less likely you are to have the skills. I don't buy this. (I DO agree that a James Bond type villain is unlikely since if they want money they can get it legit.)

Technology is a double edges sword– bioterrorism BUT also better ways to fight it.

Number of nukes has gone down, and they aren't very effective anyway since countries don't want to use them.

He says Japan would have surrendered in WW II anyway and didn't need them- they surrendered because Russia entered the war. I think this is harder question than he makes it out to be.

20 Chapter 20: The Future of Progress

He admits that there are still some problems

1. Economic Stagnation. We are currently in a downtick for innovation and new products, but we will break out of it, and we ARE spending money on improving old technologies rather than invention new ones, but thats okay.
2. Counter-Enlightenment. Next is a list of things that Donald Trump is doing to have us go backwards (one of the reviews of the book complained that it was an anti-trump screed. Most of is not. He is mentioned in passing only until Page 334. And– if the shoe fits...)
1. Life and Health- he is trying to take health insurance AWAY from many Americans.
2. Wealth- Trade Wars.
3. Growth in Wealth-He is indifferent to technology (that is debatable- Quantum computing) and favors regressive taxes.
4. Environment- denies Global Warming. Subsidizes Coal and does not let California have more strict limits on env. Wants to roll back some regs. There are some regs he wants to roll back that big companies do not want him to roll back.

5. Safety- This had been improved by Gov Regulations but they are now being rolled back.
6. Peace- Trade brings peace, and he's against trade. Not tough on Russia for its wars. Syria is a mess. (BILL NOTES- not all his fault, the mid east was a mess before he got into it, though the Kurd's thing IS his fault)
7. Democracy- He admires foreign dictators (BILL NOTE- all presidents have to deal with this) but is at home wanting to lock up journalists, or more realistic- wants to loosen libel laws. Wants to impeach judges who rule against him.
8. Equal Rights-Immigration Bans and generally encouraging white nationalists.
9. Knowledge-Trump lies and has conspiracy theories far more than any other prez. (BILL NOTE- Republicans were doing this even before Trump- Compare Birthers to Truthers)
10. Existential Threat- He has wanted to roll back he Nuclear Treaties with Russia and has threatened to Nuke North Korea. He got out of the Iran Nuclear deal. And he himself is impulsive. (BILL NOTE- if he loses in 2020 will be just get mad and push the button. Can he?)

Pinker claims that the checks and balances and constraints will save us. Pinker does not realize that there are no more adults in the room, and that the Republicans in power are now lock, stock, and barrel trumpers.

Lindsay Graham was a serious thinker on Military stuff who was against abandoning the Kurd's now admires Trumps Out of The Box thinking

Rand Paul was a principled libertarian, who now wants to out Whistleblowers.

Deeper question is NOT trump- its Populism across America and across the world.

Studies who that its NOT economic issues that drive people to Populism, its racism and cultural backlash. This may be BAD for the election- the farmers who voted for Trump because of their VALUES (with a bit of thinking he would be good for the economy) may still vote for him for the same reason even though his trade wars were bad for them. And less educated people voted for Trump by a wide margin.

As people get more educated they get more tolerant and populism will fade away. (BILL- might be a long wait, and with gerrymandering they may still maintain power.)

Interesting fact- people DO NOT get more conservative as they get older (Page 342). BILL NOTE- depends what conservative means, too incoherent.

21 Chapter 21: Reason

People often use tribalism for their beliefs. To be a republican IS to deny Global warming and its okay for Trump to run huge deficits.

To be a liberal often means (I don't think its as strong) to be against Nuclear Energy.

Conservatives think ability is genetic but being gay is not.

Liberals think being gay is genetic but ability is not.

Same with Prohibition- it was tied up with other beliefs.

White lies are for the benefit of the hearer (Women are prettiest when they are pregnant)

Blue lies are told for the benefit of the in-group (originally Police)

People are provably biased- experiments about when a skin cream works vs when a gun control law works.

Researchers do- the bias bias, trying to prove that your political opponent is biased (Bernard Goldberg's book 100 people who are screwing up America listed Al Gore as one of them, but the things he said about Al Gore apply to most politicians.)

Extrapolation: Libertarians have gone from Too much regulation is bad to COMPLETE de-reg.

Liberals similar.

People either pick out stories or even false stories to support their viewpoint or world view (BILL- Chicago Black Sox)

Pundits or others with big ideas who want to fit whatever happens into their narrative are biased and their predictions are often wrong (BILL- tell them about the 2008 nominees for prez). Only the nerds- hard facts, NO prior opinions, can predict well, and even they will of course sometimes make mistakes. (Nate Silver is quite good.)

