

Towards a Formal Analysis of “Vested Interests” as an Intrinsic Part of Social Science Research Techniques: Another Crucial Component of Social and Cultural Progress

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Abstract:- We begin this paper by examining what vested are, both in specialized and generalized contexts and seek to examine why the entire concept has not been adequately studied both in sociology, and in other relevant and allied fields of the social sciences. The history of the usage of the term “vested interests” is also carefully traced along with other related concepts such as ideologies, lobbies, cabals, and conflicts of interest. The possible types of ideologies and vested interests are also probed, and these are interfaced with the points of view of both stakeholders and non-stakeholders of any given paradigm. We also then attempt to define what hard vested interests and soft vested interests are by means of suitable examples. We also propose tools and techniques to analyze vested interests using both direct and indirect techniques, and proposed methodologies to execute formal impact analyses as well. We also liberally pepper this paper with a large number of case studies, and hope that this will furnish and provide a valuable heuristic tool for social science research. These concepts are also then traced to and synchronized with our other previously published as well for the benefit of readers, so that a healthy correlation among all these papers is logically brought about. The crux and quintessence of this paper is that we emphasize the need to use valid and bonafide social science research techniques to identify and analyze vested interests.

I. INTRODUCTION

Deceivers are the most dangerous members of society. They trifle with the best affections of our nature, and violate the most sacred obligations – George Crabbe

There comes a time when deceit and defiance must be seen for what they are. At that point, a gathering danger must be directly confronted. At that point, we must show that beyond our resolutions is actual resolve - Dick Cheney

We begin this paper by examining what vested are, both in specialized and generalized contexts and seek to examine why the entire concept has not been adequately studied both in sociology, and in other relevant and allied fields of the social sciences. The history of the usage of the term “vested interests” is also carefully traced through

history along with other related concepts such as ideologies, lobbies, cabals, syndicates, cartels, and conflicts of interest. The possible types of ideologies and vested interests are also probed, and these are interfaced with the points of view of both stakeholders and non-stakeholders of any given paradigm. We also then attempt to define what hard vested interests and soft vested interests are by means of suitable examples. We also propose tools and techniques to analyze vested interests using both direct and indirect techniques, and proposed methodologies to execute formal impact analyses as well. All this is done through the medium of social science research techniques which will naturally lead to more deep-rooted and cogitative approaches as opposed to shallow and insufficient approaches. The core underlying philosophy behind this paper is that the concept of vested interests is extremely important with a large number of ramifications and as such deserves to be taken very seriously; it also needs to be studied formally in sociology and other fields in the social sciences. As a part of this paper, paradigms are proposed to be evaluated on the basis of their ability to generate vested interests, much in the manner of evaluating paradigms on the basis of their paradoxes generated. We also liberally pepper this paper with a large number of case studies, drawn from diverse contexts, fields of study and cultures, and hope that this will furnish and provide a valuable heuristic tool for social science research. These concepts are also then traced to and synchronized with our other previously published as well for the benefit of our esteemed readers. We must also reiterate that vested interests must be distinguished from genuine concerns and considerations at all times, and distinguishing the two would constitute an important component of this paper.

Some of these papers include the following: “Social Responsibility over Academic freedom: Emphasizing Ethics and Codes of Conduct geared for a Scholar’s duties towards science, society and the education system in Twenty-First Century Science” and “Reducing the ‘latency period’ for the acceptance of new scientific ideas: Positioning the ‘latency period’ for the acceptance of scientific ideas as an indicator of scientific maturity”. Readers may also refer to our papers on practicalism such as “Embedding ‘practicalism’ as an intrinsic constituent of the philosophy of science: Positioning ‘practicalism’ as an essential pre-requisite for

rapid scientific progress” which was published by us earlier this year. Some of our other papers extended the concept of practicalism as well, in different directions. Our paper “Promoting science activism for the twenty-first century and beyond: Positioning science activism to promote course-corrections in science and to lead to higher scientific output across societies and scientific disciplines” would also make for a good and an interesting read. Many of these papers are even linked together in a continuous chain, and are by and large, self-explanatory. Readers may also read our papers on sociocultural change, enculturation and acculturation. The crux and quintessence of this paper is that we emphasize the need to use valid and bona fide social science research techniques to identify and analyze vested interests.^{1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10}

¹ Promoting science activism for the twenty-first century and beyond: Positioning science activism to promote coursecorrections in science and to lead to higher scientific output across societies and scientific disciplines, Sujay Rao Mandavilli., IJISRT January 2024

² “Reducing the ‘latency period’ for the acceptance of new scientific ideas: Positioning the ‘latency period’ for the acceptance of scientific ideas as an indicator of scientific maturity”, Sujay Rao Mandavilli, IJISRT January 2024

³ Social Responsibility over Academic freedom: Emphasizing Ethics and Codes of Conduct geared for a Scholar’s duties towards science, society and the education system in Twenty-First Century Science, Sujay Rao Mandavilli, IJISRT September 2022

⁴ Embedding “practicalism” as an intrinsic constituent of the philosophy of science: Positioning “practicalism” as an essential prerequisite for rapid scientific progress Sujay Rao Mandavilli IJISRT, June 2024

⁵ Disseminating the real-world importance of conjunct studies of acculturation, transculturation, and deculturation processes: Why this can be a useful technique to analyze real-world observations Sujay Rao Mandavilli IJISRT, June 2024

⁶ Postulating ‘Ethnography of Enculturation’: A high-level overview of various social science research techniques that can be used to study human enculturation processes Sujay Rao Mandavilli, IJISRT July 2023

⁷ Aligning theorization and hypothesis-building with cultural and cross-cultural frames of reference: A heuristic aid to better theorization and hypothesis-building Sujay Rao Mandavilli IJISRT June 2024

⁸ Articulating comprehensive frameworks on socio-cultural change: Perceptions of social and cultural change in contemporary Twenty-first century Anthropology from a ‘Neo-centrist’ perspective Published in ELK Asia Pacific Journal of Social Sciences Volume 3, Number 4 (July 2017 – September 2017) Sujay Rao Mandavilli

⁹ The relevance of Culture and Personality Studies, National Character Studies, Cultural Determinism and Cultural Diffusion in Twenty-first Century Anthropology: As assessment of their compatibility with Symbiotic models of Socio-cultural change ELK Asia Pacific Journal of Social Science Volume 4, Issue 2, 2018

¹⁰ Attempting Diachronic Extensions of Symbiotic Approaches to Socio-Cultural Change: Developing

➤ What are Vested Interests?

