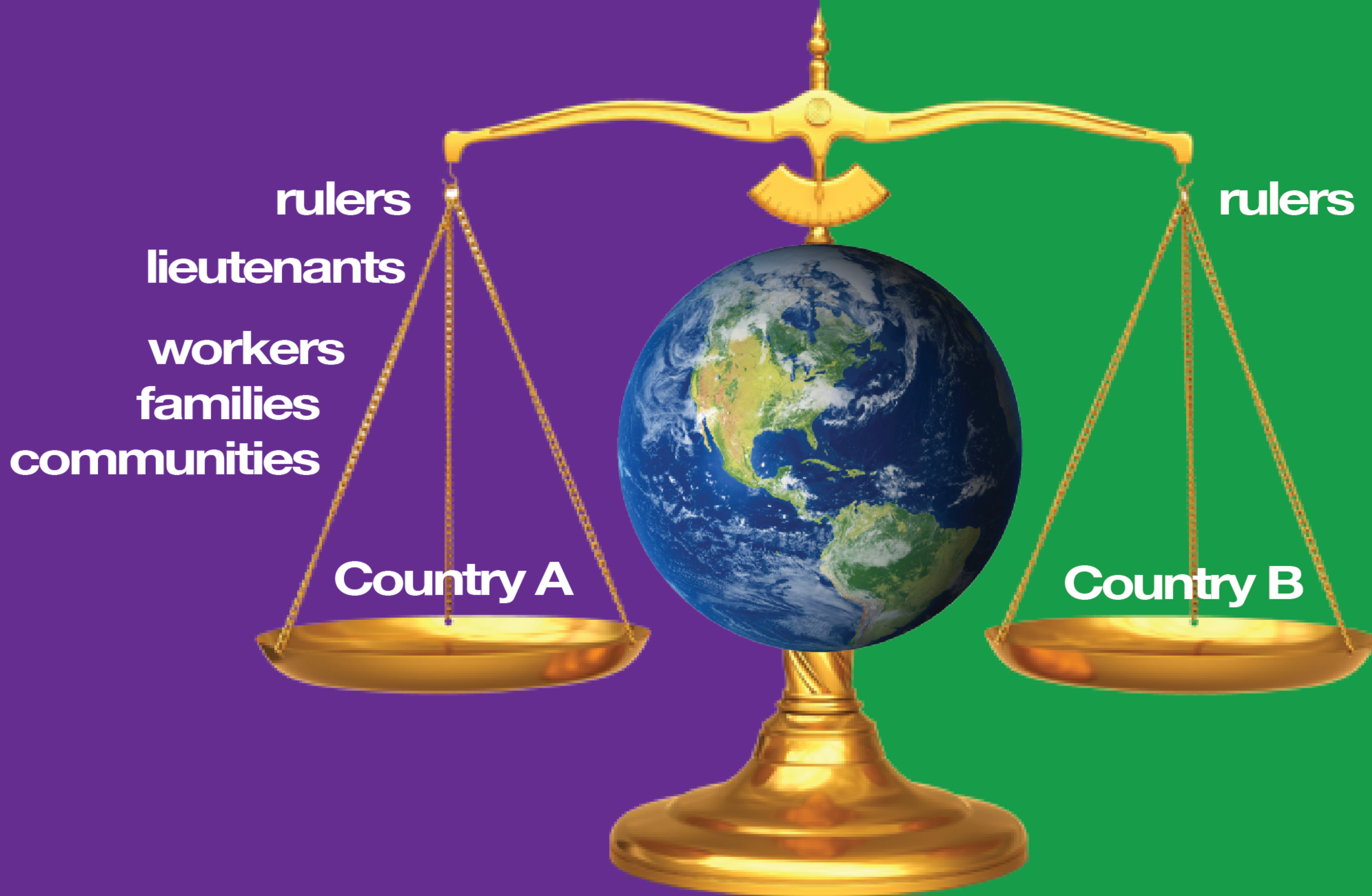


The Two Globalizations

ELITE vs. GRASSROOTS

elite globalization



peoples' globalization

Kevin Danaher, PhD

What is Globalization?

Globalization Impacts Everyone

If you think you are not affected by global issues, think again. People are more connected around the world now than we have ever been. From your morning coffee made from beans grown in Latin America, to the cotton sheets you sleep on made from Egyptian cotton, you are touched all day and night by materials and human labor from all over the world.

This global interconnectedness is increasing rapidly, mainly thanks to the Internet. Wealthy areas of the planet are more connected than poor areas (the “digital divide” between rich and poor) but billions of people now have smart phones and can access the vast knowledge housed in the Internet. Companies such as Google and Facebook are investing billions of dollars to make the Internet accessible to everyone on the planet.

More people are travelling globally than ever before, and they are being exposed to other cultures and people much different from themselves. This tends to increase our levels of tolerance and understanding.

People start to understand the commonality of problems: air pollution affects everyone, water pollution kills millions of people per year, top soil eroding means the price of food will keep going up, and millions of people can’t afford to buy healthy food. Extreme weather events are causing billions of dollars of financial losses for businesses and individuals.



The entire human race—*homo sapiens*—originated in Africa.

Agents of Globalization

There are many diverse agents of globalization, promoting very different values. Some institutions, such as transnational corporation and banks, are promoting globalization to make money. Other institutions, such as the United Nations and environmental groups, are promoting globalization to bring economic and environmental justice to the world.

We are the first and only species to be able to foresee its own extinction. If we keep going on our current economic and political course, we could destroy this planet’s ability to support the human species. The promoters of money values say “Don’t worry, it will all work out.” The promoters of life values are saying, “We are heading for disaster and we need to change course and start living as if the health of the planet and all people really matter.” Global social movements (e.g, the women’s movement and the climate change movement) are saying we need a whole new kind of economic system.

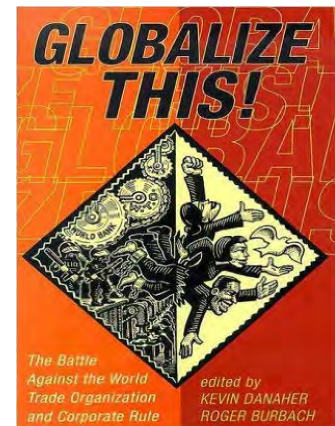
“Globality”: a new phenomenon

Driven by the growth of multicultural awareness, more and more people are thinking about ourselves collectively and identifying with all humanity. All of the great spiritual traditions say we are all brothers and sisters. Little Richard says “All the races are God’s bouquet.” We are expanding our identities and moving toward global consciousness.

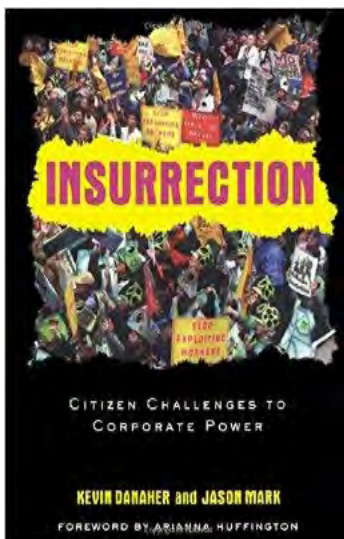
There are *two* globalizations

- **Elite globalization** is run by wealthy people and is mainly driven by money values.
- **People's globalization** is workers, farmers, professionals, small businesses and other non-elites, and it is driven more by life values than money values.
- **Elite globalization** is dominated by the interests of large transnational banks and corporations. In global governance these elite interests are managed by institutions such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Trade Organization.

The World Trade Organization is writing a constitution for the whole planet, and corporate interests dominate. Poor people, working class people, and small business people have no representation in these global rule-making meetings. In my book, *Globalize This: The Battle Against the World Trade Organization and Corporate Rule*, we examine why people are opposed to the WTO, and how thousands of non-violent protesters shut down the 1999 WTO meeting in Seattle.



- **People's globalization** consists of the peace movement, the women's movement, fair trade networks, the family farmer movement (*Via Campesina*), the human rights movement, the climate change movement, and other grassroots movements. This global people's movement is greatly aided by the Internet.



Many people's movements around the world have proven that it is possible to win against corporate power. My book, *Insurrection: Citizen Challenges to Corporate Power*, documents the many ways in which people's movements have succeeded in changing corporate policies.

The two forms of globalization raise the question:
Which Golden Rule will we live by?

- "Do unto other living things as you would have other living things do unto you." OR
- "He who has the gold makes the rules."



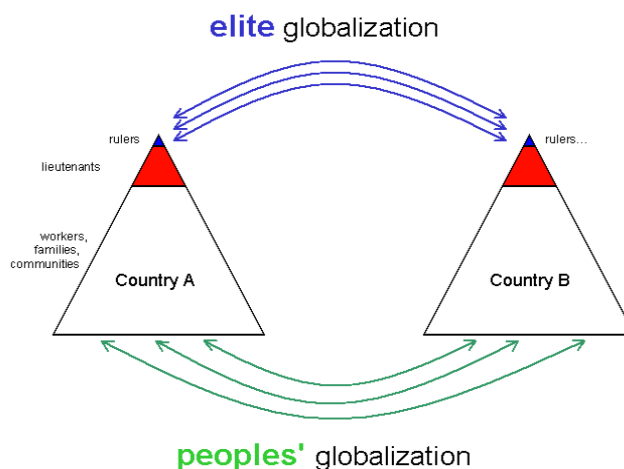
What is the Central Problem of the Current Stage of Globalization?

The problem with most analyses of globalization is that they use the nation-state as the main unit of analysis. That lumps everyone together in each nation, as if rich and poor, black and white, all have the same interests. My thirty-five years of travel, research, and writing on global inequality and the twelve books I have produced tell me that the major problem is the overwhelming power of money, in the form of banks, transnational corporations, and the government officials they rent.

1. Transnational corporations are not locally rooted: Transnational corporations have no allegiance to any country or community. They will move anywhere on the planet where they think they can make more profit, even if that means fouling the environment or exploiting workers living under a dictatorship (major US companies did profitable business with Hitler's Nazi Germany in the 1930s and 1940s).

