



TOOLS FOR THE JOURNEY
Empowering Masonic Leaders

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I N T U I T I V E O P T I O N S

Communicating Across the Generation Gaps

Applying Generation Theory to Freemasonry

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GENERATION THEORY

From GENERATIONS by Strauss & Howe and other resources

IDEALIST – A dominant, inner-fixated IDEALIST GENERATION grows up as increasingly indulged youths after a secular crisis; comes of age inspiring a spiritual awakening; fragments into narcissistic rising adults; cultivates principle as moralistic midlifers; and emerges as visionary elders guiding the next secular crisis.

IDEALIST leaders have been cerebral and principled, summoners of human sacrifice, wagers of righteous wars. Early in life, none saw combat in uniform; late in life, most came to be revered as much for their words as for their deeds.

John Winthrop (MA), William Berkeley (VA), Samuel Adams, Benjamin Franklin, James Polk, Abraham Lincoln, Herbert Hoover, Franklin Roosevelt

Preachers, writers, Radicals, Publishers, teachers

Principle, Religion, Education

REACTIVE – A recessive REACTIVE GENERATION grows up an under protected and criticized youths during a spiritual awakening; matures into risk-taking, alienated rising adults; mellows into pragmatic midlife leaders during a secular crisis; and maintains respect (but less influence) as reclusive elders.

REACTIVE leaders have been cunning, hard-to-fool, realists, taciturn warriors who prefer to meet problems and adversaries one-on-one. They include the only two presidents who had earlier hanged a man (Washington and Cleveland), one governor who hanged witches (Stoughton), and several commanders who had le troops into battle (Bacon, Washington, Grant, Truman, and Eisenhower).

Nathaniel Bacon (VA), William Stoughton (MA), George Washington, John Adams, Ulysses Grant, Harry Truman, Dwight Eisenhower.

Entrepreneurs, brigands, industrialists, generals, salesmen

Liberty, Pragmatism, Survival

CIVIC – A dominant, outer fixated CIVIC GENERATION grows up as increasingly protected youths after a spiritual awakening; comes of age overcoming a secular crisis; united into an heroic and achieving cadre of rising adults; sustains that image while building institutions as powerful midlifers; and emerges as busy elders attacked by the next spiritual awakening.

CIVIC leaders have been vigorous and rational institution-builders, busy and competent even in old age. All of them, entering midlife, were aggressive advocates of technological progress, economic prosperity, social harmony, and public optimism.

Grudon Saltonstall (CT), Robert “King” Carter (VA), Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, John Kennedy, Ronald Reagan.

Statesmen, scientists, economists, diplomats, builders

Community, Technology, Affluence

ADAPTIVE – A recessive ADAPTIVE GENERATION grows up as overprotected and suffocated youths during a secular crisis; matures into risk-adverse, conformist rising adults: produces indecisive midlife arbitrator-leaders during a spiritual awakening; and maintains influence (but less respect) as sensitive elders.

ADAPTIVE leaders, reflecting a more complicated mixture of passive and aggressive masculinity, have been advocates of fairness and the politics of inclusion, irrepressible in the wake of failure. With exception of Andrew Jackson, all those listed rank among the most expert and credentialed of American political figures.

William Shirley (MA), Cadwallader Colden (NY), John Quincy Adams, Andrew Jackson, Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, Walter Mondale, Michael Dukakis.

Artists, lawyers, therapists, legislators, statisticians

Pluralism, Expertise, Social Justice

- There are two types of social moments: SECULAR CRISES, when society focuses on reordering the outer world of institutions and public behavior; and SPIRITUAL AWAKENINGS, when society focus on changing the inner world of values and private behavior.
- An AWAKENING ERA (Idealists coming of age) triggers cultural creativity and the emergence of new ideals, as institutions built around old values are challenged by the emergence of a spiritual awakening.
- In an INNER-DRIVEN ERA (Reactives coming of age), individualism flourishes, new ideals are cultivated in separate camps, confidence in institutions declines, and secular problems are deferred.
- A CRISIS ERA (Civics coming of age) opens with growing collective unity in the face of perceived social peril and culminates in a secular crisis in which danger is overcome and one set of new ideals triumphs.
- In an OUTER-DRIVEN ERA (Adaptives coming of age), society turns toward conformity and stability, triumphant ideals are secularized, and spiritual discontent is deferred.