The term "vested interest" has been first reliably attested to in the period 1810–20, and the word "vested" originally meant "secured" or "established". The connotation of the term has changed somewhat ever since, and the breadth and diversity of the use of the term has also greatly enlarged. Most, if not all individuals often have their own vested interests or agenda to push, some of it natural and even desirable, while much of it is unwholesome and undesirable. This is because almost everyone has their own selfish self-interests at various times, and either explicitly or clandestinely pursues those interests in many different ways, often in collusion with other like-minded individuals, or those in positions of authority. They may also seek to bend the law or legislation to suit their own convenience or selfish motives and considerations. Some amount of self-interest is wholly permissible, and even necessary in the interests of scientific, social or cultural progress. It is also the springboard to innovative and creative thought. It is also an innate and an intrinsic part of an open, democratic society. For example, homeowners may seek to secure or bolster the resale value of a property, and consumers may seek to protect product quality and diversity of use of their products, as well as its serviceability and reparability. In many cases however, (these are not extremely uncommon) the term "vested interests" may acquire highly negative overtones pertaining to nefarious, unfair or even antisocial behaviour – In other words, an individual’s pursuit, of vested interests compromises the needs and expectations of other individuals to pursue a healthy and a robust lifestyle, and interferes with social and cultural goals as well.

Simply defined and simply put, a vested interest is a individual, natural person, group, association, or firm that has a special concern or stake in maintaining or influencing a particular action, arrangement, or maintaining a status quo or a condition. It also is associated and equated with unfairly exploiting insider positions, and using their power to influence, persuade and manipulate other individuals in devious ways. Vested interests may typically be either lawful, valid, and logical or rational, (sometimes even otherwise) but they have the potential to create conflicts of interest, or be created by them. Vested interests may also arise naturally from an individual's own personal stake in a project or an investment, especially where there are financial implications. Examples of vested interests include lobbies, syndicates, cartels and cabals. These also possess a natural ability to create mutual conflicts of interest. The term is scantily or scarcely used in sociology or the social sciences in general. As a matter of fact, it should be used much more widely or deeply, in various fields in the social sciences, and an assessment thereof be categorically performed. As a matter of fact, theorization and hypothesis building around the term vested interest, and even conflict of interest for that matter, is yet woefully inadequate; this is why we expect this paper and several other papers by other scholars and researchers to contribute. Vested interests, when studied

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analytically and analyzed critically tell us a world about how individuals and groups operate. They can also potentially reveal a wealth of information about the human psyche in general.

Vested interests are not only present in the private and the personal sphere, they also run rampant in the governmental and the public sphere; they are also deeply entrenched on all forms of public affairs and policy making, including governmental programs and the structural arrangements that enshroud them. All individuals and institutions generate them to varying degrees either to perpetuate self, or to maintain and defend the status quo. A status quo may either encompass a widely prevalent one, or one that has been acquiesced over a protracted span or period in time. Individuals also, more often than not, get accustomed to them, or even take them for granted. Individuals may also then willy nilly, factor them into their own personal plans and agendas over a period in time. Vested interests also run through as a common thread in health care, manufacturing, agriculture, defense, transportation, foreign policy, international trade and exports in virtually every nation on the earth and under the sun. Vested interests exist because certain individuals, people and groups invariably and inevitably reap rich rewards and benefits (often in myriad different ways, and personally or collectively) from transactional dealings and paradigms in addition to the services they may provide to the general public in the process, or the investments and jobs they may facilitate. Individuals may therefore wish to sway policy making in their own favour often by eliminating other vested interests. In addition to getting the job done, additional dividends are often seen as a transactional bonus, and not always as a purely unhealthy one. Therefore, the idea and the concept of vested interest, along with conflicts of interest needs to be factored into institutional theory too, foundationally and fundamentally, and through the use of case study methods and techniques, and inductive and nomothetic approaches too. These are principles we will swear by, and abide by at all times, and these shall by our shining light and beacon light at all times.

Individuals may also perform an informal profit loss analysis or a gain loss analysis, and weigh in on the pros and cons before weighing in on a transaction. At the other end of the spectrum, vested interests can also persist in exist and persist in extremely trivial matters; for example, a friend wants to take you to a fancy restaurant because his own friend works there. In most, if not in all cases, public servants and elected representatives are expected to, and are duty-bound to act wholly and entirely in the public interest, and they should also additionally be aware of and carefully manage, control or mitigate their own vested interests, in a responsible and in a time bound manner. Individuals with vested interest may also publicly declare their interests, and act fairly, responsibly and transparently in all other respects. A vested interest is, however, not always entirely an enlightened interest, and there may be a quantum or iota of selfishness involved. As an example, we may cite the case of insurance and pharmaceutical companies being interested in the design of the health care system because their own

revenues are tied the way the system is organized. Defense contractors also likewise, almost always have vested interests in the governmental defense and other international defense deals. Agribusinesses may also have vested interests in different types of government programs as may also have syndicates and cartels. The environmentalist Vandana Shiva has also talked about what she called the “poison cartel” in reference to companies like Monsanto that manufacture chemicals and pesticides for agriculture, and lure small time farmers into their trap. Other allied concepts include the concept of an ulterior motive. An ulterior motive is a secret or a hidden reason behind an utterance or an act usually with a view to benefit oneself. People with ulterior motives put up a pretense to help others, but their true motivations are often at odds and at variance with their actions. For example, an individual may feign magnanimity and altruism to the poor, but his ulterior motive may be to reduce his own burden of taxes.^{11 12 13}

The idea of self-interest generally refers to a high degree of focus on the needs, interests or desires of one's own self. Self-interest may be perpetuated either knowingly or unknowingly, consciously or unconsciously. The doctrine and principle of self-interest has been explored in a large number of philosophical, psychological, and economic theories as motivators of human action, and as drivers of human belief systems to some degree. Another related concept is that of enlightened self-interest. This principle states that individuals who act to further their own interests unwittingly serve the interests and needs of society as well. Humans may also consciously strive to serve the needs of society. In doing so, they serve public interests and discharge their duty towards the public. This may be achieved and accomplished through the means of pure altruism, or through the establishment and changes of government and public policy. Protecting social, collective, and “diffused” rights and interests is also an intrinsic and an important part of social duty. We must state at the very outset that in various subfields of the social sciences and in economics, public interest is defined as “the welfare or well-being of the general public” and society. Another related term is that of “Social interest”. This term is used to describe an individual's connectedness to society, and arose through the works of Alfred Adler, an eminent Austrian-born psychologist. One of the bases of this approach is that man is a social animal, not quite unlike many other animals. Individuals may also have a pecuniary interest or a financial stake in something. At times, they may also have a fiduciary interest or a legal stake including an interest and obligation in something.

