

Fuzzy Thinking Creates Fuzzy Communication

Unclear thinking creates unclear communication. The majority of “debates” I see consist of one person saying something (whether true or false, smart or stupid), followed by someone else misunderstanding and/or misrepresenting what the first one said, and then flinging back something logically irrelevant. I see *two* main causes of this. The first is just crappy reading comprehension skills and muddle-headed thinking, causing the person to not be clear in his own head about what he is responding to. But I think the second may be almost as common, but a lot more creepy: I think a lot of people’s minds *do* understand a conflicting viewpoint, but in order to avoid having to actually think about it – in order to avoid cognitive dissonance – their subconscious mangles and twists it, and then they respond to something else that they are more comfortable talking about.

A: “I don’t think any ruling class is legitimate.”

B: “So you think whatever anyone wants to do – including theft and murder – is perfectly fine and good??!”

Logically speaking, the latter is a stupid, irrelevant response to the former. But I think that can often be the result of *subconscious* activity in the statist’s mind. It might go something like this: “He wants no government. But government protects me! And there are scary people who would hurt me if no one protects me! This guy must *want* scary people to hurt me! He must *like* murder and mayhem!” The statist can *think* something like that – often not even all the way consciously – and then out comes the stupid response. Then the voluntaryist has to back up and respond to all the silly things the statist *thought*, but didn’t say.

The funny part is when statist complain at me for telling them what they think ... and then ten minutes later, when I ask them to be specific, they express exactly what I said they think. This isn’t because I’m magic, or use ESP. It’s because I was a devout statist myself for many years, and dissected my *own* crappy former belief system. And the delusion that is statism tends to be fairly predictable.