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Social Construction of Reality

Social construction of reality refers to an idea that reality is based on what the majority of people or society believe. For example, in the US, the social construction of reality surrounding the events of September 11th 2001 is that terrorists attacked the American people in a horrific attack. This resulted in our just war against the Taliban. However, in an Al Qaeda training camp, the reality would be that brave “heros” took control of a plane of the evil American’s and attacked the structure of the government that oppresses them. Then, America turned the world against them and destroyed their just cause.

Obviously, in America, this second “reality” is seen as lunacy. In fact, you could probably be put in jail if you truly believed this. However, throughout terrorist camps, this “reality” is seen as the truth. Social Construction of Reality is based on the fact that peoples’ perceptions of reality differ. There is no way to prove one reality is more correct than another, so therefore, the Social construction of reality is used to give a common grounds for communication. For effective communication, the perception of reality must be unified between those wishing to communicate.

As another example, a person who is schizophrenic has a vastly different perception of reality. Their perception has some common elements with the events of social reality, however they believe in events that the rest of society has not experienced. This results in their inability to communicate with the rest of society. For this reason, they are branded as mentally ill. For an effective base of communication, a common point must be found throughout a society. This point is known as the social construction of reality.

References:

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