¹¹ Crano, William D. (1983). “Assumed consensus of attitudes: The effect of vested interest”. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*. **9**: 597–607

¹² Crano, William D.; Prislin, Radmila (1995). “Components of Vested Interest and Attitude-Behavior Consistency”. *Basic and Applied Social Psychology*. **17** (1–2). Informa UK Limited: 1–21

¹³ Sivacek, J.; Crano, W.D. (1982). “Vested interest as a moderator of attitude-behavior consistency”. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*. **43** (2): 210–221

The idea of an invisible hand in Economics is commonly attributed to the Scottish Economist and philosopher Adam Smith, in his works “The Theory of Moral Sentiments” (published in 1759) and in “The Wealth of Nations” (published 1776) and this principle describes the incentives which free markets sometimes create for self-interested people to act unintentionally in the public interest, thereby boosting economic productivity and economic growth. This concept and idea is one of the foundational pillars of a capitalist economy. Therefore, it goes without saying that concept of vested interests is not a necessary evil; it can also come with several attendant benefits. This idea and concept can be easily ratified from all walks of life; for example, the bread maker wishes and desires to make a profit to feed his family. At the same time, he subconsciously satisfies the desire of the market for high-quality bread. The idea of an invisible hand works in many different ways; we may therefore talk about an invisible hand as opposed to the invisible hand. In the modern era, Paul Samuelson and other economists talk about the self-regulatory nature of a free-market economy and free trade. Needless to say, this is also driven by vested interests at all levels. In other words, any pursuit of self-interest is wholly acceptable in a free and democratic society as long as it does not cause any unfair disadvantage or injury to others. As an extension of this principle, we may state that self-interested actions may even contribute unconsciously and subconsciously to public welfare and social interest. Of course, the principle of win win paradigms must be met, fulfilled and satisfied. We have talked about this several times in the past.^{14 15}

The idea of vested interests is also closely tied and closely related to collective action and collective bargaining. Collective action is said to occur when a group of people work together to achieve a common goal or address a problem that requires the participation and interaction of a large number of people with diverse specializations and convergent interests. In such cases, a collective output is the logical culmination of endeavours. The idea of collective action as also been studied theoretically in many fields in the social sciences including psychology, political science, sociology, anthropology, and even economics. The term collective bargaining is also widely used in daily life. It is a voluntary process that is often used to improve aspects such as conditions of work and better relations between employers, workers and their organizations. As a part of this approach, the needs of various stakeholders are synthesized, and a consensus forged. A confrontationist stance is also thereby avoided. The issue of individual versus collective interest is also demonstrated by the tragedy of commons example. This concept is attributed to Garrett Hardin in 1968. In this economic theory, a situation is described where

a shared and a common resource such as a pool of water is over-exploited by individuals acting in their own self-interest, without considering the negative impact on the other individuals who also have the same or equal right to use the resource. As a crude rule of thumb, vested interests are likely to manifest themselves in virtually every facet and aspect of quotidian life including property and employment matters, not to speak of politics and government legislation.
16 17 18

In this context, and in this connection, we would also wish to, and like to categorize vested interests into two primary and chief categories, namely, “hard vested interests” – this would be exemplified by, and equated to the often fervent and feverish desire of an individual to perpetuate one’s own power, economic interests, cultural hegemony, pelf etc, while soft vested interests, the other category in our proposed binary classification would be characterized by the strong desire to perpetuate one’s belief systems, biases, prejudices etc without any direct or quantifiable monetary or pecuniary interests. We may also categorize vested interests into two other types of vested interest, namely explicit vested interests – which are usually manifest, and implicit vested interests – which are most commonly hidden, or latent. We could also argue that vested interests could be direct or indirect, based on whether they are exercised or enforced directly or indirectly – in the latter case, they are brought to bear through the operation or the actions of a third party.

➤ *Conflicts of Interest*

The term “Conflicts of interest” is widely used in daily and technical parlance and has many ramifications as well in many diverse fields of science and many vistas of daily application. Simply put, the term conflict of interest may refer to a situation where an individual’s personal interest (whether financial or otherwise) could either influence, or be influenced by, the way in which the solution or a proposal is designed, carried out, is reported, or otherwise pans out, and impede it, or jeopardize its efficiency. Worded very differently, the term may also be used to refer to a situation in which the concerns or aims of two different parties are wholly or partly incompatible and inconsistent with each other, thereby leading to a potential conflict. Alternatively, the execution or pursuance of one interest of a party could put it in conflict with another of his interests, and this could adversely impact the performance of his duties, or impact the welfare and well-being of other parties. These two

¹⁶ Allen, Robert C. (2009). "Engels' pause: Technical change, capital accumulation, and inequality in the british industrial revolution". *Explorations in Economic History*. **46** (4): 418–435

¹⁷ Frakes, Jennifer (2003). "The Common Heritage of Mankind Principle and Deep Seabed, Outer Space, and Antarctica: Will Developed and Developing Nations Reach a Compromise". *Wisconsin International Law Journal*. **21** (2): 409–434

¹⁸ N., Scheiber, Harry (2000). *Law of the sea : the common heritage and emerging challenges*. Martinus Nijhoff Publishers

¹⁴ Guard, R. (2005). "Musing on Collaboration and Vested Interest". *The Journal of Academic Librarianship*. **31** (2): 89–90

¹⁵ Smith, A., 1976, *The Glasgow edition of the Works and Correspondence of Adam Smith*, vol. 1, pp. 184–185, edited by D. D. Raphael and A. L. Macfie, Oxford: Clarendon Press

interests, we must additionally state, could be either on an equal footing, or one may be subsidiary to another. In the case of the latter, the terms primary interests and secondary interests are primarily used. This also generally happens through the creation or generation of opposing benefits or loyalties. For example, there may be a conflict of interest between the management and employees in an organization. Likewise, there may also be a conflict of interest between elected government officials and corporate lobbyists. Much more commonly, there could be conflicts of interests between developmental economists and environmentalists. Conflicts of interest may also arise when a situation in which a person is put or placed in a position that enables or allow him to derive some kind of a personal benefit from actions or decisions made in his official capacity. Conflicts of interests must be constantly and conscientiously identified and detected before any inappropriateness occurs. These may be typically identified by analyzing primary and secondary interests. Alternatively, we may analyze the interests of two different and opposing parties or forces, and find out the position of conflict between the two.^{19 20}

A person with a vested interest is often a stakeholder; an individual or group of individuals with a vested interest in certain and specific outcomes is referred to as a stakeholder. The term is thought to have originated from a horse racing context in the early part of the eighteenth century. A stakeholder is also naturally affected differently by different outcomes, and may also additionally stand to lose or gain by such outcomes. Examples of stakeholders could include employees of an organization (who stand to benefit from the growth of a company), directors and shareholders of a company who are impacted by stock prices and market capitalization, customers, suppliers, etc. Community members may also likewise be impacted by community initiatives. People who are not impacted by the success of a failure of an organization or initiative are referred to as non-stakeholders, or non-participant in the organization or enterprise.