2. Most corporations are not green: If we let them, corporations will cut down all the trees, brutalize the animals used for meat, pollute the air, water and soil, and burn fossil fuels that are creating climate chaos. There are a growing number of companies developing ways to make profits while being kind to nature, but most companies operate without regard to the future health of our planet.

3. Corporations are not democratic organizations. They are very hierarchical and bureaucratic, so the top executives who get paid massive salaries and benefits are far removed from the impact of their policies. If the guy in charge of the bus company never rides the bus, you will get bad policies. What if there was a law requiring that the smoke stack of a factory had to go into the living room of the owner: every technology imaginable would be employed to ensure that the exhaust from that factory is clean. Well the exhaust from factories is going into OUR living rooms (even though we don't realize it) and it is legal for companies to pollute the atmosphere that belongs to all of us—the air is not private property.



Concepts are like binoculars

- By breaking the concept of “globalization” into two contrasting types--elite and grassroots— it gives us better binoculars for analyzing global affairs. Try it out some time when you hear about an international event: think about how a wealthy corporate leader would view the event and how an average worker or family farmer would view the same event.
- For example, the TransPacific Partnership (TPP) is being negotiated between the United States and many countries that border the Pacific Ocean. The treaty includes provisions making it possible for corporations to sue governments for laws that protect the environment or public health but would reduce corporate profits. These types of rules are already in other so-called “trade treaties” and they have resulted in massive transfer of wealth from government (“we the people”) to private capital.

Historical Roots of Globalization

The current era of globalization has many fascinating aspects that we will explore. But we must also examine the history of globalization in order to understand how we got to where we are now, and what are the historical roots of our problems. When you pull weeds out of your garden, do you cut them off at the surface or pull them out by the roots? Of course, you get the roots out. So to really understand our current situation we need to examine the historic roots of how we got to where we are now.

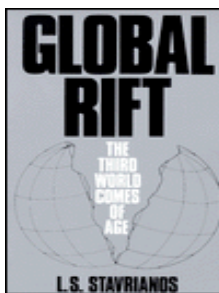
For example, the Atlantic slave trade was an early aspect of globalization that brought millions of Africans to the Americas and made fortunes for white slave owners, and the effects of slavery are still felt today.

In the late 1700s, people in what is now the United States fought a bloody independence war against England, our colonial master at the time. And we

probably would have lost that war of independence had it not been for the French navy and French weapons.

Following World War 2, the United States became the dominant power on the planet, which allowed our country to get rich at the expense of many poor countries where we got our raw materials, and low-wage workers made our clothing and electronic gadgets.

Understanding these aspects of globalization will help you understand your own life. Most people in the world are impacted by globalization every day, even if they *think* they are not.



L.S. Stavrianos, in *Global Rift: The Third World Comes of Age*, explains how each part of the world was incorporated into the global capitalist economy.



The Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore in Florence, Italy, took 114 years to complete, so the masons who laid the foundation knew they would not see the final product of their work.

Long-term consciousness

We need the consciousness of the masons who laid the foundations of cathedrals in Europe that took centuries to build. These masons knew they would not see the final product of their work. But they also knew they had to do very solid, precise work because of all the weight that would eventually rest on their work. In order to become good ancestors, we need to develop the same long-term consciousness, thinking about how our current behaviors will impact people hundreds of years from now.

How Did Europe Conquer the World?

Many of us know that the impact of colonialism was evil. But if we fail to understand what drove Europeans to conquer the rest of the world, we are left with an impression that these crazy white people just got it in their heads one day to rape the planet, and then they did it. This view is just as racist as thinking that Europeans were innately superior to people of color and therefore deserved to take over the world.

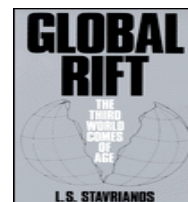
For Europeans to dominate the globe there were three requirements. There needed to be an expansive economic system that could provide the dynamism and technical innovations to propel the Europeans out into unknown lands. There also needed to be an instrument of conquest: mobile military technology powerful enough for this small minority of the world's people to conquer the rest. Finally, there needed to be an ideology of superiority that would justify the smashing of other cultures and seizing their wealth.

The Economic Engine

Northwestern Europe in the 15th and 16th centuries (1400s & 1500s) was unique in that it developed a system of economic organization that provided (1) a driving force to push entrepreneurs to seek greater profits, no matter the cost for workers or the environment, (2) a way to generate large financial surpluses that could fund expeditions and conquest, and (3) a class or people—capitalists—with an interest in breaking apart the old order of kings and queens (monarchy & feudalism).

By the 1400s, Europe was making a transition from feudalism to capitalism. While there had been some long-distance trade under feudalism, that trade involved mainly luxury goods for the wealthy. The dawning of capitalism saw the emergence of long-distance trade in mass consumption goods, such as textiles. It would be a defining characteristic of the capitalist epoch that globe-spanning trade would link far-flung regions in a dependent way with the financial and manufacturing centers of Europe.

The expansive dynamic of this new system can be seen by comparing it to previous systems of trade. Under pre-capitalist trade producers would sell their products for money and use that money to buy goods they needed. The important point was the qualitative value of the product: shovels are used for digging, food is used for eating. So *use value* dominated. Under the new system capitalists used money to buy commodities and then sold them for more money than the original purchase. The qualitative nature of the commodity (use value) was less important than the quantity of money it could be sold for (exchange value). This gave the new economic system an inherent dynamic of expansion for expansion's sake. Obstacles to expansion had to be smashed. Competitors had to be pushed aside or gobbled up.



Stavrianos shows that a key element of subjugating a people is to get their local elites more aligned with the needs of the colonial master than with the needs of their own people.

TO BE SOLD & LET
BY PUBLIC AUCTION,
On MONDAY the 18th of MAY. 1829,
UNDER THE TREES.

FOR SALE,
THE THREE FOLLOWING
SLAVES,

VIZ.
HANNIBAL, about 90 Years old, an excellent House Servant, of Good Character.
WILLIAM, about 35 Years old, a Labourer.
NANCY, an excellent House Servant and Nurse.
The MEN belonging to "LEECH'S" Estate, and the WOMAN to Mrs D. SMIT

TO BE LET,
On the usual conditions of the Hirer finding them in Food, Clo'th, &c. and Medical
MALE and FEMALE
SLAVES,

OF GOOD REPUTATION.
ROBERT BAGLEY, about 30 Years old, a good House Servant.
WILLIAM BAGLEY, about 15 Years old, a Labourer.
JOHN ARMS, about 16 Years old.
JACK ANTONIA, about 40 Years old, a Labourer.
PHILIP, an Excellent Tailor.
HARRY, about 27 Years old, a good House Servant.
LUCY, a Young Woman of good Character, used to House Work and the Nursery.
ELIZA, an Excellent Washerwoman.
CLARA, an Excellent Washerwoman.
FANNY, about 14 Years old, House Servant.
SARAH, about 14 Years old, House Servant.

Also for Sale, at Eleven o'Clock,
Fine Rice, Gram, Paddy, Books, Muslins,
Needles, Pins, Ribbons, &c. &c.

AT ONE O'CLOCK, THAT CELEBRATED ENGLISH HORSE
BLUCHER,
ADDISON PRINTER GOVERNMENT OFFICE.

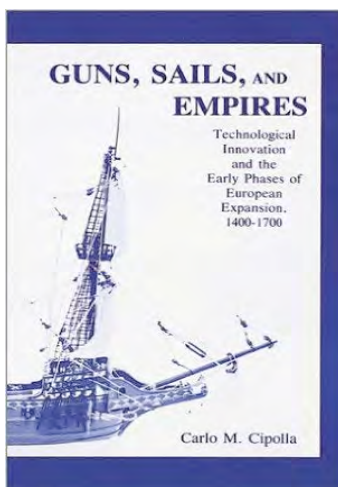
By pillaging the Americas of gold and silver, and violently harnessing the labor power of African slaves, the European capitalists amassed huge fortunes that provided the initial capital for the industrial revolution in western Europe. Corporate empires that survive to this day, such as Barclays Bank and Lloyds of London, accumulated their start-up money via the slave trade.

This new economic system that was beginning to encircle the world with trade and conquest, was producing a new class of people with the desire and ability to constantly increase their wealth. The original capitalists often behaved more like pirates and plunderers. The system demanded that they “accumulate capital,” and there were very few international legal obstacles to hinder them. Greed was being elevated to a high social value.

The Military Tools

The economic driving force would not have been enough, by itself, for Europeans to conquer the planet. They also needed the military capability to overcome many different cultures, some of whom were quite skilled in the art of war.

On the eve of the European explosion that would thrust it to all corners of the Earth, the Europeans were themselves besieged by the Ottoman Turks. The invading Turkish (Islamic) armies had penetrated southeastern Europe to within the outskirts of Vienna, thanks in large part to the superiority of the Turkish cavalry vis-à-vis the heavily armored and less maneuverable cavalry of the European armies.



In his excellent book, Guns, Sails, and Empires, Carlo Cipolla shows how mounting cannons on sailing ships (and related technology) gave Europeans the ability to impose their ideology and their economic model on the rest of the world.



This prompted the Europeans to make several advances in military technology that allowed them to defeat the Turkish armies and embark on the path of global conquest. The Atlantic powers, especially England, made great use of navigational innovations, such as the magnetic compass. More important, they developed the war-making power of sailing ships (as opposed to the traditional ships powered by oarsmen).

As Carlo Cipolla points out in *Guns, Sails, and Empires*: “By turning wholeheartedly to the gun-carrying sailing ship the Atlantic peoples broke the bottleneck inherent in the use of human energy and harnessed, to their advantage, far larger quantities of power. It was then that European sails appeared aggressively on the most distant seas.”

The most crucial European military innovation was mounting cannons on sailing ships. The Turks were fond of huge siege cannons that packed a wallop when smashing the walls of a city, but these behemoths were unwieldy in the field, used large amounts of gun powder, took a long time to reload, and were too large to mount on ships. The Europeans developed lighter cannons that were more versatile in the field and could be mounted on ships.

