

Mind Control

Stormtrooper: Let me see your identification.
Obi-Wan: [with a small wave of his hand] You don't need to see his identification.
Stormtrooper: We don't need to see his identification.
Obi-Wan: These aren't the droids you're looking for.
Stormtrooper: These aren't the droids we're looking for.
Obi-Wan: He can go about his business.
Stormtrooper: You can go about your business.
Obi-Wan: Move along.
Stormtrooper: Move along... move along.

-- Star Wars, 1977 --

It would be very powerful and obviously potentially dangerous to have Obi-Wan's power over the mind of another person, but is mind control real? Is it possible to make other people do what you want them to do in spite of themselves? The answer is yes.

Part of the reason that mind control works so well is that few people have any idea what it really is and how it is accomplished. We invent all kinds of elaborate ideas about what is required to make it work that essentially hides the reality right before our eyes. We are told it takes a system like the High-Frequency Active Auroral Research Program (HAARP) in Alaska to control people's minds. We might also think in terms of the Chinese mind control used during the Korean War (which is admittedly an extreme form of mind control). There are also various people who claim LASER or microwave beams are required to control people's minds. And, while perhaps such things are possible, none of them are necessary.

Derren Brown is a psychological illusionist with a television program that is broadcast in the U.K. and rebroadcast in the U.S. on the SciFi channel. He also has a web site at <http://www.channel4.com/science/microsites/M/mindcontrol/index.html> that presents some of the facets of mind control. Derren routinely demonstrates how to get a whole crowd of people to unknowingly do exactly what he wants them to do, get tellers at a race track to pay out on losing tickets as if they were winning tickets, get people to accept blank pieces of paper as if it was money, and even get people to dream exactly what he wants them to dream. In short, he is controlling their minds, but how? He's controlling them by first understanding how the mind works and what it takes to influence people to do something that they would not normally do.

In "The Manchurian Candidate" Staff Sergeant Raymond Shaw is turned into an assassin whose strings are pulled by those who brainwashed him while he was captive during the Korean War. Is this possible? Can someone actually be mind controlled to the point where they will put someone's life in danger or possibly even kill them? In the Discovery channel show, "Myth Busters," an attempt to hypnotize someone to get them to do something against their will failed seemingly dispelling this possibility. However, the reality of being able to manipulate a person into killing someone was demonstrated scientifically over forty years ago.

World War II revealed almost unspeakable atrocities committed by one person against another.

This was so widespread that it boggled the mind. How could an otherwise perfectly decent human being be turned into someone who kills thousands of people for no particularly good reason other than being asked or told to do so? Stanley Milgram wondered this as well, and in “Obedience to Authority” he published the findings of his scientific study on just how to control people in such a way as to get them to seriously injure and possibly kill someone.
<http://www.amazon.com/Obedience-Authority-Stanley-Milgram/dp/006131983X>

Between 1960 and 1962, while in the Psychology Department at Yale University, over a thousand people were recruited into a seemingly innocuous memory improvement experiment. In this experiment there would be a “Learner” whose memory was to be improved. This Learner would sit alone in a room but would be connected to a machine outside the room that had 30 switches labeled with voltages ranging from 15 volts to 450 volts. There were also labels stating “Slight Shock” to “Danger – Severe Shock”. At this machine a “Teacher” would be seated who would be responsible for training the Learner. There is also a “Test Supervisor” who observes the progress of the testing.

The test begins with the Teacher saying several words to the Learner over an intercom. The Learner is to make a correct response relating to the word pairs the Teacher has just spoken. If the Learner makes an incorrect response, or no response at all, the Teacher is to flip the lowest voltage switch on the panel. Then the process repeats with a new sequence of word pairs. Each time the Learner responds incorrectly the Teacher moves to the next higher switch to shock the Learner for giving a wrong response.

If you think the Learner’s mind is being controlled you would be wrong.

The Milgram experiment was intended to determine whether a person in the Teacher position would risk killing a Learner just for not remembering a set of words. Prior to running the experiment the researchers involved were firmly convinced that only a very small number of Teachers would reach the highest switch levels and most would put a stop to the test. Fortunately for the Learner, the machine did not actually administer any shock at all. Why was the Learner fortunate? Because over half of all Teachers reached the highest switch levels and almost all reached levels that were clearly producing extreme pain based upon the reaction of the Learner (screaming or even deathly silence at the extremely high voltages). None of the Teachers made any attempt to render aid even with a Learner who was screaming in pain and claiming to be near death. A modern day recreation of the Milgram experiment can be seen at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y6GxIuljT3w> .

Why would the Teachers risk killing someone for a memory experiment? Because they were mind controlled. In a sense they were set up to be “The Manchurian Candidate”. By the subtle inclusion of the “Test Supervisor,” the Teachers were manipulated into believing they had the authority to flip the switches but had virtually no responsibility in relation to the dangers. In a sense they were in the same position as so many who killed thousands in WWII who said they were, “just following orders.” The part of their thought processes that deals with responsibility was desensitized while the part of their thought process dealing with authority was accentuated.

Perhaps you are thinking, “That’s not mind control. Those people were just tricked!” Has the

light bulb gone on yet? What do you think “being tricked” is all about? It’s mind control. Magicians take advantage of this all the time, particularly those like Derren Brown who advertise right up front that they are psychological illusionists.

One might think that more intelligent people would not “fall for such things” and be relatively immune, but that’s not the case. Degreed psychologists and licensed therapists have been right in the middle of a variation of the Milgram experiment without even realizing it. These people along with over 100,000 others were put in the position of routinely abusing authority in the guise of “disciplining” in a Christian religious context. The 100,000 others included doctors, lawyers, scientists, professional business people as well as others from almost every type of background. These people would use their authority to abuse those under them in the religious pecking order because they were told to do so by those they believed were responsible above them.

Is there a line people won’t cross when it comes to mind control? Can a person be mind controlled to the point where they will kill themselves? Heaven’s Gate. Sadly, the answer is yes. Thirty-eight group members, plus Applewhite, the group’s leader, were found dead in a rented mansion in the upscale San Diego community of Rancho Santa Fe, California, on March 26, 1997. The suicides were committed in shifts with a group cleaning up after the group that just preceded them. The cult members, aged between 26 and 72, are believed to have died in three groups, 15 the first day, 15 the next and nine on the third. They knew they were taking poison, yet they had been manipulated into somehow believing this was all a perfectly proper and rational thing to do. They were “exiting their bodies.” They weren’t “just crazy” nor were they stupid. Many of these were quite intelligent people.

“Hey, you there with the two droids. Hold up a minute. I think I really do want to see that identification after all.”