➤ *Lobbies*

A lobby is an organized or a systematic attempt or endeavour to try to persuade someone in who occupies a position in authority, who is usually an elected member of a government, to support laws or rules that give the lobbyist's private or owned organization, enterprise or industry (or some other organization or industry) a distinct or often an unfair advantage. This may also involve the promotion of some project or an activity or securing the passage of a piece of legislation in parliament by influencing or swaying public officials, the judiciary or regulatory agencies. It is usually accompanied by a deep-rooted and a deep-seated knowledge of governmental affairs and the mindset of specific individuals as well. It may also involve the setting up of

groups advocating a cause. Lobbying may involve direct face to face interactions or dealings, or in some cases, it may be synonymous with backhand, underground lobbying. Lobbying is often carried out by advocacy groups, general interest groups, or special interest groups, as the case may be. Lobbyists often start out as amateurs but then progressively go on to acquire knowledge and become seasoned professionals if that is the word to use. There are many different types of lobbying, including direct lobbying, legislative lobbying, regulatory advocacy lobbying, budget advocacy lobbying, grassroots lobbying, and electoral lobbying. Lobbies are unquestionably and undeniably associated with vested interests, because vested interests drive them and lead them to fruition. We are also involved in some kind of advocacy, namely one of the globalization of science, particularly the social sciences, and have been engaged in it for some two decades now. Are there any kinds of vested interests here? We leave it to others to decide.²¹

➤ *Cabals*

A cabal may be defined as a group of individuals or people who are united in some close-knit nefarious cause or design, usually to promote their own privately held views on a subject or underhand or underground interests in an ideology, a state, or another community, in a manner that is often accompanied by intrigue, deceit and calumny, and usually without the knowledge of individuals or persons who are outside their group. Cabals may vary in degree and intensity, and also in the degree of secrecy or underhandedness associated with them. The term is said or thought to have originated from the Jewish term Kabbalah, indirectly, and from the Medieval Latin term cabbala and the French term Cabale directly. The meaning and the connotation of the term is said to have changed with the passage of time, and the term took on its present meaning in the seventeenth century. Another related term that we may use in this context is a clique which represents a small group of individuals which does not readily or easily allow other individuals to join them, or represent their cause. It is therefore fairly obvious that the term cabal has a highly negative connotation, and cabals are often shrouded in utter secrecy and associated with diabolical conspiracy. Cabals may often vary in their degree and extent of secrecy; they may also be relatively organized or unorganized. The latter is also called an informal cabal.²²

➤ *Clique*

The term "clique" is a term that is widely used in the social sciences, and also has a highly specialized meaning. Simply put and worded, the term clique refers to a small group of closely-knit and closed individuals who forge

¹⁹ Davis, Michael; Andrew Stark (2001). *Conflict of interest in the professions*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. ISBN 978-0-19-512863-5

²⁰ Thompson, Dennis (1993). "Understanding financial conflicts of interest". *New England Journal of Medicine*. **329** (8): 573–76

²¹ Joos, Klemens: *Convincing Political Stakeholders – Successful Lobbying Through Process Competence in the Complex Decision-Making System of the European Union*, 526 pages, ISBN 978-3-527-50865-5, Wiley VCH 2016

²² Girdlestone, Henry Clapcott (1926). *Europe: Its Influence on South Africa* (11th impression, revised & enlarged by Cecil Lewis ed.). Cape Town: Juta & Co. p. 178

and bond an associated based on a similarity of interests and may even seek to exclude others in the process. Clique may arise in large part or measure do to bonds forged on the basis of gender, ethnicity, nationality, culture, or religion. Cliques may also sometimes be forged on the basis of professional interests, and other vested interests – examples being cliques of football players and basketball players. Humans may also form cliques throughout their life cycle, and this could typically include adolescence and middle childhood development. However, they may be found in all age groups, also among seniors and mature individuals. One of the innate and inherent attribute of a clique is the propensity of member to bar certain other members from joining the clique, especially those who are disliked and not welcome. A clique is often the basis of the formation of a social network; additionally, social distance is also calculated between the members forming a part of the social network. This may include the intellectual and emotional distance between members as well. We believe that the concept of vested interests needs to be studied far more formally in the social sciences than at present because it has far greater practical overtones.²³

➤ *Syndicate*

The term “syndicate” is a widely used term. Loosely defined, it is a self-organizing group of individuals, corporations, companies, or types of entities that are formed to transact some specific type of business, or to pursue or promote a shared interest. The word “syndicate” is thought to have been derived from the French word “le syndicat” which means either “administrator” or “representative” and is derived from the Latin term “syndicus” which is in turn attributed to the much older Greek word and term “syndikos”, which means “caretaker of an issue”, a term that is also tied to the concept of an ombudsman. Other definitions have also been provided for the term “syndicate”. For example, the Merriam Webster Dictionary defines a syndicate as “a closed group of people, individuals or businesses who work together as a team in order to achieve or accomplish a specific purpose, objective, task or a goal”. The term may or may not therefore have a negative connotation. Some common types of syndicates include labour syndicates; these serve to protect the interests of labour or the working class, and are akin to trade unions. We also then have crime syndicates and gangs such as those organized by Al Capone in the 1930’s. Bonnie and Clyde also had frequent trysts with the law in the 1930’s, but their crimes were not nearly as systematically organized, and may pale in comparison to the crimes committed by other groups. We also then have media syndicates that control the direction and content of media, business syndicates, finance syndicates, the land mafia and insurance syndicates. The term mafia originally represented organized crime that took place in Italy in the

nineteenth century, but also is used to describe similar activities all over the world.²⁴

➤ *Cartel*

A cartel is a group of individuals who collude with each other in many different ways such as agreeing not to compete with each other for example in order to increase their profits and dominate the market collectively. The term is thought to have been derived from the Italian word *cartello*, the German *Kartel*, and the French word *cartel*. Cartels have existed in some form or the other since ancient times, and in medieval times, guilds were common as well. (Guilds represented medieval organizations or associations of craftsmen and merchants) They however increased greatly in the twentieth century, and flourished during the Nazi regime and contemporary Italian and Spanish regimes as well. A collusion is for this purpose, and for all others, a secret or illegal cooperation or conspiracy carried out or executed by a group of individuals in order to deceive others or trample upon their rights. Cartels may carry out secretive misinformation campaigns; they may also create artificial shortages through low production quotas, price manipulation, different forms of hoarding and stockpiling, and marketing quotas. Cartels are usually formed with an industry, and in many cases, represent a collusion of rivals and competitors. However, these have been outlawed in many nations and jurisdictions as they represent an interference with a free market economy, and free competition. We therefore have many different cartels, and these include selling or buying cartels, marketing cartels, buying cartels, quota cartels etc.^{25 26}