The combined innovations in gun technology and naval technology would be central to the next several hundred years of European colonization of the rest of the world. As we have seen in recent years with U.S. wars in the Middle East, the ability to project military destructiveness does not always produce positive results.

The Supremacist Ideology

Lubricating these economic and military impulses was a European ideology of racial and spiritual superiority. The profit motive was aided and abetted by the prophet motive.

Christopher Columbus exhibited the kind of blind arrogance of power that led to the enslavement and impoverishment of millions. In his diaries, Columbus remarks on how kind and generous the natives were and how they seemed to be leading an idyllic existence. Yet his immediate thought was—*not* how to learn from these amazing people—but how to subjugate them.

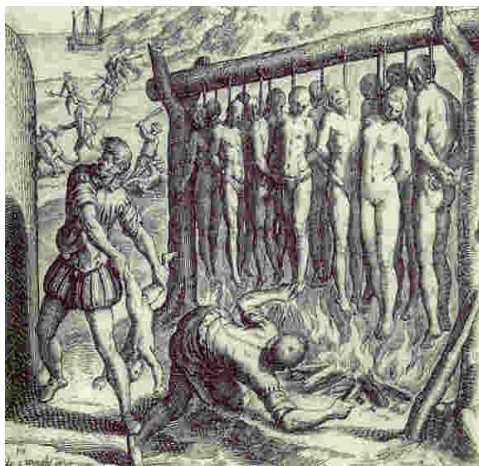
“They do not bear arms, and do not know them, for I showed them a sword, they took it by the edge and cut themselves out of ignorance. They have no iron. Their spears are made of cane... They would make fine servants... With fifty men we could subjugate them all and make them do whatever we want.”



Spanish conquistadores enjoyed feeding native babies to dogs, which were often set upon the native people as if they were wild animals. Who were the wild animals?

In his *Brief History of the Destruction of the Indies*, the Catholic priest Bartholomé de Las Casas records that the Spanish pounced on the native people of the Caribbean “like wolves after days of starvation.”

“... it was their reverential custom to gather at a time sufficient victims to hang 13 in a row, and thus piously to commemorate Christ and the 12 Apostles.”



“For forty years they have done nothing but torture, murder, harass, afflict torment and destroy them with extraordinary, incredible, innovative and previously unheard of cruelty... Some natives they hung on a gibbet, and it was their reverential custom to gather at a time sufficient victims to hang 13 in a row, and thus piously to commemorate Christ and the 12 Apostles.”

The chopping off of hands was a favored way of killing native people.



Within 50 years of Columbus landing in the Caribbean, some 50 million native people of the Americas died [“Indians” was the name Columbus gave to the native people because he was lost and thought he was in India]. Ninety percent of the indigenous population was wiped out by murder, disease, and famine within the first century-and-a-half. It is the worst demographic collapse in world history.

The brutal treatment of indigenous people is not so surprising when you consider that the dominant Christian ideology of the day viewed all of nature—including “savages”—as mysterious at best and hostile at worst. The church did not encourage scientific investigation of nature. It was sufficient for believers to know that God had given to human beings “dominion” over the natural world and all its creatures. For the average European of that era,



nature—whether in the form of rivers, trees, animals, or “strange” peoples—represented an antagonistic force to be controlled.

The ideology of racial superiority was already firmly in place and now served as a rationale and spiritual fuel for the horrors of the “civilizing” process. As Pope Alexander VI decreed in a papal edict of 1492:

“The Catholic faith and Christian religion, especially in our times shall be exalted, broadened and spread in every part of the world, salvation shall be sought for all souls, barbarian nations shall be subdued and led back to the faith.”

By definition, those who believed in Christ as the incarnation of God the Father were superior to nonbelievers because Christians had knowledge of the ways of God, the most important knowledge of all. Thus, conquering non-Christian people and forcibly incorporating them into the Europe-centered world economy was a “civilizing” process that was deemed to be in the best interests of the victims.

Throughout the colonization process, there were a brave few, like Father Bartolomé de Las Casas, who spoke out against the crimes perpetrated on indigenous peoples.



The Impact of Colonization

Areas of the global south that are now suffering widespread poverty and hunger were feeding themselves quite well before they were forced into the capitalist world economy starting in the 1500s. Indigenous civilizations in Asia, Africa, and the Americas had developed cultures with a reverence for nature. Their agricultural systems were far more sustainable than the ones that would be introduced by the Europeans. Aside from some limited burning of

forested areas, pre-Columbian civilizations did not wreak havoc on their environment.

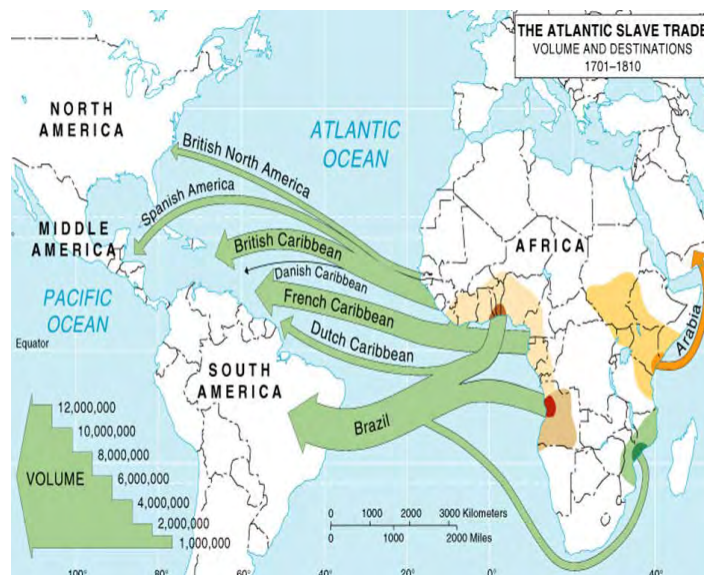
This all changed with the arrival of the colonizers. Indigenous models of development were pushed aside or destroyed by the Europeans. The colonizers made few attempts to learn from the cultures they were displacing. Entire societies in the Americas were exterminated through forced labor, murder, and disease.

Genocide against the hundreds of Native American societies dovetailed with the increasing importation of African slaves to do agricultural labor. Millions of Africans died in the process of being captured, transported to the “new world,” and being worked to death eking out an existence as property.

The Slave Trade

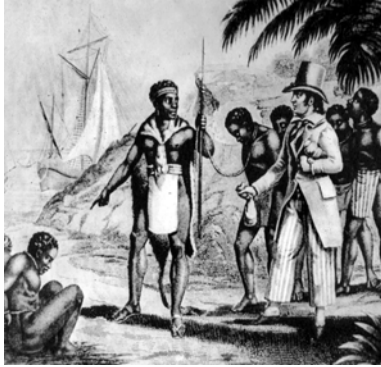
The African slave trade—the largest forced migration in world history—shattered the labor supply of West Africa by taking away millions of the youngest, most able-bodied workers. Although some African states had practiced slavery prior to the European invasion, it was a paternalistic form of slavery focused primarily on providing services for local rulers. This was drastically different from the slavery of global capitalism, driven by huge profits, greed, and a belief in cultural superiority.

The profits of the Atlantic slave trade—over 300 percent per year at its height—were crucial in funding the industrialization of Europe. Cities

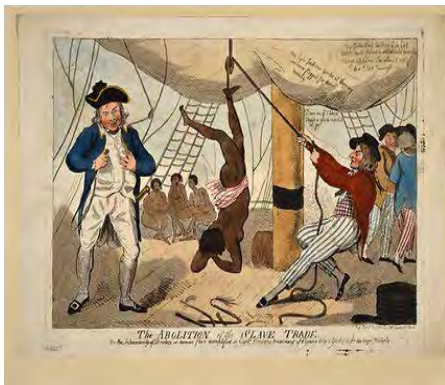


such as Liverpool, that were hubs for industrial development in England, got their initial boost from the slave trade. The industrial revolution in England was based on textiles, and the raw material (cotton) came largely from slave plantations in the Americas.

Some African leaders raided other tribes for slaves to be sold to the Europeans.



While the plunder of indigenous lands enriched Europe, the societies of the global south were being crippled economically and socially. The distribution of locally produced food was interrupted by colonial violence. Local products were replaced by European goods, often by violent methods. In India, for example, the British colonizers went so far as to hack off the thumbs of the Indian loom operators so they could no longer produce local cloth in competition with British textile exports.



Slave traders entertained themselves with sexual torture of their captives.

The Belgian Congo—now the Democratic Republic of the Congo—is an area eighty times the size of Belgium. During the late 18th and early 19th centuries, Belgium amassed a fortune from wild rubber plantations in the Congo using African labor. King Leopold's henchmen regularly maimed and disfigured Africans who did not meet the quota of rubber production imposed by colonial edict. Africans who tried to organize resistance were disciplined by being

forced to watch their children having a hand or foot hacked off. To prove to their managers that they were enforcing the rules, field bosses would collect and smoke-cure the amputated limbs of the Africans for later display to colonial officers such as Sir Henry Morgan Stanley, who was King Leopold's main agent in the Congo. Some historians estimate that through a combination of the slave trade, overwork, and disease, the Congo's population was reduced by 8 million people during King Leopold's reign (1865 – 1909).

Colonial economies pushed aside local food production and replaced it with export crops for Europe. Infrastructure, such as ports and railways, were constructed with the central goal of taking resources out to the major markets of

Violent slave revolts were one of the main factors in putting an end to the slave trade.



Europe and (later) North America. A key feature of an underdeveloped economy is that the major linkages are from extractive sectors (mining, and export crops that mine the soil) out to the major industrial markets of the global north.

Today we can still see the debilitating effects of the Third World's status as a raw material supplier for the industrialized countries. For example, most African countries are dependent on exporting a narrow range of unprocessed minerals and agricultural products. Thirty-seven African countries (with more than 60 percent of Africa's population) get over half their total export earnings from primary commodity exports. Because world market prices for these raw materials fluctuate more than the prices of industrial goods, it makes economic planning in poor countries extremely difficult.

