

ACCELERATE THE SHIFT FROM DOMINATION TO PARTNERSHIP

In these challenging times, we can all play a part in shifting to more caring and sustainable ways of living and making a living.

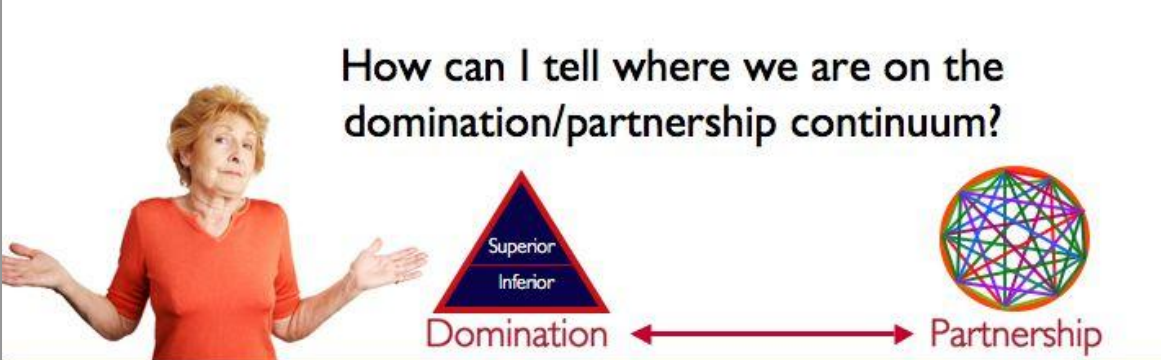
None of us can do everything, but all of us can do something.

Focus of Action: The old familiar categories - right vs. left, East vs. West, religious vs. secular, capitalist vs. socialist - don't help us answer the most important question for our future: **how can we bring out people's capacities for consciousness, caring, and creativity, rather than for insensitivity, cruelty, and destructiveness?** To answer this question, we need the new lens of the domination and partnership systems.

Discover the Facts:

No society, family, or organization, is "purely" a domination or a partnership system; all fall somewhere on the continuum between these two orientations.

How can I tell where we are on the domination/partnership continuum?



1	Social and Economic Structures	Authoritarian in both the family and the state.	Democratic in both the family and the state.
2	Traditions of violence	Violence is justified and idealized.	Non-violence and mutual respect are celebrated.
3	Gender relations	Women and 'feminine' values are considered inferior to men and 'masculine' values.	Women and men are valued equally. Caring is prized as a human value - whether expressed by women or men.

The Caring Economics Conversations Program is a project of The Center for Partnership Studies
Learn more at: www.partnershipway.org

About Domination Systems

Domination systems are organized around rigid hierarchies of power and control in which one either dominates or is dominated.



- ❖ Domination hierarchies are maintained through fear, through force, and through beliefs and stories. These reinforce the message that life is a ruthless competition for power over other people and over nature.
- ❖ The domination system drives social and economic policies and practices that deplete social and natural wealth, and concentrates material wealth in the hands of the few on top.
- ❖ Examples of societies at the far domination end of the continuum include: Hitler's Germany, Stalin's USSR, Khomeini's Iran, the Taliban of Afghanistan.

About Partnership Systems



Partnership systems are not flat or leaderless – there are hierarchies, but rather than hierarchies of domination, they are **hierarchies of actualization**, where power is used to empower others.

- ❖ Respect, accountability, and benefits flow in all directions in partnership systems, not just from the bottom up.
- ❖ Partnership doesn't mean simply cooperation – there is plenty of cooperation in domination systems. (Monopolies cooperate, terrorists cooperate, invading armies cooperate.) There is competition in partnership systems, but it's the competition of spurring

one another on to reach our highest potentials.

- ❖ At the far partnership end of the continuum are tribal societies such as the Minangkabau of Indonesia, and highly technological societies like Nordic nations including Sweden, Norway, and Finland.
- ❖ As we accelerate the shift to partnership, we give greater visibility and value to the life-giving work of care, and expand our Real Wealth, creating healthy people, a healthy planet, and healthy economies.

Conversation Starters:

1. What are the settings you've personally experienced that are closest to the partnership end of the continuum? (You might think about family settings, workplaces, faith communities, educational settings, etc.)
2. Give an example of a leader (a parent, teacher, manager, political leader, etc.) who exemplifies and enacts partnership principles. What does that person do (or not do) that is different from the domination-style leaders you've encountered?
3. When you compare your life experiences with those of your grandparents, what evidence do you see of cultural transformation in the direction of partnership? Where do you see regression toward a domination orientation?
4. What efforts are you aware of (or part of) that are trying to accelerate change in the direction of partnership? What additional efforts are needed?

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