➤ *Cause Groups*

Cause groups which are also sometimes known as pressure groups, in popular and widespread parlance refer to organizations that promote a particular cause or a particular value and therefore seek to represent or protect an interest of a specific segment of society. They are also often classified into different types, including causal groups which focus on a singular cause, aim or objective, sectional groups which represent a specific section of society including specific professions, ethnic groups, or industry. Attitude cause groups seek to mold or shape public opinion and shape or change people's attitudes on a particular issue. For example, the famous organization Greenpeace has predominantly focused on the environment as also have environmentalists such as Greta Thunberg. Malala Yousufzai has focused on girls' education and women's rights in general after an unfortunate encounter with Islamic radicals who sought to eliminate and exterminate her. Some other groups may be more political in nature, and these

²⁴ Servadio, Gaia (1976). *Mafioso: a history of the Mafia from its origins to the present day*. London: Secker & Warburg

²⁵ Brentano, Lujo (1969) [1870]. *On the History and Development of Gilds and the Origin of Trade-Unions*. Research & Source Works Series. Burt Franklin

²⁶ Fear, Jeffrey R.: *Cartels*. In: Geoffrey Jones; Jonathan Zeitlin (ed.): *The Oxford handbook of business history*. Oxford: Univ. Press, 2007, p. 268–293

²³ Parigi Paolo, and Warner Henson II. "Social Isolation in America." *Annual Review of Sociology*. Annual Review of Sociology, 2014. Web. 04 Mar. 2016

refer to political cause groups. Cause groups may typically employ statistics, reports, and other forms of well-evidenced arguments, engage in debates, dialogues and discussions with the media and with other groups, prepare presentations and otherwise engage in lobbying and other forms of pressure tactics, etc. Of course, cause groups may not be entirely devoid of vested interests, and these may need to be analyzed on a case to case basis.

➤ *What are Ideologies?*

The origin of the commonly and widely used English term “Ideology” is generally attributed to the French word “idéologie” which was probably coined around the time of the great French Revolution, when it was introduced by an Enlightenment aristocrat and philosopher, named Antoine Destutt de Tracy, as a short name for what he had called the “science of ideas”. In his view, and in the view of others that followed him, the idea of an ideology refers to a collection of beliefs that are not fully tested or evaluated comprehensively enough, and therefore lack universal applicability. The characteristics of an ideology were reexamined by several scholars such as the researcher and administrator at Berkeley university, David W. Minar, the Carleton university professor Willard A. Mullins, the philosopher and literary critic of Marxist disposition Terry Eagleton, and others. According to all these social science research scholars, an ideology is a set of ideas with a certain degree of rigid and non-variable content that is usually normative and prescriptive.

These ideas are usually false and lack empirical verifiability and universal validity, though that may not always be the case. These ideas are often used to goad and persuade individuals (who are usually followers of the ideology) to perform a specific set of actions. Ideologies typically created vested interests, and are therefore linked and tied to them. Ideologies must therefore be comprehensively evaluated and assessed from time to time, and their impact on power positions also concomitantly assessed and reassessed. This would be an integral and important canon of this paper. Ideologies reflect and impact worldviews greatly. For example, Donald Trump is an anti-socialist politician and rabidly anti-left to boot, and wants to tar everyone with the same brush. On the other hand, the eminent and the famed magazine Jacobin is pro-left, as are also Bernie Sanders and others. Bernie Sanders is an admirer of Nordic and Scandinavian countries, but these countries are not socialist; they are welfarist. There is a world of difference between these two concepts. All terminologies need to be revisited from scratch; there is too much by way of a political and ideological slugfest going on. Romila Thapar also once supported Trotskyism as a counterweight to mainstream communism. This is not a question of just plain ideology, she may have been badly outdated here. This is how the younger generation at least might want to see it.²⁷

²⁷ Enunciating the Core principles of Twenty-first Century Historiography: Some additional extrapolations and inferences from our studies and observations on Historiography Sujay Rao Mandavilli ELK Asia Pacific

➤ *Formal Identification of Vested Interests*

A formal identification of vested interests must always be carried out with the rigour and precision that it undoubtedly and unquestionably deserves. This will be necessary to identify the causes for the emanation of vested interests, and must therefore be accompanied by a root cause analysis as well at all times. Though tools and techniques must unquestionably developed in this regard and in this connection by a future set of committed and dedicated scholars, we would, at a very high level at least recommend two distinct and binary approaches, namely the direct approach – which would be represented by and construe an active identification of vested interests, through the mechanism and the means of shortlisting and curation of parties and their further detailed analysis by means of due diligence. The indirect approach on the other hand, would be almost entirely based on a behavioural analysis, and the analysis of downstream behavior. For example, if an individual or an administrator dedicates his entire energy to a sole cause or a set of causes to the detriment of others, then it would imply the existence of vested interests. An example of this could be a governor or a board of governors who focus excessively on a particular region or territory of a state, conveniently ignoring all other regions or territories in the process.

At the same time, a formal impact analysis of vested interest must be prepared and must be continued indefinitely as long as the paradigm creating it continues to exist, or prevails. As a part of this exercise, both direct consequences, and indirect consequences of a vested interest or a set of vested interests must be conscientiously identified. Examples of such consequences, both direct and indirect, may include loss of reputation and goodwill, slower and lower economic growth and per capita income, other forms of collateral damage, etc. At the same time, we may evaluate a paradigm on the basis of the vested interests it creates, or has the likelihood and propensity to create. As a part of this exercise, we must cautiously proceed to evaluate the type and nature of vested interests it creates, and the degree and extent of vested interests it creates. Such paradigms may also naturally be reigned in or modified through suitable modifications, and changes made suitably. For example, we had also noted and observed that many left-leaning intellectuals were anti-progress in many ways and were intellectually stuck in a long-forgotten past or wedded to an imaginary, and a utopian future. The right wing is associated with vested interests too, as they want to exaggerate India’s “Hindu” past, or that of a narrow stream of Hinduism.

II. ANALYSIS OF VESTED INTERESTS: A SOCIOLOGICAL AND AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL APPROACH

We strongly and vehemently believe that for the purpose of a systematic and structured analysis of vested interests, a deep-rooted sociological and an anthropological

approach must be carried out at all times, and not just a superficial one, a half-based one, or a light-hearted one. This approach would naturally set it apart from more popular and mundane approaches in the market. Therefore, a root cause analysis must be performed at all times, and this must be invariably and inevitably linked and tied to various types of social and cultural factors as well, aka sociological and anthropological ones. Therefore, vested interests must be studied along with the following aspects and factors at all times, and this approach embedded into all types of analytical technique. The approach may vary somewhat for hard vested interests and soft vested interests, though the essentials will naturally always remain the same.^{28 29 30}