U.S. Rise to Power

When Europeans first landed in what is now the United States of America they found a natural world far more abundant than the lands they left behind. Trees blanketed the landscape, birds filled the air, and rivers teamed with so many fish they could be scooped up easily in nets.

The Europeans also encountered some of the 500 native nations that populated the Americas. In some cases, there was mutual support, trading and peaceful coexistence. But most of the encounters resulted in violence and the demise of native societies that had lived there sustainably for many centuries. But the European immigrants coveted the land occupied by native people and invented devious ways to remove "Indians" from their homelands.

British Field Marshall Jeffery Amherst helped conquer native societies in Canada and the northeast U.S., and one of the tactics he used was to give native people blankets infected with smallpox. In a letter to a subordinate, Colonel Bouquet, Amherst says, *"Could it not be contrived to send the small pox among the disaffected tribes of Indians? We must on this occasion use every stratagem in our power to reduce them."* The colonel responds that he will figure out how to get the infected blankets to the native people, and adds: *"I wish we could make use of the Spaniard's Method, and hunt them with English Dogs. Supported by Rangers, and some Light Horse, who would I think effectively extirpate or remove that Vermin."*

The American bison (usually called buffalo)



INDIAN LAND FOR SALE

GET A HOME
OF
YOUR OWN
*
EASY PAYMENTS



PERFECT TITLE
*
POSSESSION
WITHIN
THIRTY DAYS

FINE LANDS IN THE WEST

IRRIGATED GRAZING AGRICULTURAL
IRRIGABLE DRY FARMING

IN 1910 THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR SOLD UNDER SEALED BIDS ALLOTTED INDIAN LAND AS FOLLOWS:

Location	Acres	Average Price per Acre	Location	Acres	Average Price per Acre
Colorado	5,211.21	\$7.27	Oklahoma	34,664.00	\$19.14
Idaho	17,013.00	24.85	Oregon	1,020.00	15.43
Kansas	1,684.50	33.45	South Dakota	120,445.00	16.53
Montana	11,034.00	9.86	Washington	4,879.00	41.37
Nebraska	5,641.00	36.65	Wisconsin	1,069.00	17.00
North Dakota	22,610.70	9.93	Wyoming	865.00	20.64

FOR THE YEAR 1911 IT IS ESTIMATED THAT 350,000 ACRES WILL BE OFFERED FOR SALE

For information as to the character of the land write for booklet, "INDIAN LANDS FOR SALE," to the Superintendent U. S. Indian School at any one of the following places:

CALIFORNIA: Santa Fe Agency	KENTUCKY: Louisville	NORTH DAKOTA: Fort Totten	OKLAHOMA-Ind.: Muskogee Agency	SOUTH DAKOTA: Fort Snelling	WASHINGTON: Fort Spokane
COLORADO: Fort Collins	MONTANA: Great Falls	OREGON: Medford	OREGON: Medford	SOUTH DAKOTA: Fort Snelling	WASHINGTON: Fort Spokane
IDAHO: Boise	NEBRASKA: Omaha	UTAH: Salt Lake City	UTAH: Salt Lake City	SOUTH DAKOTA: Fort Snelling	WASHINGTON: Fort Spokane
ILLINOIS: Chicago	NEBRASKA: Omaha	UTAH: Salt Lake City	UTAH: Salt Lake City	SOUTH DAKOTA: Fort Snelling	WASHINGTON: Fort Spokane
INDIANA: Indianapolis	NEBRASKA: Omaha	UTAH: Salt Lake City	UTAH: Salt Lake City	SOUTH DAKOTA: Fort Snelling	WASHINGTON: Fort Spokane
KANSAS: Topeka	NEBRASKA: Omaha	UTAH: Salt Lake City	UTAH: Salt Lake City	SOUTH DAKOTA: Fort Snelling	WASHINGTON: Fort Spokane
MICHIGAN: Detroit	NEBRASKA: Omaha	UTAH: Salt Lake City	UTAH: Salt Lake City	SOUTH DAKOTA: Fort Snelling	WASHINGTON: Fort Spokane
MINNESOTA: Minneapolis	NEBRASKA: Omaha	UTAH: Salt Lake City	UTAH: Salt Lake City	SOUTH DAKOTA: Fort Snelling	WASHINGTON: Fort Spokane
MISSOURI: St. Louis	NEBRASKA: Omaha	UTAH: Salt Lake City	UTAH: Salt Lake City	SOUTH DAKOTA: Fort Snelling	WASHINGTON: Fort Spokane
NEBRASKA: Omaha	NEBRASKA: Omaha	UTAH: Salt Lake City	UTAH: Salt Lake City	SOUTH DAKOTA: Fort Snelling	WASHINGTON: Fort Spokane
NEBRASKA: Omaha	NEBRASKA: Omaha	UTAH: Salt Lake City	UTAH: Salt Lake City	SOUTH DAKOTA: Fort Snelling	WASHINGTON: Fort Spokane
NEBRASKA: Omaha	NEBRASKA: Omaha	UTAH: Salt Lake City	UTAH: Salt Lake City	SOUTH DAKOTA: Fort Snelling	WASHINGTON: Fort Spokane

WALTER L. FISHER, ROBERT G. VALENTINE,
Secretary of the Interior Commissioner of Indian Affairs

was the economic base of the plains Indians, who used every part of the bison when they killed one, and they considered the bison a spiritual symbol. The bison once roamed a huge area from northwest Canada to the eastern seaboard and south to deep within Mexico. But white hunters, supported by the U.S. government, slaughtered so many bison for money, that the population that once numbered in the millions was reduced to just a few hundred animals.

The War that Made America

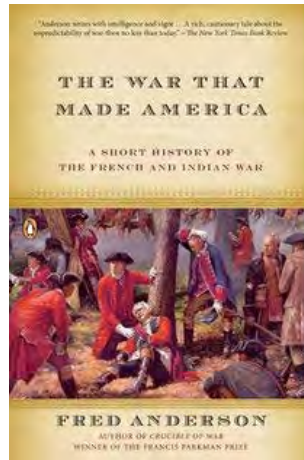
Before the United States became a country, French and British armies were competing for who would control North America. They both

Government-promoted destruction of the bison was a key factor in pushing Native Americans off their traditional lands. Piles of thousands of bison skulls were reduced to fertilizer for white farms.



recruited Native American tribes as allies. The crucial conflict is known alternatively as the French and Indian War or the Seven Years War, and it was fought over which country would control the Ohio valley and the Great Lakes region. The French wanted the area for fur trapping and trading; the English wanted farmland. Although the British won the military conflict, the war left them with a huge financial debt. They then made a colossal political mistake by trying to make the American colonists pay for the debts created by the war.

Although the British beat the French on the ground in the Seven Years War, the huge debts accumulated by the British government led to taxation policies that instigated American revolutionaries to press for independence.



British Blunders

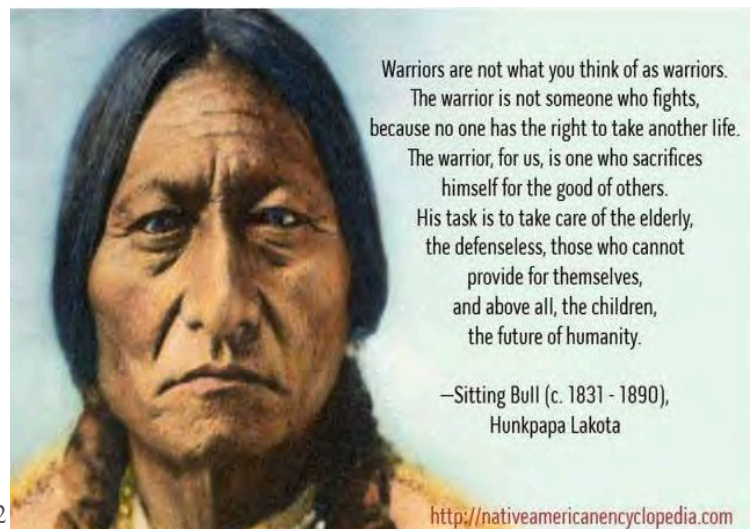
The British government enacted a series of measures that gradually angered enough Americans to cause them to contemplate fighting for their independence from England. In 1763, British Prime Minister George Grenville began enforcing the Navigation Acts, which restricted the American colonies in their trade with Spain, France and the Netherlands. In 1764, the British Parliament enacted the Sugar Act (also known as the American Revenue Act) which imposed a new tax on the American colonists at a time of economic depression. Although the political cry “no taxation without representation” would become famous, it was the economic impact of the tax that irked many colonists, and it sparked protests. In 1765, the British Parliament passed the Quartering Act, which required colonists to house and feed British soldiers whenever they needed accommodations. Seeing as the Seven Years War was over, the colonists did not see why the British should need a standing army in America. You can see the legacy in the Third Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which

expressly forbids the quartering of U.S. troops on privately owned property unless the property owner agrees. The Quartering Act is also one of the reasons the founders of the United States wrote a Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, stating: “A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”

From as early as 1765, members of American colonial society were protesting the authority of the British Parliament. During the Boston Tea Party, colonists masquerading as Native Americans climbed aboard a ship owned by the British East India Company and committed an act of corporate sabotage by throwing an expensive load of tea into Boston harbor. In response, the British imposed the Coercive Acts on Massachusetts to punish the rebels, and this, in turn, caused the Patriots to set up their own alternative government to coordinate their resistance to British rule.

Political tensions kept rising until April 1775 when a British military detachment marched out of the Boston garrison to the small towns of Lexington and Concord, hoping to confiscate weapons being stockpiled by the patriots. During the standoff on Lexington green between British troops and armed militia, someone fired, and the ensuing exchange (“the shot heard round the world”) touched off a full-scale conflict between the Americans and England.