How can we get people to use reason more? When the truth is SO obvious that changing your mind (and your world view and your identity) is less

damaging than holding on to it. (BILL- with Trump it seems like its not happening, republicans still tick by him.)

Education and the Media need to both be improved. (BILL- I am pessimistic) Rabbis have students argue the OTHER side- that sounds like a good idea.

People are more rational when they have skin in the game- betting markets are far better than pundits.

Reason HAS been winning: Moneyball revolution. Charities looking into what REALLY works

but there are exceptions like Politics.

The spokesman might matter- Al Gore made the env a left wing issue (BILL- with the oil companies supporting Republicans perhaps his was inevitable).

We need a politician from Rural America to be FOR gun control.

Issues need to be depoliticized (BILL- I am skeptical this will happen. In the future Liberals will believe we landed on the moon, but conservatives will not.)

22 Chapter 22: Science

Replacing Science with theorist that fit your world view is very bad. THE RIGHT: Int. Design Replacing experts with partisans (W did this) Climate Change Denial. Lack of respect for Basic Research

THE LEFT: We are all doomed Science makes weapon's and hence is bad Nuclear Energy Genetic Modified Foods (this is a FAR left concern)

Can science answer questions about ethics? He is unclear on this point.

Thomas Kuhn's work misunderstood as saying there is no such thing as Truth.

Science IS about the pursuit of truth but is humble enough (as a whole) to correct itself over time.

Science blamed for racism in the past (they sometimes supported it but didn't start it) and for oppression now (absurd).

Science demonized unfairly by people in the humanities has lead to a dim view of it which is bad. And makes people go into Wall street instead of science.

Bioethics is a sham- its a way to tell people why they shouldn't have a certain treatment because of *dignity, sacredness, social justice*. Unethical

since they also delay dev of drugs that could save lots of lives. (BILL- I thought they did more complicated and better things than that.)

Need more people to APPRECIATE science.

HiPPO: highest paid persons opinion.

Bias- when a peacekeeping force does well its not news.

When non-violence works, its not news.

Humanities are in trouble but some of it is self-inflicted like when they bash science and the notion of truth.

Data and science can even help humanities DCC at UMCP

23 Chapter 23: Humanism

Humanism attempts to find a secular basis for the common sense morality we all feel that will also make societies FLOURISH.

Here are their principles (Page 410, 411) abbreviated

1. Knowledge derived only from observation and reasoning.
2. Humans are part of unguided evolutionary change. (BILL- not sure why this has to be a principle for morality)
3. Ethical values are derived from human needs and tested by experience. (BILL- this is very slippery. Do you go greatest good for the greatest number of people? How does self-sacrifice work. Seems like a hollow principle.)
4. Life's fulfillment emerges from individual participant. (BILL- sounds like nonsense)
5. Humans find meaning in relationships (BILL- Okay, true, but not the basis for morality)
6. Working to benefit society maximizes happiness (BILL- ill-defined. Happiness is ill-defined. Lets say happiness is a 10 point scale. Whats better 10 10's and 10 8's or 20 9's.

Do not base morals on superstition. Okay, that makes sense, but its not a morality, its the negation of another system of morals.

Impartiality- GOOD, thats a principle that you CAN build a morality on. If I don't like X happening to me then I can't do X to someone else. But still has the problem of peoples tastes differing.

The book DOES admit that these are problems. Especially on page 416.

It will always be a problem that selfish individual will ignore the morality if its just whats good for a society.

Evolution gives us all sympathy, so the above is rare.

Deontological Ethics lists rights and duties. But they can come from anywhere. Where should they come from?

Look at the consequences of your list.

24 OBJECTIONS

Pinker seems to assume that our view of Morality will last.

1. FUTURE: How could they have allowed the killing of all those unborn babies! In the future they may blame both sides- those that made Birth Control hard to get, didn't fund pre-natal care, ostracized unwed mothers, but ALSO those who DEMAND the legal right for abortion. If Global Warming kills off large parts of the human race Abortion may become illegal since we NEED those kids!
2. FUTURE: Transgender: We may find that there is a cure for it that is not male-to-female or female-to-male surgery that the people who do it are HAPPIER with.
3. FUTURE: Divorce seen more negatively than now.
4. NOW: Global warming will destroy us all because while we have the technology we just don't care enough. Political problems.
5. NOW: Just because Terrorists haven't gotten a nuclear bomb yet, they might (with the help of a country).
6. Secular basis for a generic *Slavery, torture, rape is bad* is still missing.
7. Privacy is getting worse over time. I wonder if Satellites will catch minor infractions.

8. Page 374. Urging us to learn and try to understand the other side. How far to take this? Nazis? I am not kidding- where is the line is hard and getting harder. Or try to see both sides of (say) interracial marriage.