➤ *Perpetuation of One's Economic Interests:*

Economic interests refer to financial or economic interests arising from employment or from a business venture. These may, for example, refer to a person's or an individual's right to receive or partake in a share of a company's income, gains, or profits, or to receive other forms of payout such as dividends from a company as and when it makes them. Investors typically have a business or an economic interest in a company or in a similar organization. They may have a stake or a vested interest in ensuring that the organization is profitable, and meets all its commitments to stakeholders. If an individual is a director, officer, manager, managing director, partner, trustee, employee, he is said to have an automatic economic interest in that venture or business. Economic interests are most ubiquitous and widespread among all types of vested interests and may be found in many different forms all over the world. For example, the electrification of the world's automotive fleet may be resisted by some companies such as Toyota who are avid internal combustion engine supporters. Likewise, American politicians are resisting the onslaught of Chinese cars through protectionism and tariffs. India has had a long history of protectionism throughout the Nehruvian and license raj era. Economic interests are often protected through the use of patents, trademarks and copyrights, and other forms of intellectual property rights which were significantly boosted after the TRIPs and other agreements in the 1990's. Economic interests are often protected by economic interest groups such as chambers of commerce and associations of industry. These may seek to lobby to promulgate and enforce legislation in the favour of industry, but the nature of their activity may vary widely on a case to case basis. To add another example here, the

author was aware of an individual who was only interested in perpetuating the crimes committed by Indian automotive industry during the license raj era of 1957-1991. There was too much redtapism then, and the bureaucracy was stifling. Licenses were not given easily, and customers were saddled with shoddy and substandard products that had poor quality control. His arguments were both direct and indirect, but his vested interests (which harmed Indian interests and the cause of science and technology and promoted the automotive lobby) were easily demonstrable. Alternatively, he naively believed that Indians lacked awareness, exposure or intelligence and could be fooled and tricked into easily.

➤ *Identity Theory and Conflict with Identity:*

We had published two papers on identity theory, namely "Generic Identity Theory for the Twenty-first Century: Towards grand unified approaches in identity formation, identity transformation and identity dilution or neutralization" (which was published by us in 2019) and "Formulating 'Extended identity theory' for twenty-first century social sciences research: Modeling extended identity in relation to real world observations and data" (which was published by us a couple of years later, in 2023) we had argued that the term 'identity' stems from the Latin word "idem" which means "identical" or "same". The idea of identity stems therefore naturally from the very nature and essence of society or culture and may also be defined and determined either at the level of a social group or at an individual level: Therefore, there are different levels and layers at which identity is created and fostered, and this includes an individual or a collective level. Many theories and concepts have also been developed as far as identity formation is concerned and many of these are widely used by anthropologists, sociologists, economists, psychologists, psychiatrists and philosophers in their respective fields of inquiry and research. Components of identity include biological identity, religious identity, linguistic identity, national or territorial identity, cultural identity, social identity, economic identity, other acquired identities (for example, affiliations such as communist party membership or affiliation), and other residual components of identity (composite and as determined per a cultural taxonomy) The issue of identity can get very complex indeed; for example, we have Tulsi Gabbard who is clearly of Samoan identity, but her mother was swayed by Hindu traditions and therefore gave her an Indian name. How will her inclinations and her proclivities be swayed on account of this?

➤ *Other Conflict of Interests:*

As we had previously discussed, a situation in which the chief aims or concerns of two different parties in a given situation are wholly or partly incompatible with each other is referred to as a situation of conflict of interest. There are many different examples of conflict of interest in daily and in quotidian life; for example, an individual may be involved in moonlighting. This may led to a conflict of interest, and a resultant dereliction of duty. Various other cases may also readily and instantly present themselves. For example, we may have the situation of a director being present in the boards of two rival and competing

²⁸ Generic Identity Theory for the Twenty-first Century: Towards grand unified approaches in identity formation, identity transformation and identity dilution or neutralization Sujay Rao Mandavilli Elk Asia Pacific Journal of Social Sciences Volume 5, Issue 3, 2019

²⁹ Formulating 'Extended identity theory' for twenty-first century social sciences research: Modeling extended identity in relation to real-world observations and data Sujay Rao Mandavilli IJSRT, July 2023

³⁰ Initiating "discourse analysis" as a tool to differentiate between science and pseudoscience: Another valuable tool to advance objectivity and rigour in science Published IJSRT, June 2024

organizations. This may lead to trade secrets being leaked and a siphoning off of useful and critical information. Large land owners in India and elsewhere also form lobbies to oppose or block meaningful and fundamental land reforms.

➤ *Study Along with Acculturation and Enculturation Processes:*

The entire approach must be discussed along with acculturation and enculturation processes; we had discussed, defined and debated on all these at length previously. Enculturation is said to occur in the context of one's own culture, while acculturation takes place when two or more cultures are involved, often in the context of a host or an alien culture. Transculturation is a less commonly or intensively studied concept. It refers to the process by which a culture is transformed as it comes into contact with an entirely different culture, and as elements of either of the culture are transformed changed. The term massculturation was proposed by us, and is nothing but mass enculturation. Massculturation would be extremely common in today's world, but is not as widely studied nonetheless. A human is born with a tabula rasa or a blank slate and typically adds ideas on to it from a cultural milieu. This may happen from the endo environment, meso environment, or the exo environment. This is how the process of acculturation or enculturation is typically said to take place.

➤ *Study of Culture and Cultural Attributes:*

All forms of vested interests must also be studied along with culture and cultural attributes, in general and cultural orientation in particular. The term "Culture" is defined as, and taken to be the sum total of ideas, customs, and social behaviour of a particular people or group of people living in a society. There are many different definitions of the term culture that have been attempted by different sociologists and anthropologists, and we had discussed several of them in our previous repeatedly. It is meaningless, pointless and generally futile to repeat all of them here in a parrot like fashion. Cultural orientation could include past orientation, future orientation, rational orientation, non rational orientation, material orientation, non material orientation, etc. These would also be somewhat akin to Hofstede's cultural dimensions as well. Social and cultural dynamics must also be studied and borne in mind at all times. This is because cultures are not static by dynamic, and evolve often conjointly and in relation to each other. We had proposed concepts such as the symbiotic approach to sociocultural change, and conjunct acculturation and conjunct deculturation was well. Read our previously published papers on the topic for more information, as many of them have been referenced in this paper.

➤ *Perpetuation of One's Social Interests:*

Many economists, sociologists and anthropologists have spoken of social and class interests. For example, in India, we have had the caste system which has existed since millennia, and is also additionally attributed to a hymn in the Rig Veda (Purusha Sukta 10:90). Some vested interest groups in India have however sought to brush India's cash system under the carpet which some other vested interest

groups have sought to amplify it and magnify it. We also have had the Zamindari system which was a land tenure system during the British Raj. Under the Zamindari system, the British East India Company and later on, the British Raj, granted large tracts of land to intermediary groups of people who were known as zamindars. These individuals were responsible for collecting revenue from the actual peasants or farmers who tilled the land, but in turn kept the peasants poor and exploited. Social classes also existed in Victorian England or even prior to that. The idea of class struggle has been epitomized in Karl Marx's works where he spoke about the bourgeoisie, the petit bourgeoisie, the proletariat and the lumpenproletariat.