In July 1776, the colonists issued a Declaration of Independence, featuring one of



Chief Crazy Horse

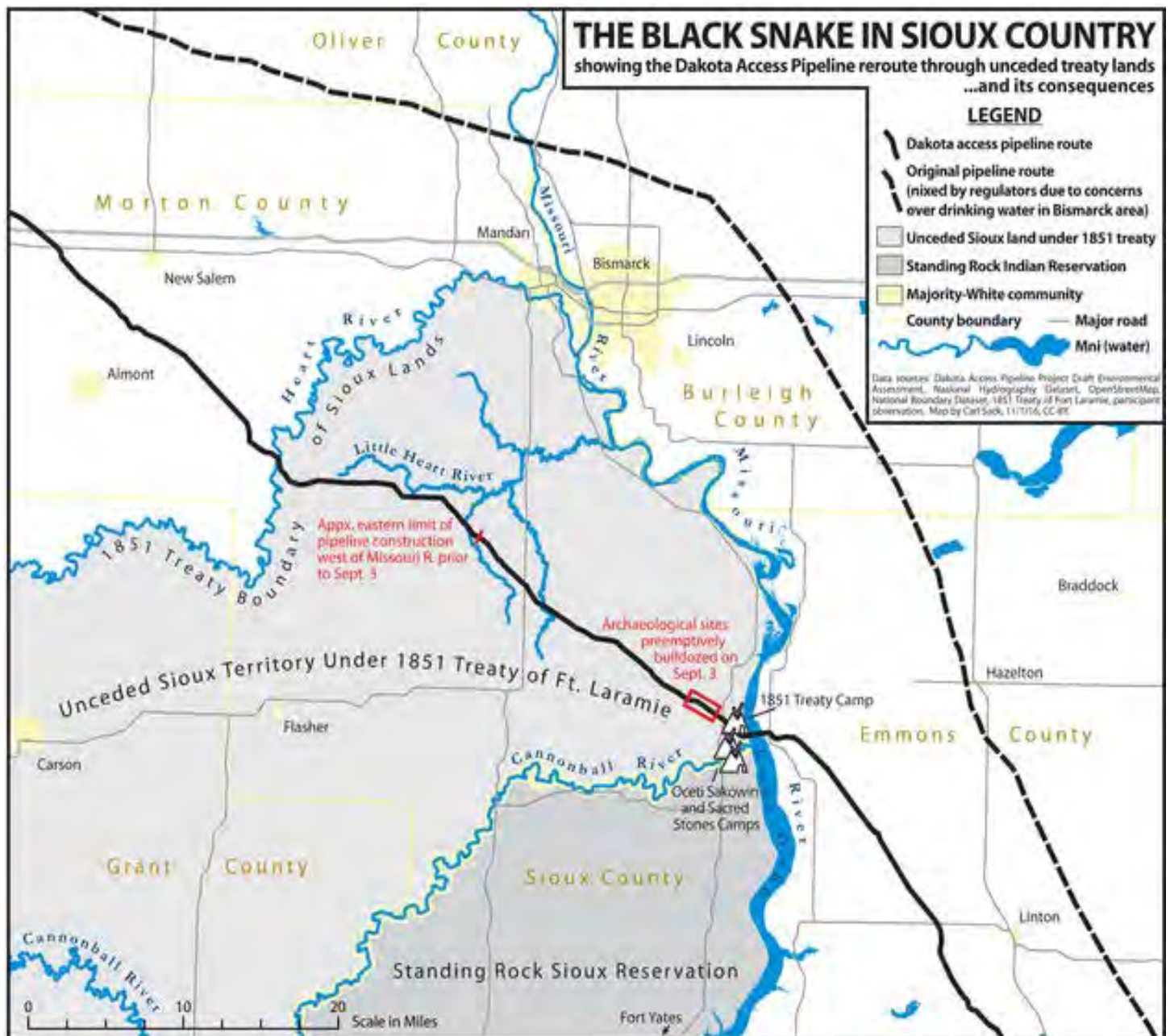
“Upon suffering beyond suffering: the Red Nations shall rise again and it shall be a blessing for a sick world. A world filled with broken promises, selfishness and separation. A world longing for light again. I see a time of seven generations when all the colors of mankind will gather under the sacred Tree of Life and the whole Earth will become one circle again. In that day there will be those among the Lakota who will carry knowledge and understanding of unity among all living things, and the young white ones will come to those of my people and ask for this wisdom. I salute the light within your eyes where the whole universe dwells. For when you are at that center within you and I am that place within me, we shall be one” *Chief Crazy Horse,*

*Sept. 1,
1877*



Oil or Water?

This map shows the oil pipeline currently going through land that was promised to the Sioux Nation and then stolen by the U.S. government. (See *Peter Cozzens, "Grant's Uncivil War,"* Smithsonian Magazine, November 2016, for a description of how President Grant and his military henchmen conspired to steal land from native people.)





John Trumbull's Declaration of Independence

the most widely quoted political statements: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."

The principles laid out in this document, and the U.S. Constitution (1789), established for the first time the principle that sovereignty (ultimate political authority) did not reside in government; it resided in the people, and the people gave temporary authority to the government. So government was seen as a secondary, derivative institution, deriving its power from the informed consent of the governed. Thomas Jefferson, as principle author of the Declaration of Independence, wrote into the document a rationale for revolution against government: *"when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government"* [emphasis added].

Testing the Principles

The radically democratic principles enshrined in the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution would soon be tested by the institution of slavery. Many of the men signing these documents were slaveholders. But during and directly after the independence war against England, abolition-of-slavery laws were passed in most northern states, and a movement to abolish slavery was gaining momentum.

While the Northern states were moving toward industrial capitalism and farming was done by independent smallholders, the Southern states grew more dependent on plantation crops, especially cotton, which required more slaves. This significant difference in the economic models of North and South greatly influenced their politics, with impacts to this very day.

At the risk of oversimplifying, by 1860 the United States had three economies: industrial capitalism in the North, plantation agriculture in the South, and free farmers and ranchers in the West. The pro- and anti-slavery forces struggled to bring new western states into their respective



camps (e.g., Texas went slave, California went free). But when war finally broke out, the industrial capitalist North had major advantages over the plantation agriculture South: more money, more troops, more weapons, and an industrial economy that was far more

No discussion of slavery would be complete without mention of Harriet Tubman (1822 – 1913). She was born into slavery in Maryland, escaped, and made 13 rescue missions via the "Underground Railway," saving many others from the grip of slavery. She was also a leader in the battle for women's suffrage.



advanced than that of the slave South. Because the cotton-exporting economy of the South was dependent on foreign markets, President Abraham Lincoln struck a strategic blow against the Confederacy by sending out his naval ships to block the exports of the South, which weakened the South's economy.

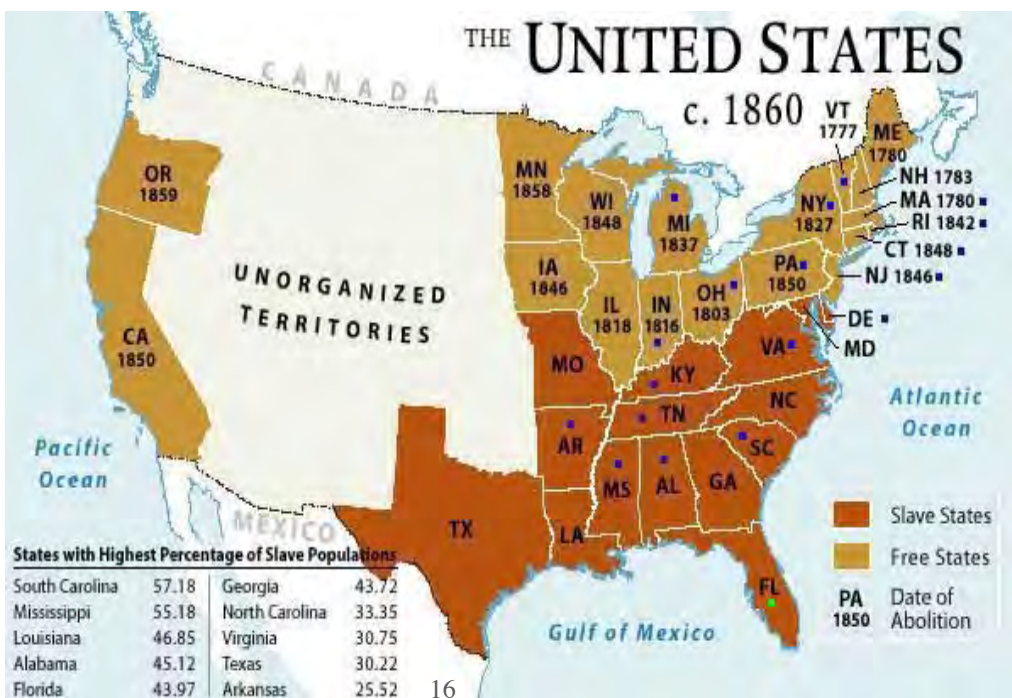
The victory of industrial capitalism in the North over plantation agriculture in the South is considered by some to be the real *revolution* in America. What is called the American revolution was a war of independence, but the Civil War was a battle between two very different economic systems. While workers in the industrial North suffered dangerous conditions and low pay, slaves in the South were forced to endure one of the most inhumane economic systems ever devised. As Edward Baptist argues in his book, *The Half That Has Never Been Told: Slavery and the Making of American Capitalism*, southern “white people inflicted torture far more often than in almost any human society that ever existed.”

An Expansionist Culture

The westward expansion of the United States had already made huge advances prior to the Civil War. During the 1846–1848 war with Mexico, the United States acquired what is now California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas.

The discovery of gold in California in 1849 brought white settlers streaming in from the East Coast, pushing aside or hunting down the Maidu, Miwok, and other native peoples.

The geographic spread of slavery prior to the Civil War.



During the 1846 – 1848 war with Mexico, the United States seized what is now California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas.



Although the slave South lost the Civil War, there are still some whites who—150 years later— fly the Confederate battle flag.

Many fortunes were made during these periods of violent acquisition of new territories, and the same remains true today. The weapons manufacturers, arms dealers, and real estate speculators have profited greatly from war.

During the same period that America was expanding its territory (1800s – early 1900s), the European powers were violently colonizing large portions of Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East. By the outbreak of World War I in 1914, the European powers and America dominated 84 percent of the world. During this period of territorial expansion, American politics developed two distinct factions: one favoring the building up of American global power, and an anti-imperialist minority who warned that conquering other peoples would undermine our democratic ideals. This same ideological battle rages today, with some warning against the invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan, and some claiming that we have a right to invade other countries and kill their people.

