

Addendum Four — Hitler Used Every Trigger On The

Alignment Pyramid

The alignment trigger tool kit described in this book can be used to bring us together. That same set of triggers can be used by people who are our enemies to pull us apart, and to have us functioning as warring subsets within our communities and our populations.

Like all of our instinctive tool kits, our basic sets of alignment triggers can be used to do good and positive things — and they can be used to do negative things that damage people in very intentional ways.

Those alignment triggers can be used by positive leaders to lead us in positive directions — and they can be used by negative leaders — like street gang leaders or cult leaders or hate group leaders — to create a sense of “Us” for their gang, cult, or group that helps them do negative things in relevant settings to people who are not in their gang, cult, or group.

Intergroup Alignment Motivator Pyramid

The alignment trigger pyramid shown below can be used in almost any intergroup setting. We can go into work places, communities, and schools where people are not aligned with one another, and we can very

directly and intentionally use one or more of those triggers to create alignment in that setting.

Once we create alignment in any setting, we need to do the right things to have those alignment trigger both build Peace in that setting and to perpetuate and protect Peace in that setting.



Those triggers have been used many times in many places to get people aligned. Nazi Germany was a good example of a setting where the entire pyramid was very intentionally used to bring people together.

Adolf Hitler obviously used that basic alignment trigger pyramid very effectively for his clearly evil purposes.

He used every step on the pyramid, beginning with danger. He created a collective sense of danger for the German people. He used that sense of “collective danger” to gain major portions of his power.

Hitler used the “common enemy” factor with great energy and skill as well. He invented and focused on a couple of common enemies. He actually convinced the German people to join with him in both damaging and defeating those enemies.

He used team instincts and team behaviors with great skill as well. He put people into uniforms that invoked team identity, team values, and team linkages. He had parades, goosestep marching, team salutes, and a wide range of functionally unifying team behaviors.

He also gave his teams someone to hate and he gave his teams someone to defeat. The Brown Shirts and the Gestapo each had very clear enemies and those teams attacked their identified enemies and used their team alignments as the mechanisms that facilitated the attacks.

Hitler also invoked a sense of “Us” for the Germans. He was obsessed with creating a functional definition of "Us" as the anchor for his thinking. He functionally could not simply create a pure “German Us” because he was

actually personally an Austrian and not a German. So he invented a broader “Aryan Us” that included both Germany and Austria.

He used that Aryan Us to identify for the German people who was “Us” and who was “Them.” He appealed to those sets of people by creating the Aryans the “Master Race.”

He actually had people who wrote papers, laws, and official documents defining exactly who was Aryan and to what degree each person and each other “race” of people in various settings was partially Aryan or not Aryan at all.

Hitler very skillfully used “collective gain” as a major alignment factor — promising the German people that they would rule, dominate, and functionally own the rest of the world.

He explained to the Germans that because they were the Master Race, they were entitled as a master race to rule the rest of the people on the planet and to functionally own the entire planet.

It is hard to be more aligned with basic us/them sets of intergroup instincts than Hitler was on each and all of those points.

Each defined enemy was a "Them." The German people were “Us.” The German people were such an elite “us” that he told them repeatedly that

they were entitled as Germans to run, rule, and own the world. It is hard to create more macro tribal benefits than world domination.

Hitler Triggered Both Leader Loyalty And A Group Vision

The final trigger on the alignment pyramid is a focus on mission and vision and/or allegiance and loyalty to a leader. Hitler very clearly used both of those triggers.

Hitler wrote “Mein Kampf” to serve as his mission/vision directive, and as his functional guidebook for both governance approaches and intergroup interaction expectations.

That particular angry and somewhat rambling piece of writing is actually not, on its own, a highly motivating or persuasive book. That book, by itself, did not create a major power position or a high level of support for Hitler. If that particular book had been his only alignment trigger, Germany would never have become aligned and Der Fuhrer would not have had the power that he had.

But combined with a sense of danger, with a perceived common enemy, with clearly defined collective gain, and with an obsessive sense of “us, “ that book served the purpose he intended of creating a focus tool that more than adequately met his needs to explain his mission and his vision.

His primary and most effective alignment tool was to create a sense of personal loyalty and allegiance to himself as the primary leader for Germany. He took that approach to such an extreme that the official greeting for Germans in all public settings during his reign was “Heil Hitler” — accompanied by a distinctive single arm salute.

He organized the young people of Germany into “Hitler Youth Groups” who studied the teachings of “Der Fuhrer” for their earliest ages.

Cult Leaders And Hitler Used The Same Alignment Triggers

Anyone looking at old newsreels of the crowd reactions in Germany to his mid-career speeches can see a German people in those crowds who were clearly on-board with that entire agenda — motivated, activated, inspired, and aligned in very powerful and effective ways by his use of that entire pyramid.

Later — freed from the power of those instinct-linked group-focused thought process — civilized Germans were often astounded at how far into the collective forces of group evil they had allowed themselves to be led.

Hitler was an extremely evil man who gained and maintained much of his power to do evil by drawing very skillfully and very intentionally on each of the alignment triggers that are included in that pyramid.

He was not alone in that strategy.

Other dictators in many other settings have used many or all of those same steps for their own power-related goals.

Cult leaders use that same pyramid for their cults. The leaders of the street gangs in our cities and in our prisons use the same tool kit.

We need to understand the power of those alignment triggers. We need to avoid having those tools used in negative ways in various settings by evil leaders in this country.

We do, however, need to very deliberately use those six basic group alignment approaches for the common good, to bring us together and to help us succeed as groups in all the settings where those triggers are relevant to us.

We Need to Align Around Enlightened Values

Rather than dividing us into separate groups to do negative things to other groups, we need to use those same basic alignment approaches to create the opposite agenda for our country. We need to set up an accepting, inclusive, and enlightened set of beliefs in this country and we need to use those beliefs to align and unite us.

We need to create our own collective sense of us. We need to trigger our own sense of alignment in the context of our shared values.

We need to be a people defined by our belief system and by our behaviors — not defined by our enemies or by our race or by our various internal divisions.

We need to understand that people who aspire to do the kinds of sinful and deliberately divisive things Hitler and other evil people in the world have done are a threat to us. We need to keep them from succeeding in creating damage here. We need to understand that the people in various settings who want to use those same alignment tools for evil and negative purposes here actually are a very real common enemy to our own American Peace.

Each of the books, *The Art of InterGroup Peace*, *Peace In Our Time*, and *Cusp of Chaos* explains how we can and should create alignment with ourselves using that set of tools in ways that are anchored in shared enlightened beliefs.

The right time for us to come together based on our shared beliefs is now. There are people who want to keep us from achieving those goals. We

need to hold to our commitments to enlightened behaviors and we need to persevere over their opposition.

Hitler understood the value and effectiveness of each of those triggers. We need to resist those triggers when they are used to support evil in our various settings, but we need to embrace and welcome those triggers when they are used in the service of enlightenment and Peace.