➤ *Perpetuation of One's Cultural Interests:*

There are many examples that one could possibly give for cultural interests. For example, Indians might want to create a good impression of India among foreigners and gloss over the negatives. Foreigners, on the other hand, harp ad nauseum on the negatives and ignore or overlook the positives. This is apparently a purely cultural issue. Marxists may adopt ideologically-driven stances on this issue. Likewise, people who studied in English medium schools in India may tend to promote English medium education, while those who studied in vernacular medium schools may support education in the mother tongue. This is by no means a hard and a fast rule, just a generalization. Some others may also want to retain their own position of privilege, and may not want others to take off or progress.

➤ *Nationality and National Interests:*

We may cite several examples to bolster and vindicate our case. For example, forty three papers published by a certain Dr. Ashok Pandey of CSIR-NIIST in Thiruvananthapuram and CSIR-IITR in Lucknow which were published in the journal "Bioresources Technology", where he served as editor-in-chief, have been retracted due to alleged fraud. However, while investigating the allegations, it stands to reason that all vested interests must be systematically probed and investigated. This must include all allegations of nationalism and counter nationalism, including a desire of western powers to play down the importance of research carried out by Indian scientists. Similarly, reviews of Mahindra cars in Australia, New Zealand or South Africa must be carried out from this perspective; of course, there may be no bias, and there may be no vested interests involved at least presently, but twenty years ago, it may have been an altogether different story. We all know today that Norway is leading in the adoption of electric vehicles as nearly 95% of cars sold in the nation in 2023 were electric vehicles. Petrol and Diesel vehicles are heavily taxed there. This is a position and a stance Germany may not want to adopt because it has a huge ICE industry to support. Additionally, some of its companies such as Volkswagen are not doing well because they are facing stiff competition from foreign automotive companies. No wonder then, the European Union is planning to increase tariffs on Chinese made EV's as of 2024. The USA under Donald Trump and Joe Biden (Inflation reduction act or IRA) have placed stiff tariffs on Chinese EV manufacturers, but the latter are seeking a back door entry through Mexico.

Additionally, China wants to transition to EV's due to vested interests. China's oil import bill is huge, and clearly this is unsustainable. The same is the case with India which had rolled out the FAME and the FAME II scheme – and more recently the PM E-Drive scheme. Trump supports fossil fuels (including coal at one point in 2016 which he no longer advocates with the same level of vigour) but he may have had vested interests there. We also then had Dr Gregory Possehl's review of the Author's papers which were not really reviews at all but were racist to the core (and extremely non-factual to boot); we had discussed this incident multiple times previously, and this shows this otherwise competent archeologist and scholar in extremely bad, negative and poor light.

➤ *Discourse Analysis:*

The term "Discourse analysis" as most people understand it, and use the term, is a amalgam of different qualitative methods and techniques that explore the structure, modes of employment and configuration of language, and forms of expression of language as understood in its social and cultural milieu or context. To word it somewhat differently, it refers to the analysis of discourse, where discourse is language that is in "active use" i.e., "a language in use", albeit in a wholly social context and a social setting. Discourse analysis may of course be performed in order to assess and isolate vested interests. This is in addition to its other uses in speech analysis and differentiation between science and pseudoscience. Many other uses may also of course, also suggest themselves as time progresses, but this is entirely outside the scope and purview of this paper.

➤ *Conflict with Ideology:*

Vested interest may also arise whenever and wherever there is a conflict with one's own ideologies or other deeply cherished and deeply valued beliefs or belief systems. We have discussed the concept of an ideology in depth in a previous section of this paper, and ideologies are very common in some form or the other in the modern world. The concept of an ideology was formerly applied primarily to analyze and evaluate social, economic, cultural, political, or religious concepts, Etienne Bonnot de Condillac but is now mostly used in a negative connotation.

Vested interests may also arise or be generated on account of trampling on one's ego, trampling on one's own sensibilities, or otherwise trampling on one's feel good factor albeit in a retaliatory and a reactionary fashion through the use of a reactionary mechanism. This would lead individuals to want to maintain the status quo, or make their presence otherwise generally felt. This is relatively less common, but can still arise or exist. This is also an area of interest that sociologists may want to probe or investigate in future. At all times, genuine interests must be distinguished from non-genuine interests. Root cause analyses must therefore be performed accordingly.

III. OTHER EXAMPLES OF VESTED INTERESTS

We would now like to evaluate and assess several examples of vested interests. Let us now begin with the birth of automobile which was invented in the year 1885 by Karl Benz and Gottlieb Daimler. Contrary to a misconception in some circles, limited commercial production did begin in the late 1890's, though production figures were admittedly rather small. Until the Ford Model T came along, automobiles were the toys of the rich and the wealthy, and were seldom widely used as a means of transportation. The automobile itself came of age between 1900 and 1905, and most car companies were established during this period. The Ford Company began commercial production in small quantities in the year 1902. The Ford Model T was launched in 1908, but assembly line production began only in 1914. This is what made volume production possible unlike earlier hand built methods, and paved the way in turn for the modern motor industry. There were a number of early reactions to the automobile, including outright condemnation from horse owners and the horse lobby. Cars frightened horses, and were seen as noisy and polluting. Some people also believed that motorists were antisocial elements because of their reckless driving, their goggles and helmets, the litter they produced, and their outright condescension and virtual callousness towards pedestrians and others. Though the horse lobby tried to stop them, their efforts were in vain because technology marched on. Vested interests are many and of different types; for example there have been both positive and negative reactions to the increase in eligible marriage age, and even driving ages in different countries. Berndsen, Spears and van der Pligt carried out a study in the University in Amsterdam where the teaching faculty proposed the use of English to teach the curriculum instead of Dutch. This led to a variety of reactions naturally, both positive and negative. The French are generally seen to oppose the power and dominance of English in the European union, whose position and dominance has not waned despite Brexit.

There are also a variety of positions on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, most based on ideology. For example left leaning thinkers in India tend to support the Palestinian cause, while Hindutva groups mostly tend to support the Israeli cause. The idea of Hindi as national language (which it is clearly not; it is only an official language of the Indian union) draws mixed reactions likewise. Purushottam Das Tandon, RV Dhulekar and Ram Manohar Lohia, besides other politicians from the United Provinces and elsewhere, were strident and vocal supporters of Hindi. The DMK from the Madras Presidency however opposed it, and Periyar EVR saw it as blatant Hindi hegemony and imposition. Parochialism and chauvinism may impact other streams as distant and distinct as birth control policy. Links between all these must be systematically traced. Opposition also continues to bog down many Indian infrastructure projects. However, Salt Lake city and Rajarhat new town to the east of Kolkata were built on wetlands to stymie potential misgivings. There is also now opposition to Naina city or the Third Mumbai, and the Dharavi slum redevelopment project, though some objections are indeed genuine; we

must once again reiterate that vested interests must be distinguished from genuine concerns and considerations at all times. Therefore, some objections of fisher folk to the Mumbai coastal road project were indeed genuine, and these were addressed.

