

# **Chapter 1**

## **Introduction**

Intelligence is a raffle. All classes produce their quota of genius, competence, mediocrity and the cognitively impaired. The vast majority are in the middle, encompassing competence and mediocrity. This book is about the mediocre but more particularly the mediocre that are born into the upper and middle classes. The problem is that they need somewhere to go. They would be perfectly able shop assistants, machine minders and telephone sanitizers but such callings do not befit their social status. Their social status demands appropriate rank and place in society. The social order provides them with appropriate rank and place in society; for which they are not competent. These are the drones.

The means by which the social order provides drones with appropriate rank and place is twofold, occupational preferment and preferential education. In more ossified societies occupational preferment rules and the notion of equal opportunity is a myth. As with most myths there is an element of historical truth as in capitalism's heroic period, when there was phenomenal growth in the economy, there were places for most. This is no longer the case. While exceptional members of the working class will generally be trawled up and put to use, in a contest between a competent member of a lower class and a mediocre member of an upper class, the latter will almost always prevail. The drones are preferred for a number of reasons. Foremost is the 'it's not what you know but who you know' principle. This is the primary mechanism for the preferment of upper class drones. Drones grow up in a class matrix which provides connections and entrée into whatever area of society their family group is involved. It is entirely natural that family groups support family members and again it is entirely natural that family groups will tend to see the best in its family members. Accordingly family groups whose leading members' occupations range across upper-class and middle-class sections of the economy, assist family members into these occupations, whether they are truly competent in them or not. Middle-class families struggle to place their children in expensive schools, so as to position

them within a class matrix better than their own. Within such a matrix they hope their children will make the right connections, and better still, the big connection, by breeding with an upper class kid in the ivy-league universities, which are the spawning ground of the rich. By this means middle-class families hope to acquire better preferment for their children than their own social mix can provide.

What is true of family groups extends into societal groups. Many years ago I knew a pleasant and talented man from England. This man had done very well at university in the hay-days of computer science, and so he looked for work in London. In his many job applications his qualifications always impressed, but strangely he never got the position. Finally it dawned on him that his broad Lancashire accent might be the problem. He taught himself BBC English and was immediately employed.

However he didn't really want to work in a caste system based on accent so he emigrated to Australia, where his talents were in demand, and he didn't have to be someone he was not.

Upper-class and particularly ruling-class drones do not generally have the catastrophic impact on society that would be expected, as care is usually taken to exclude ruling class drones from positions where they may harm the family's interests. Dynastic ruling class families make sure to vet who is in control of their fortunes, that's how dynasties got to be dynasties. Notice how England's Queen Elizabeth the Second is so grimly hanging on to her crown. Prince Charles will never be king and everybody knows it. He is a drone. As these classes are such a minute percentage of the population the number of ruling and upper class drones is comparatively small and so the ruling and upper-classes can usually find a place to park their drones where they cannot do too much damage.

On the other hand middle-class drones are legion. Taking America as an example, it has a population of around 314 million. The middle class and up

percentage of the American population is about 45%. This equates to 141.3 million people. If we take the average working life, 25 to 64 age bracket of the population, as 52.5% and divide 141.3 by this percentage we get just over 74 million people. This figure is divided again by the 68% of scores that fall, between IQ 85 and 115, which results in just over 50 million people. This is the combined total of the middle and upper-class in America, of working age, within the mediocre to competent IQ range. (There is a major issue as to how reliable IQ is as a means of assessing ability but as statistics work best with big samples, and it is the only available measure we have, I think it is acceptable to use it here in the broad-brush perspective.) To obtain the split between mediocre and competent we divide 50 million in half to arrive at 25 million people. Not all of these will be working but most will be. I estimate that the total number of drones in America today is no less than 20 million. So the real impact on society is from middle-class drones.

The other means by which the social order provides drones with appropriate rank is preferential education. Upper and middle-class education is of an entirely different order to that provided to the lower classes. It is the preferential education system that is the primary mechanism that qualifies the middle class mediocre for positions requiring competency. As the preferential drone education system is a focus of this book I will deal with this mechanism in depth in the Teacher Drone chapter.

The problem is that while educated middle class drones could make very good call centre operators, maintenance workers and telephone sanitizers, they have been qualified to become much more than that and are destined to go on to populate the bureaucracy and the professional classes, if not to become captains of industry. Unfortunately for them and for society at large, this is generally beyond them.