The Cuban-Spanish-American War

What is usually called the Spanish-American War actually started in Cuba. The Cubans had been fighting Spanish colonial rule for centuries. But when the U.S. battleship *Maine* blew up under suspicious circumstances in Havana harbor (it was probably an accident from storing munitions close to a boiler room), the Democrat Party pressured Republican President William McKinley to invade Cuba. The ten-week war with Spain was fought in the Caribbean (the U.S. seized Cuba and Puerto Rico) and the western Pacific Ocean (the U.S. seized Guam and the

many islands of the Philippines). The U.S. established a naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and has occupied the port for more than a century, despite many demands by the Cuban government for the U.S. to leave their territory.

Secretary of State John Hay referred to the Spanish American War as “a splendid little war,” and Senator Albert Beveridge of Indiana gave a clear statement of imperialist logic:

“The Philippines are ours forever... The Pacific is our ocean. ... Where shall we turn for consumers of our surplus? Geography answers the question. China is our natural customer... The Philippines give us a base at the door of all the East.”

But in addition to boosting America’s status as an empire, the new territorial acquisitions strengthened the anti-imperialist streak among American intellectuals and left-of-center politicians, who warned that a militarized empire would undermine the founding ideals of their own revolution against empire. In the 1900 presidential election between President McKinley and William Jennings Bryan, the Democrat Party challenger, Bryan, referred to the values espoused by Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln when he asserted: “If there be one principle more deeply rooted than any other in the mind of every American, is that we should have nothing to do with conquest.”

This conflict, between the military and financial interests promoting empire, and the anti-imperialists of both Left and Right, would be an

February 15, 1898, the battleship USS Maine blows up in Havana harbor, and it becomes an excuse for the U.S. invasion of Cuba.



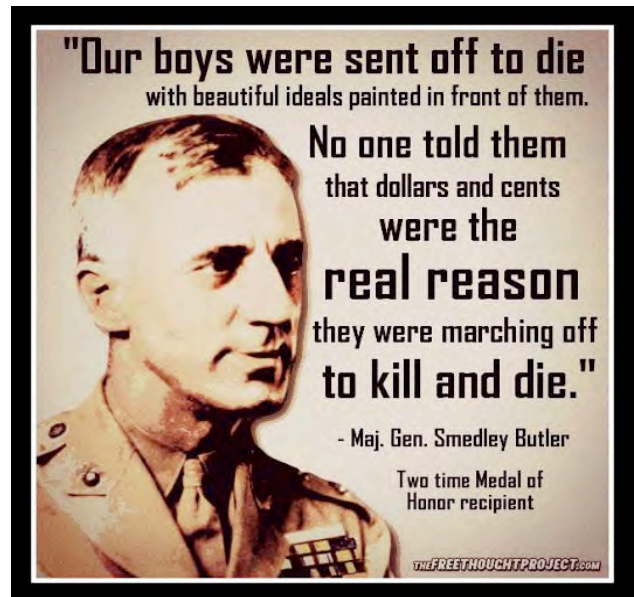
Seized more than 100 years ago, the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo, Cuba, is used to house and interrogate suspected “terrorists,” but they are not given a fair trial.

ongoing feature of American society. Every U.S. war since the 1800s was opposed by people who were usually denounced as unpatriotic “peaceniks,” but who often proved prescient in predicting the negative consequences of a belligerent foreign policy. The chart below lists some of the major military interventions as the United States built up its economic dominance.

“The War to End All Wars”?

The First World War (1914-1918)—like all wars—did not succeed in creating peace; in fact, it created the conditions for an even worse war 20 years later, and also created the conditions for the United States to become the dominant power on the planet.

It started as a spark of ethnic hatred when a Yugoslav nationalist shot Archduke Franz



General Smedley Butler (1881-1940) served his country in military actions in the Philippines, China, Central America and the Caribbean.

U.S. Military Interventions

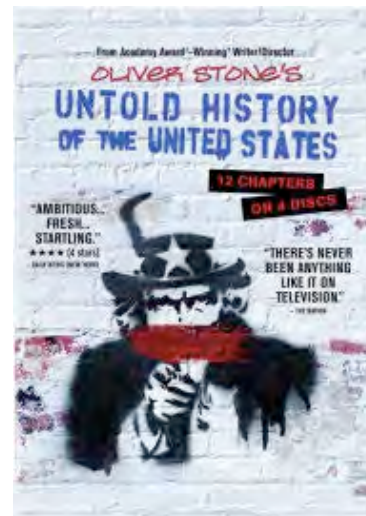
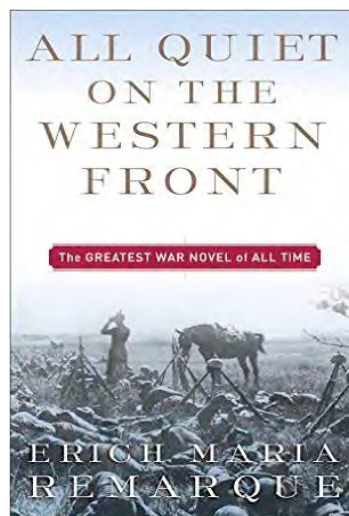
CHINA	1898-1900 Boxer Rebellion fought by foreign armies.
PHILIPPINES	1898-1910 Seized from Spain, killed 600,000 Filipinos.
CUBA	1898-1902 Seized from Spain, still hold Navy base.
PUERTO RICO	1898 Seized from Spain, occupation continues.
GUAM	1898 (-?) Seized from Spain, still use as base.
MINNESOTA	1898 (-?) Army battles Chippewa at Leech Lake.
NICARAGUA	1898 Marines land at port of San Juan del Sur.
SAMOA	1899 (-?) Battle over succession to throne.
NICARAGUA	1899 Marines land at port of Bluefields.
IDAHO	1899-1901 Army occupies Coeur d'Alene mining region
OKLAHOMA	1901 Army battles Creek Indian revolt.
PANAMA	1901-14 Broke from Colombia 1903, annexed Canal Zone 1914.
HONDURAS	1903 Marines intervene in revolution.
DOMIN. REP.	1903-04 U.S. interests protected in Revolution.
KOREA	1904-05 Marines land in Russo-Japanese War.
CUBA	1906-09 Marines land in democratic election.
NICARAGUA	1907 "Dollar Diplomacy" protectorate set up.
HONDURAS	1907 Marines land during war with Nicaragua
PANAMA	1908 Marines intervene in election contest.
NICARAGUA	1910 Marines land in Bluefields and Corinto.
HONDURAS	1911 U.S. interests protected in civil war.
CHINA	1911-41 Continuous occupation with flare-ups.
CUBA	1912 U.S. interests protected in civil war.
PANAMA	1912 Marines land during heated election.
HONDURAS	1912 Marines protect U.S. economic interests.
NICARAGUA	1912-33 10-year occupation, fought guerillas
MEXICO	1913 Americans evacuated during revolution.

Ferdinand of Austria. Nationalistic anger soon took hold and two major alliances squared off for war: the Allies, who we would eventually join, were France, the British empire and the Russian empire, versus the Central Powers of Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy.

Because Americans of both left and right were wary of getting involved in a European conflict, it wasn't until April 1917 that President Woodrow Wilson asked Congress for a declaration of war. Public opposition to the war was so strong that when the government appealed for one million volunteers to go and fight, only 73,000 signed up. So Congress instituted a draft, requiring all young able-bodied men to sign up.

Another reaction of the government to the public opposition to war was to create the Committee on Public Information, whose job was to propagandize the public about the importance of the war. In addition to publishing pro-war propaganda, the CPI recruited 75,000 volunteers to go around the country making speeches in support of the war effort. Two of the most anti-democratic laws ever passed by Congress were the Espionage Act of 1917 and the Sedition Act of 1918, which imposed severe limits on free speech. University professors critical of the war were fired. Hundreds of people were put in jail for criticizing U.S. involvement in the war. The official propaganda portrayed all Germans as evil, and German-Americans faced all sorts of racist discrimination, despite their white skin.

One of the best books on the horrors of war, was written by a German soldier during World War I. Remarque conveys the stupidity of war, and the book became the basis for an excellent movie of the same title.



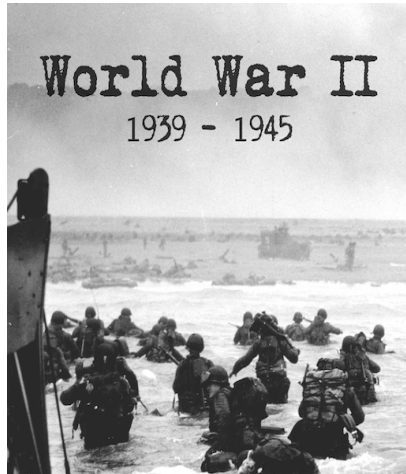
Filmmaker Oliver Stone put together this massive U.S. history and a film series to go with it. This is not the kind of boring history you got taught in school.

One of the major outcomes of the war was a peace settlement that required defeated Germany to pay reparations and give back land it had seized. The economic burden was not that great but during the Great Depression of the 1930s, a far right politician named Adolf Hitler, who had fought in the war, whipped up nationalist sentiment and racism against Jews. He eventually came to power, with devastating results.

Another major outcome of World War I was the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution in Russia, which overthrew the monarchy of the Czar and replaced it with a communist government led by Vladimir Lenin and Leon Trotsky. These two leftist intellectuals saw the war as profitable for capitalists and deadly for the working class of every country involved. Their assessment was accurate in the sense that (1) banks and corporations—especially weapons companies—made huge profits on the war, and (2) the fighting and dying was done by working class youth with little knowledge of who they were fighting and why.

In an attempt to roll back the Russian Revolution, the U.S. and other capitalist countries sent thousands of troops into Russia to fight the communist revolutionaries, to no avail. The Bolsheviks retained control and Russia was transformed into the USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), which grew to be a major world power and America's main rival during the "Cold War." The fact that America had invaded Russia, left a lingering distrust of America among the Russians.