COLONIAL CYCLE

PURITAN	1584-1614	Idealist
CAVALIER	1615-1647	Reactive
GLORIOUS	1648-1673	Civic
ENLIGHTENMENT	1674-1700	Adaptive

REVOLUTIONARY CYCLE

AWAKENING	1701-1723	Idealist
LIBERTY	1724-1741	Reactive
REPUBLICAN	1742-1766	Civic
COMPROMISE	1767-1791	Adaptive

CIVIL WAR CYCLE

TRANCENDENTAL	1792-1821	Idealist
GILDED	1822-1842	Reactive
PROGRESSIVE	1843-1859	Adaptive

GREAT POWER CYCLE

MISSIONARY	1860-1882	Idealist
LOST GENERATION	1883-1900	Reactive

G.I. GENERATION	1901-1924	Civic
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Remember Charles Lindbergh landing in Paris
In youth saw World War I & Prohibition
In rising adulthood experienced the Great Depression & WWII
In midlife saw America rise to superpower status
Rise in the scouting movement
Child labor was cut in half
Children began to receive allowances
First astronauts
Confident & rational problem solvers
Do it big & do it together
Lower rates of suicide and crime
Higher aptitudes
Greater educational attainment
Increased voter participation
Rising confidence in government
Experienced the 'American Dream' more than any other generation in history
Most affluent elders in the 20th century
American Association of Retired Persons has become the largest and wealthiest
advocacy organization in the nation

Peers:

John F Kennedy
Ronald Regan
Ann Landers
John Steinbeck
Robert Oppenheimer
William Westmoreland
Walt Disney
Lee Iacocca
George Bush
Bob Hope
John Wayne
Katherine Hepburn
Walter Cronkite
Billy Graham
Judy Garland
Sidney Poitier
Joe DiMaggio

MILLENNIAL CYCLE

BABY BOOMER GENERATION

1943-1960

Idealistic

No generation of kids ever got more shots or had more operations

Migrated out of 'established' organizations

Hippies

Turn on - Drop out

Into ideas & causes

The Beatles

The Rolling Stones

Bruce Springsteen

Vietnam War

A time of worsening trends:

SAT begins a 17 year decline

Rise in illegitimate births

Rise in teen unemployment

Rise in crime rate

Sexual revolution

Dual income households

Woodstock

Turned against the 'establishment'

"A generation that when young, trusted nobody over 30, today trusts nobody under 30."

Peers:

Oliver North

Janis Joplin

Angela Davis

Steve Martin

Donald Trump

Gilda Radnor

David Letterman

Jerry Mathers

Jane Pauley

Oprah Winfrey

Patty Hearst

Bill Gates

John McEnroe

Bill Bradley

Newt Gingrich

Dan Quayle

Albert Gore Jr.

Bill Clinton

Disillusioned
Most aborted generation in history
Abandoned
Want a high quality of life
Independent and defensive
Comfortable with change, seek change
High value on relationships

Tribal

Give them leadership roles
More sensitive to people
Pluralists and flexible
Pragmatic
Post moderns

Attracted to a group

by being attracted to what's happening in the lives of group members

Process truth better relationally than propositionally
Can be reached by storytelling
Want programs to be rousing
Use fresh methods - video, music, drama, personal stories
Emphasize compassion ministries
Let them fail
Let them lead
The Four D's: Divorce
 Diversity
 Day Care
 Debt

Felicity Barringer in the New York Times, older Americans are coming to perceive them as "a lost generation, an army of aging Bart Simpsons, possible armed and dangerous."

Peers:

Michael J Fox, Eddie Murphy, Jon Bon Jovi, Tom Cruise
Michael Jordan, Whitney Huston, Len Bias
Brooke Shields, Mike Tyson, Lisa Bonnet
Mary Lou Retton, Moon Unit Zappa, Gary Coleman, Jennifer Capraiti
Leonardo DiCaprio, Alanis Morissette, Tiger Woods
Alicia Silverston, Peyton Manning, Sarah Michelle Gellar
Kobe Bryant, Brandy, Jennifer Love hweitt
Chelsea Clinton,
Macaulay Culkin,
Christina Agilera
Brittany Spears,
Serena Williams,
Anna Kournikova
Jonny Lang

Pulse runs fast
Bombarded by frequent images, in need of continual hits
Remote control, constant change, focus is fragmented
They have eaten from the tree of knowledge
Live for now
Jaded, having been there - done that
Nothing shocks them
Take consumerism for granted
Cyber-suckled community
Process information in narrative images
Their 'BS' detectors are always ON
Had everything handed to them
Don't trust adults

Want intimate relationships
Like large groups

Important religious issues:	Peer Ministry
	Bells & Smells
	Wesley Class Meeting
	Prayer ministry

Peers:
High School Class of 2000
LeAnn Rimes,
Tara Lipinski,
Anna Paquin
Thora Birch, Kirsten Dunst,
Kieran Culkin
Taylor Hanson,
Mila Kunis
Amelia Atwater-Rhodes
Jena Malone,
Mandy Moore
Zac Hanson,
Frankie Muniz,
Brendan Baker
Mary Kate Olsen, Ashley Olsen
Jessica McClure
Haley Joel Osment
Jake Lloyd
Jonathan Lipnicki
Myles Jeffrey
JonBenet Ramsey
Elián González
Kindergarten Class of 2000



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Reference List:

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MILLENNIALS RISING: The Next Great Generation

By Neil Howe & Bill Strauss

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THE FOURTH TURNING: An American Prophecy

By William Strauss and Neil Howe

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