There may be many other types of vested interest too. For example, the Mahim Causeway in Bombay now Mumbai, was built between the years 1841 and 1846 and connected the island of Salsette with Mahim. The swampy area between the two islands made travel dangerous and thus a need for a causeway arose. The British East India Company did not agree to fund the project. However, Lady Jeejeebhoy, wife of Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy, funded the project completely. There could be other shades of vested interest that protrude and percolate into many different facets of daily life. For example, vested interests though few and small may have opposed a woman as the president of the USA. Hillary Clinton ran for President of the United States in 2016, but lost. Kamala Harris is now running for woman President of the United States. India, despite its shroud, cloak and veil of conservatism, has had a woman Prime Minister for fifteen years, and has had famous women chief ministers in many states too. Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka too have had eminent women leaders for many years. Atheists and theists also often slug it out as far as the existence of a supernatural being or entity is concerned. We have on the one hand, the Discovery Institute with Bruce Chapman and other at the helm, (This are intelligent design proponents) while we have on the other hand, rabid atheists such as Richard Dawkins. How much, and what types of vested interests are involved here? Can a formal and a logical analysis be done? Likewise, we have the strange tale and narrative of the husband wife duo Rustom Cama and Bhikaji Cama. Rustom Cama was a diehard empire loyalist while Bhikaji Cama was a freedom fighter. How did they manage their conflicts of interests?

The birth of computer, particularly the personal one was an epoch-making event in modern technological history; the early computers with their character user interface, and black and white monitors were a far cry from the much more sophisticated devices that are in widespread use today. Prior to the 1970's and 1980's, computers were large and mammoth machines, occupying entire rooms and floors of a building, and were resultantly prohibitively expensive to maintain and operate. Computerization was also therefore opposed in many quarters, both in India and elsewhere, particularly by Communist parties and trade unions who feared a loss of jobs and a takeover of the job market by machines. Of course, no such thing ever happened, and if anything the IT industry only created more jobs in India. The Leftists in West Bengal were opposed to the English language too, having abolished in from primary schools in 1982. BT Ranadive and others were vehemently opposed to liberalization, as were many others to LPG in India- liberalization, privatization, and globalization- but mellowed down with the passage of time. Many Bhadrals were left-leaning, (as also were many Indian bureaucrats and public sector employees) but their progeny were employed in private sector jobs including the information technology

sector, drawing fat salaries. However, the then Prime Minister of India threw his weight behind computers, and the rest, as they say, is history.

We have many other examples of vested interests that have often come into wide play; for example, the Justice party of South India had opposed the caste system and Brahminism that was then prevalent but may have gone overboard in its attack against individuals. Some vested interests in the West may have gone overboard in proclaiming a dark age in post-Harappan India, and their statements may have gone unchallenged by other vested interest groups in India. Bank nationalization – a measure that was carried out by the Indian government, was also supported and opposed by different groups in India, both within and outside the government. The government's rationale at that time was that bank nationalization was a useful tool for rapid economic development particularly in rural regions where bank penetration was low, and it may have been right on this score. The government's intention on this score was expressed by it in a paper presented in an annual conference of the All India Congress, and the paper was titled Stray thoughts on Bank Nationalization. Several banks were subsequently nationalized in 1969, and some in 1980. Bank privatization is being attempted by the Indian government in the 2020's, but there may be other ideologies, doctrines and dogmas at work here. Vested interests are also involved in the phase out of coal and other fossil fuels which contribute heavily to global warming, but Republicans and other parties apparently want to apply the brakes here, and argue for the continuation of traditional forms of industry. Some people in the west may also not want to see India rise – for example, Sam Altman brushed off India's artificial intelligence capabilities, leading Indians to challenge him – but others in the West want India to be a counterweight to China. Indians and people from other parts of the developing world must also rise up to the occasion and meet the challenge. This can be done only by shedding all forms of hackneyed inhibitions and superstitious and ultraconservative modes of thought.

There are many other examples one may want to cite – for example, the selection of a capital for the residuary Indian state of Andhra Pradesh has been mired and bogged down in controversy. Cyrus Mistry was opposed to Ratan Tata's pet Tata Nano project, and promptly got the boot. We had also discussed Marxist dogma and Marxist ideology extensively particularly in relation to historiography, - their opposition may also take on wholly non-scholarly overtones, and they may want to undermine India's economic progress since independence- and it would be futile and pointless to reiterate it here. Marxist praxis also of course stands accused of political excesses and humanitarian crimes. We have had the Khmer rouge, China's "cultural revolution" and "the great leap forward" and Stalin's innumerable purges to cite as examples. Some Dalit leaders in India such as Kancha Ilaiah may also subscribe to outdated historical models to bolster their case, and some Dravidian nationalists still talk about Lemuria and Kumarikandam both of which have been rendered obsolete and untenable. We have also had scientific racism in the

past, and even Margaret Sanger stands accused of having supported the Eugenics movement clandestinely. These are only stray and isolated examples, and there could be many other examples as well. Let us all jointly and together exercise our grey cells, and come up with more examples. This could be the starting point for a meaningful and a deep-rooted analysis that could inevitably make the world a better place to live in. This will happen either through affirmative action programs or corrective and preventive action programs, but for all this an analysis of vested interests would form a useful starting point.

IV. CONCLUSION

We had commenced this paper by examining what vested interests, both in their specialized and generalized contexts were, and had also sought to determine why we believed that the entire concept was not adequately studied both in sociology, and in other relevant and allied fields of the social sciences. This realization of course, provided the basic rationalization for our paper. We had also traced the history of the usage of the term “vested interests” along with other related concepts such as ideologies, lobbies, cabals, and conflicts of interest, besides some others as well. We had also probed and investigated the possible types of ideologies and vested interests, and had interfaced these with the points of view of both stakeholders and non-stakeholders of any given paradigm. We had also then attempted to define what hard vested interests and soft vested interests were by means of suitable illustrations and examples. We then also proposed tools and techniques to analyze vested interests using both direct and indirect techniques, and proposed methodologies to execute formal impact analyses as well. We had also provided a large number of divergent and unique case studies to back our stance, some of them extremely interesting, and hoped that this would furnish and provide a valuable heuristic tool for social science research. These concepts were also then traced to and synchronized with our other previously published as well for the benefit of readers. We hope that this paper remediates an important lacuna in the field of social sciences, and will offer many distinct advantages, both direct and indirect, to social science theory and praxis as well.