

You can learn a lot from a nine-year-old

You can learn a lot from a nine-year-old, if you pay attention. You can even discover that the place you live in is still a new community, despite all the surrounding development, and despite external appearances you may discover you really live in what is more appropriately called a colony, not a free country. But adults never learn anything from their own children. The truth is often quite simple, too simple for adults to figure out.

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You can learn a lot from a nine-year-old, if you pay attention.

Most adults, however, never learn anything from nine-year-olds, because they act dismissively towards them, and whatever they are learning, almost as if they actually didn't have anything to learn from children. The narrative that follows, however, shows that this is not only arrogant behaviour on the part of adults, but that this dismissive behaviour is also destructive, since it generates an incorrect perception or a distortion of reality.

What is a *settlement* according to what a nine-year-old learns in school? A settlement is a new community. The next question an intelligent person ought to ask is this: what is a *new community*? Or rephrasing the same question: when is a community *new*, and when is a community *old*?

The Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO) knows what *settlements* are, and the very opposite, because they fight for indigenous people, who in turn are obviously *not* people of new communities. The UNPO generally calls communities *territories*, and communities which are not new are called *ancestral territories*.

What is an *ancestral territory*? According to the UNPO definition, “a territory is ancestral when it is inhabited by a people for 500 years or longer.” So, to get this straight, a territory populated by a new community is called a *settlement*. A territory populated by an old community is called an *ancestral territory*. If the territory has been continuously inhabited by a people for less than 500 years, it is, more or less, a new community or *settlement*. If the territory has been continuously inhabited by a people for 500 years or more, it is an old community or *ancestral territory*.

Well, on 3 September 1609, Henry Hudson anchored his ship in Gravesend Bay, just west of Coney Island, in order to trade with some of the local natives. This was the first-ever landing by Europeans on the island of Long Island. This was just over 400 years ago.

The first Dutch settlement or new community, however, was *Midwout* (Midwood), which was established in 1634. This was the very first municipality in what eventually became New York State, and also the first Independent Long Island municipality. The original settlements that would become the first towns of Kings County (aka Brooklyn) — Flatbush (1636), Flatlands (1636), Bushwick (1638), Gravesend (1643 or 1645), and New Utrecht (1657) — were all settled in the 17th century. The village of *Breuckelen* (Brooklyn) was authorized by the Dutch West India Company in 1646. So we can say that Independent Long Island has been continuously

inhabited by people of European ancestry since *Midwout* (Midwood) was established in 1634, or little more than 376 years ago.

Since Independent Long Island has been continuously inhabited for less than 500 years, according to UNPO criteria it is still, in effect, a new community or *settlement*, even though it may not look that way with all those skyscrapers and development.

True, we went a little further than what a nine-year-old would have figured out, but we have basically used the notions a nine-year-old would learn in school to determine that Independent Long Island is still a new community or *settlement*.

A *micronation* — which may not necessarily be an inhabited place, since it can be an inhabited locality, but also a hackerspace and/or Internet forum — is also a kind of new community, and is thus a kind of *settlement*.

Let's go back to the lessons our nine-year-old taught us. What is *slavery*? Well, according to what a nine-year-old learns in school, slavery is a system under which people have no choices.

What is *freedom*? The very opposite of slavery! Freedom is the right to make your own choices.

What do you call a place which is ruled by everyone except the people who actually live there? Let's ask this question in a different way. What do you call Independent Long Island, which pays tribute to New York County (aka Manhattan), New York State (aka Albany), and the United States (aka Washington, DC)? Well, we know that Independent Long Island is still a new community, and thus a *settlement*, but a settlement that is ruled by another country is normally called a *colony* — think of the original thirteen colonies of the United States, which like Independent Long Island were ruled from the outside.

People that have the right to make their own choices are free, but a system under which people have no choices, only taxes (taxes are also called *legal obligations*, and by that very definition they are *mandatory*, not optional), is normally called *slavery*.

So you see, you can learn a lot from a nine-year-old, *if you pay attention*. You can even learn that the place you live in is still a new community, despite appearances, and thus a *settlement*, and since it is a settlement which is ruled by another country (Independent Long Island has no self-rule, strictly-speaking), since Independent Long Island is ruled in fact by at least three *alien jurisdictions*, it is also a *colony*, despite appearances (Independent Long Islanders are mostly not poor, unlike people in most colonies, although things are going in that direction quite fast...), and a *colony* is a place where people have no choices, and thus live under *slavery*, despite appearances to the contrary. In fact, just don't pay taxes on the house you think you own, because you've paid off that mortgage in full, and you'll find out rather quickly who the real landlord is!

Your nine-year-old is so gifted that he or she can even teach you that *freedom* is not the right to vote — silly fifty-year-old! — but the right to make your own choices! In Independent Long Island you clearly don't have the right to make your own choices, because people more intelligent than a nine-year-old would otherwise choose *self-government*, rather than government by others who live outside the community.

This is the reason, by the way, the Independent Long Island movement is no longer a secessionist movement today, even though that is what it started out to be, because you can teach these ideas

to a bright nine-year-old, but not to lots of adults with mortgages and other greater priorities than true freedom.

In Independent Long Island you apparently have the *right to leave* — as in the expression, always stated without any critical thinking, “If you don’t like this country, then leave.” However, even that so-called *right to leave* is quite limited if you think about it.

You certainly cannot leave, even temporarily, if you don’t have a US passport — can you use any other passport or government travel “permit” to leave if you were born in Independent Long Island? You cannot (easily) leave if you don’t know several languages — your American English would be barely functional in the UK or Australia, and only mastery of several languages can truly increase your new settlement opportunities. You cannot leave the country if you don’t have more skills than are taught in school — US schools really give students only sufficient knowledge to be ruled by others, not enough for them to rule themselves. Moreover, you certainly don’t have the right to just leave and move anywhere you would like to live the rest of your years. Just think about that one. Do you have the right to just move to Canada, to the UK, or to South Africa? Not really. Legal emigration is a lot more complicated than that.

So you really don’t have a *right to leave* either, just as slaves, characteristically, don’t have the right to leave their masters! Even the *right to leave* is really a privilege in disguise, if instead of the *wealth* you should naturally have as a *freeman*, all you have is the *debt* that is entirely natural to a *slave*.

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