By the end of World War II all the other major powers were wrecked, and the United States was the one power that emerged from the war far stronger.



World War 2: America Comes to Power

U.S. leaders again faced a skeptical public when World War II broke out in Europe. It was only after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941, that leaders in Washington felt safe to declare war on the Axis Powers (Germany, Japan and Italy).

Adolf Hitler's Nazi Germany and Benito Mussolini's fascist Italy had formed the Axis alliance in 1936. They gave crucial support to Francisco Franco's fascist forces in overthrowing the democratically elected government of Spain, while the U.S. and other democracies stood by and offered little assistance to the international forces fighting to save democracy in Spain. In 1938, Germany annexed Austria and gained control of the Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia. Seeing little resistance from England and the U.S., Germany invaded Czechoslovakia in March 1939. When Germany invaded Poland on September 1, 1939, the Allied Powers (U.S., England and France) declared war on Germany.

In April 1940, Germany launched the infamous *blitzkrieg*, rapidly conquering Belgium, Denmark, Norway, and the Netherlands. The French army surrendered after just six weeks of fighting. This left just England to stand up to the Nazi expansion in the West. Washington was generous with lend-lease military supplies to England in exchange for U.S. military basing rights in British colonies, but the Americans were not ready to commit troops.

In June 1941, Hitler made his greatest mistake by launching Operation Barbarossa, the invasion of the Soviet Union. Russian forces were caught off guard and 3.2 million Nazi troops occupied a 2,000-mile front into western Russia, destroying everything in their path. This caused many in the West to argue that the United States should open a second front and attack Germany from the west to take the pressure off the Russians. To the chagrin of U.S. military leaders such as General Dwight Eisenhower who favored attacking Germany directly, political leaders decided to spend several years attacking German and Italian forces in North Africa, then Sicily, then Italy. Even a quick look at a map shows that you can't invade Germany from Italy because of the Alps mountains in between. Any successful invasion of Germany would need to come via the low countries to the west of Germany (France, Belgium, the Netherlands). Although the U.S. was providing substantial military aid to the USSR, the Russians were justifiably angry because while they were fighting 200 divisions of the German army, the U.S. and England fought one-tenth as many German forces. The Russian military eventually stopped the German advance at the battle of Stalingrad, and began chasing the German forces back toward Germany. But as the German army retreated across western Russia, they destroyed everything they could get their hands on, and killed every animal and human they came in contact with.

Finally, on June 4, 1944 (D-Day), U.S. and allied forces invaded Europe on the coast of



The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, December 7, 1941, destroyed a large portion of the US Pacific fleet and roused the American people to join World War II.

France. U.S. forces pushed hard to get to Germany's capital Berlin because the Russian army was advancing rapidly from the East, and U.S. leaders wanted to have a say in how Germany would be treated after the war and who would be in control of the economic and political system that would be imposed on Germany. In the end, defeated Germany was divided into two parts: communist East Germany controlled by the Russians, and capitalist West Germany controlled by the U.S. and its allies.

Following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, the United States ramped up its factories to produce thousands of tanks, planes and guns. Auto factories were quickly converted to producing weapons of war instead of cars. This rapid conversion raises the question: Could factories that are currently idle be converted to producing solar panels and wind mills?

Following the U.S. Navy's defeat of Japanese forces at Midway Island in June 1942, U.S. planes and ships followed an island hopping strategy and, at great loss of life, steadily worked their way toward Japan.

By 1945 Japan was in decline but President Harry Truman decided to hasten the end of the war in the Pacific by dropping atomic bombs on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, neither of which was a military target. This terrorism on a grand scale was aimed at getting Japan to surrender unconditionally to the U.S., before the Russians could get involved in deciding what kind of economic and political system would be put in place in Japan.

On the home front, Americans were encouraged to recycle, compost, plant Victory Gardens, and conserve resources.



The United Nations and Human Rights

When the war ended the United States hosted the founding meeting of the United Nations in San Francisco in June 1945. They hammered out the details of how power would be divided between the General Assembly (all member countries get one vote), and the Security Council (ten members that rotate and five permanent members with veto power: U.S., Russia, China, France, England). Thanks to the persuasive powers of Eleanor Roosevelt the assembled nations also signed one of the most important documents in human history: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Article 25 of this powerful document states: *"Everyone has the right to a standard of living*

During the war, the American people were constantly reminded of their responsibility to not be wasteful of resources. So if we could do this to help kill Nazis, could we do it to save the planet's ability to support the survival of our species?



adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

Implementing just Article 25 alone would

require huge changes in the DNA of global capitalism, which has always had unemployment and exploitation of the poor. Now contrast the values in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with what the bankers came up with after the war when they created the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Meeting in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, before the war was

THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

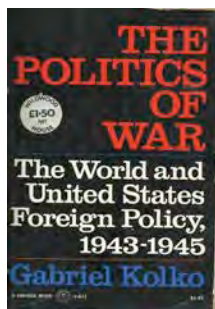
Adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1948, the Universal Declaration states basic rights and fundamental freedoms to which all human beings are entitled.

YOU HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS

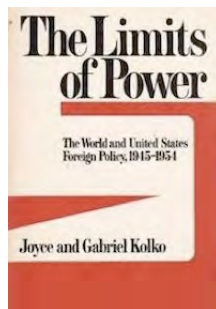
WE ALL ARE BORN FREE AND EQUAL.
EVERYONE IS ENTITLED TO THESE RIGHTS NO MATTER YOUR RACE, RELIGION OR NATIONALITY
EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO LIFE, FREEDOM AND SAFETY.

NO ONE CAN TAKE AWAY ANY OF YOUR RIGHTS

 <p>No one has the right to hold you in slavery.</p>	 <p>You can travel wherever you want.</p>	 <p>You have the right to social security and are entitled to economic, social, and cultural help from your government.</p>
 <p>No one has the right to torture you.</p>	 <p>You have the right to seek asylum in another country if you are being persecuted in your own country.</p>	 <p>Worker's right: Every adult has the right to a job, a fair wage and to join a trade union.</p>
 <p>You have the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.</p>	 <p>Everyone has the right to a nationality.</p>	 <p>You have the right to leisure and rest from work.</p>
 <p>We are all equal before the law and are entitled to equal protection of the law.</p>	 <p>All adults have the right to marriage and to raise a family.</p>	 <p>Everyone has the right to an adequate standard of living for themselves and their family.</p>
 <p>You have the right to seek legal help if your rights are violated.</p>	 <p>You have the right to own property.</p>	 <p>Everyone has the right to education.</p>
 <p>No one has the right to wrongly imprison you or force you to leave your country.</p>	 <p>Everyone has the right to belong to a religion.</p>	 <p>Your intellectual property as artist or scientist should be protected.</p>
 <p>You have a right to a fair and public trial.</p>	 <p>Freedom of expression: You have the right to free thought and to voice your opinions to others.</p>	 <p>We are all entitled to social order so we can enjoy these rights.</p>
 <p>Everyone is innocent until PROVEN guilty.</p>	 <p>Everyone has the right to gather as a peaceful assembly.</p>	
 <p>You have the right to privacy. No one can interfere with your reputation, family, home or correspondence.</p>	 <p>You have the right to help choose and to take part in governing your country, directly or through chosen representatives.</p>	



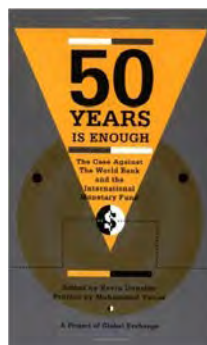
In these two books the Kolkos expose the political strategies used by U.S. policy makers during and after World War II.



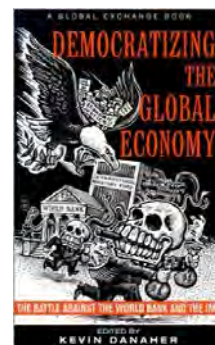
over, financial leaders from the U.S. and England created the World Bank, to make low interest loans to allied countries rebuilding from the war, and the IMF, which was supposed to provide financial relief to countries so they could keep participating in the global economy. When people refer to the U.S. Marshall Plan (named after Secretary of State George Marshall) they say it was about “rebuilding Europe” after the war. What it was really about was rebuilding the political power of the business classes in Europe to ensure a capitalist western Europe. During the war, capitalist classes in Europe either ran away, supported the Nazis, or had their buildings and equipment destroyed by the fighting. Eastern Europe was under the control of the USSR, and in western Europe the people who had done the most to fight the Nazis were socialists, communists, and anarchists, who were armed and had the support of the people.

When revolutions began spreading in poor countries such as China (1949) and Cuba (1959), the World Bank and IMF began making large loans to Third World elites around the world. This indebtedness was not just financial. It gave Washington and Wall Street a way to influence the policies of debtor counties by attaching policy strings to the debt money: sell off your

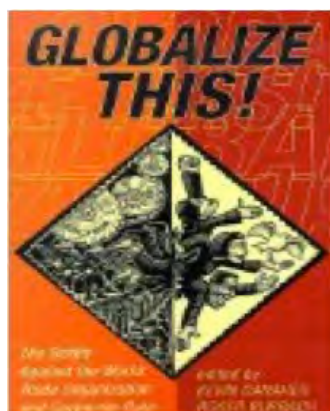
government owned assets, and let foreign companies come in and make big profits by exploiting your workers and taking your natural resources. The track record of these global financial institutions is so bad that thousands of protesters started showing up at the annual meetings of the IMF and World Bank. In April 1999 there were about 25 protesters, and one year later in April 2000, there were about 25,000 protesters. Something had changed. That change was the massive November 1999 protests at the Seattle meeting of the World Trade Organization (WTO). Because WTO rulings had hurt so many



These are two books I wrote to show how these secretive financial institutions move billions of dollars around the globe, yet manage to make inequality worse.



workers, small farmers, and small business owners—not to mention destructive environmental impacts—a very diverse group of 50,000 protesters flooded the streets of Seattle and prevented the WTO meetings from producing anything. This started a trend of people protesting the secretive financial institutions whenever they held their meetings. So the financiers started holding their meetings in remote locations, surrounded by thousands of police and military. When ruling institutions need to meet in secret because their policies are so unpopular, that can’t be good for democracy.



