

Are we progressing?

What is progress?

What is development? What do we mean by Developing and Developed Worlds?

How often do we throw out the 'old', thinking or believing it's useless?

Not advocating war, but rather alternate ways, I was struck to read of the Ethiopian struggle against Italy in 1935 where guerrilla warfare would have been the best form of

defence, yet it was regarded by the Western- (British-) educated chiefs as far too primitive. 'Proper armies' stood and fought. (Rosamond Siemon, *The eccentric Mr Wienholt*)



As part of our 'civilising' process, commonly referred to as 'colonialism', we threw away or disregarded herbal remedies. Today, the value of some plants is being [recognised](#). And granny's 'tried and tested' are often far better than today's 'new and improved' cleaning products – have you seen the range of things vinegar is good for?

Regarding progress, [Homo Deus](#) by Yuval Noah Harari gives an idea of where we're headed if we continue as we are. Is this what we want? Where does our faith fit into such a society if it is generally believed that God is dead and mankind is in control of his/her own destiny? What holds us together?

What might be progress for one is not necessarily progress for all. How often do we hear people lament the fact that the younger generation don't speak to each other anymore unless they're doing it via smartphone? How much have we missed meeting with people face to face in these recent times of technology led social gatherings? Others to help share the looking after of the young, old and ill? How many people do you know who spent hours on social media hardly touch it at the moment?

We talk of progress but how much have we really progressed? The current isolating situation we find ourselves in was the best method for stopping another similar virus 100 years ago and if you dig a bit further back, you'll see it was used long before for protecting communities from infection and contamination. There's been a return to home industry and vegetable growing in preference to buying it all ready made, yet communities we've derided as undeveloped and not yet civilised haven't stopped doing this. Not long ago, when there was concern over gas supplies in the UK, comments were being passed that Africans and Asians used to cooking on open fires would stand a better chance of surviving a British winter than indigenous British folk.

Perhaps we can learn something from those communities and individuals we regard as less developed/progressed than we are. I can't help but reflect that whether Christian, Muslim, Jew, or any of the other faiths, we all follow traditions going back 2000+ years.

AS 13/5/2020