

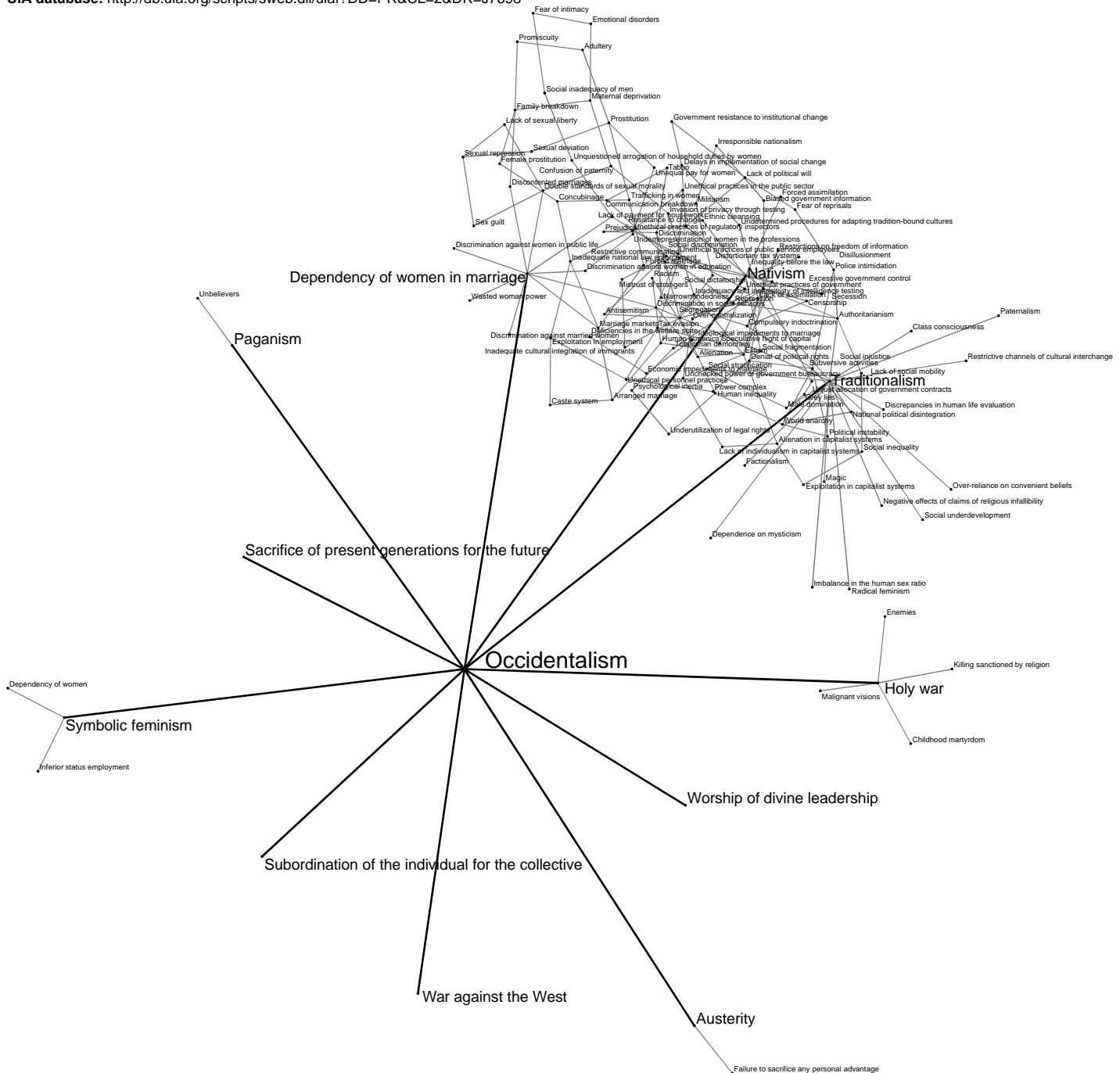
Figure 10.2.11. Occidentalism

Database: World Problems and Issues

Link type: aggravates problems

Network nodes: 139

UIA database: <http://db.uia.org/scripts/sweb.dll/uiaf?DD=PR&CL=2&DR=J7698>



Occidentalism is a simulacrum of the West that is an insidious and often tragic phenomenon. It is associated with Western biases and cruel misconceptions toward the "Other" deriving from colonial misconceptions and conditioned by an earlier tradition of prejudice toward the East dating from Herodotus and Aeschylus. Non-Westerners, according to such views, are considered tribal, emotional, less-sophisticated peoples, prone to violence, fundamentalism, and irrational thinking, simply because they did not understand, or chose not to follow, Europe's rather brutal notions of capitalism, nationalism, rationalism, and Christianity. Understanding of the phenomenon has become complicated by the manner in which non-Westerners continue to stereotype the West, also misunderstanding its intrinsic nature. Whether such misconception is called "Westernism" or "Occidentalism," it can be described as the mentality of desperately wanting something that one either cannot understand or that one, in fact, blindly and in ignorance loathes. This can be seen as a lust for the West both in terms of addiction to consumer products as well as a yearning for its freedom, modernity, and liberality. This counterfeit affinity with, and superficial knowledge of, the West is most apparent in politics.