

A.Q. Frank Furedi's Fear

Author Frank Furedi makes several statements about fear pertinent to my society.

In ^{paragraph} chapter 4, he notes that "the sensibility of fear is internalised in an isolated fashion such that we develop a rather 'ambient' fear towards ~~the world~~ life in general", to which I ~~may~~ agree with. Singaporean society is shrouded in diffuse fear at many, if not all levels. Fear permeates our culture and extends to a strong degree, surfacing in a Singaporean term, "Kiasu". This term refers to the fear of losing, used typically in a somewhat competitive manner. One can be "kiasu" about grades, employment, housing or just about anything which can be compared. This is especially relevant to my generation as since many of us are undergoing schooling currently, we face this looming fear of academic performance, enforced by expectations of ~~our~~ social superiors ~~like~~ like parents or teachers. Hence, his view is pertinent to my generation.

Next, he mentions in ^{paragraph} chapter 5 that "society is more fearful today than in the past." Although sensible, I must disagree with the statement as Singapore has only been independent for half a century. Prior to this, we were under the occupation and tyranny of the mighty Japanese forces during the second world war. Consequently, our predecessors had to spend a hellish year enduring the brutality of the invaders, often fearing for every waking moment for the atrocities they may potentially experience. Comparing that to the aforementioned "ambient" fears, the major manifestations of fear are negligible at best, hence providing a dissenting opinion from that of the author.

Finally, in paragraph 11, the author writes "Today, politicians are far more likely to abuse the public's fear of everything..." This sentiment does not apply strongly to ~~Singapore~~ me due to Singapore's history. After the second world war, Singapore was subject to many a potentially catastrophic event, such as the Raffles Bunkers Riots, ~~the~~ the two riots and merger, as well as separation from Malaysia. Despite this, Singaporean leadership by our founding fathers was resolute and unwavering, refusing to ponder to the often soul-crushing large degrees of fear for the survival of our nation. As such, I disagree with that statement.

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In sum, author Frank Furedi makes compelling points on the subject of fear. However, his statements are generated from an American perspective, which does not fully align with our culture or history. Therefore I disagree with his perspectives on fear.