In 1994, the U.S. and its allies formed the World Trade Organization (WTO) based in Geneva, Switzerland. The secretive WTO is writing a constitution for the entire global economy, and ordinary people have no say in the proceedings, which are dominated by lawyers and wealthy financial interests. In all its rulings the WTO sides with corporate rights over human rights.

WTO has sided with corporate profits over human rights and the environment. Which is why we protested the WTO in Seattle in 1999, the one time they met in the United States.

Three Global Exchange staff being arrested for protesting the WTO.



The Road to Empire

Even before World War II was over, U.S. policy planners were figuring out how to maintain control of a world shattered by war and plagued by poverty and rebellion. The collapse of the former colonial powers created a power vacuum that the U.S. quickly moved into. The State Department's 1948 Policy Planning Study 23 lays out key principles for U.S. foreign policy in the post-war period.

- We have 50% of the world's wealth, but only 6% of its population. We are the object of envy and resentment.
- Our future task is to devise relationships to maintain this position of disparity.
- We must dispense with all sentimentality and concentrate everywhere on our national objectives.
- We should forget about human rights, the raising of living standards, and democratization.
- We are going to have to deal in straight power concepts.

U.S. leaders framed our foreign policy as a competition with the Soviet Union (USSR), portraying communism as an expansionist system that was bent on world domination. A series of U.S. presidents, Democrat and Republican alike, exaggerated the military power of the Russians as a way to keep the American people willing to pay for large military budgets and hundreds of U.S. military bases around the world. Despite our nation's sbelief in democratic principles, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)

intervened violently in many countries, often overthrowing democratically elected leaders who were not communists and were no threat to the United States.

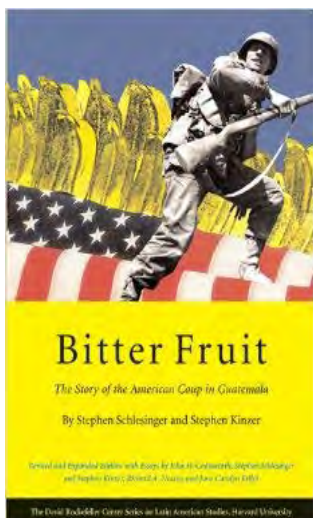
Most Americans are unaware that we helped overthrow the democratically elected government of Mohammad Mosaddegh in Iran in 1953 which led to decades of despotic rule by Shah (King) Mohammad Reza Pahlavi; and that we overthrew the democratically elected government of Jacobo Arbenz in Guatemala in 1954, unleashing a reign of terror for decades in that country as the military dictatorship we put in place murdered more than 200,000 people; or that we overthrew the first democratically elected president of the Congo, Patrice Lumumba, in 1960, which led to his murder by firing squad.



Even brilliant presidents such as John F. Kennedy sided with brutal dictators, seen here with Mobutu Sese Seko, who ruled the Congo corruptly for decades.

What would we think of a major world power that was in the habit of toppling democratically elected leaders and replacing them with military dictatorships using weapons made in the USA and paid for by American taxpayers?

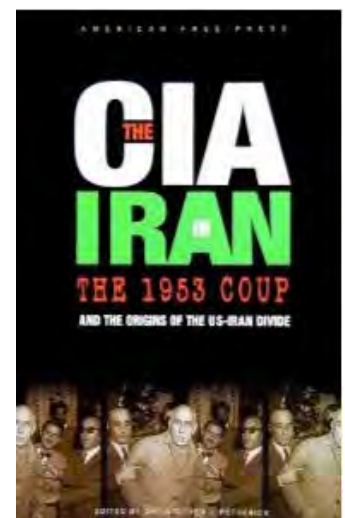
US military and CIA interventions in the world since World War II.



Map 2:

US Military and CIA Interventions since World War II

■ targeted countries ★ US bombings — US government assassination plots
Source: William Blum, *Killing Hope: U.S. Military and CIA Intervention Since World War II*, 2004



In the USA We Have Special Responsibility

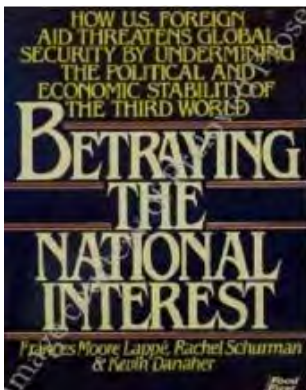
We are 4% of world's people, consuming 25% of resources and putting out 25% of the pollution. We have more than 800 U.S. military bases *outside* our country. The solutions will **NOT** come from people in limousines with security guard; it must come from "we the people."



The term "neocolonialism" refers to the system of global inequality that replaced formal colonial empires following World War II. Instead of the colonial powers physically occupying a subject country, their leaders are coerced into relationships of dependency, by receiving large financial loans and military aid in exchange for transnational corporations being allowed to extract wealth from the subject country.

The World Bank and International Monetary Fund—dominated by the United States—have created a debt treadmill for dozens of countries: their governments are given billions of dollars of debt financing which comes with policy strings attached. The policy strings are designed to keep these countries "open" to foreign companies.

What masquerades as "foreign aid" results in a country's policies being dominated by Washington and Wall Street. The U.S. food aid program was originally designed to expand foreign markets for U.S. crops; it was only later that Public Law 480 (PL 480) was expanded to include wording about feeding hungry people abroad. Billions of U.S. taxpayer dollars go for military aid that supports U.S. weapons makers and foreign dictators. U.S. aid money goes to the



This book I co-authored in the 1980s is still relevant today because our "foreign aid" is doing more to protect U.S. corporate and national security interests than it is doing to help the poor.



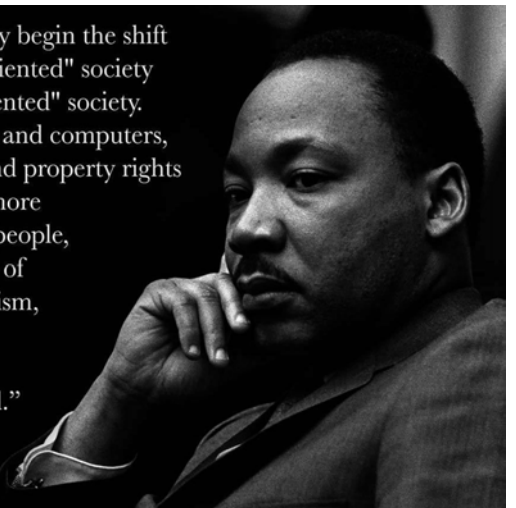
Many U.S. soldiers were traumatized by the experience of killing innocent civilians.

the top of foreign governments and it does not "trickle down" to the poor.

As the citizens of the most powerful country in the world, and as inheritors of the lofty ideals embodied in the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution, we have a special responsibility to pressure our government to live up to those ideals and become a good neighbor rather than a dominating bully. People around the world still look to us as a defender of freedom, a supporter of justice, and a beacon of hope for a future world with no hungry children, no clearcut forests, no endangered species, and no wars for oil. These things *will* come about, the question is: how long will it take us to muster the courage to change the rules of the game so life values will matter more than money values, and all people will have a seat at the table when important policy decisions get made?

"We must rapidly begin the shift from a "thing-oriented" society to a "person-oriented" society. When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, materialism, and militarism are incapable of being conquered."

—Martin Luther King, Jr.



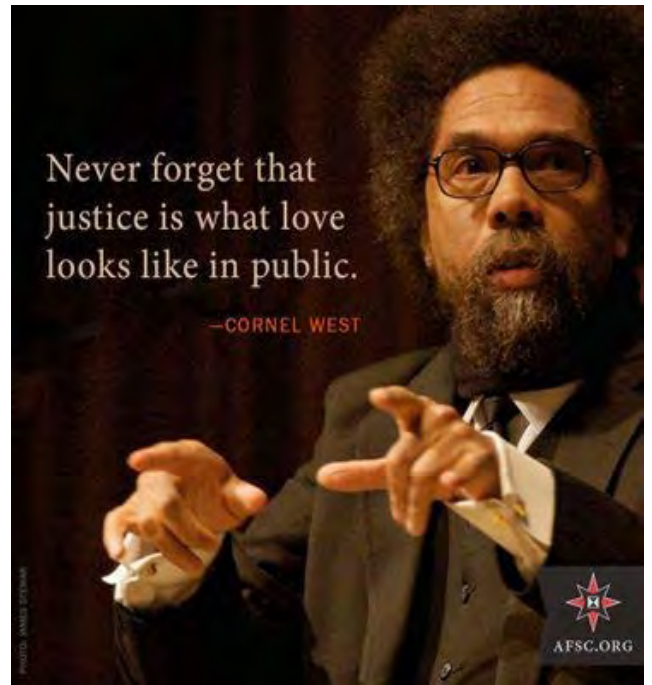
“As I walked out the door toward the gate that would lead to my freedom, I knew if I didn’t leave my bitterness and hatred behind, I’d still be in prison.”

- Nelson Mandela



Never forget that justice is what love looks like in public.

—CORNEL WEST



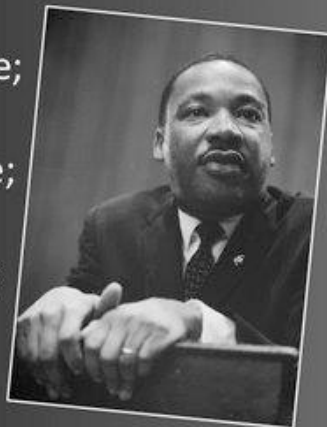
“The **ultimate** tragedy is not the oppression and cruelty by the bad people but the **silence** over that by the good people.”

- Martin Luther King



Hatred paralyzes life;
love releases it.
Hatred confuses life;
love harmonizes it.
Hatred darkens life;
love illuminates it.

Martin Luther King Jr.



AGAINST EMPIRE

As a black woman, my politics and political affiliation are bound up with and flow from participation in my people's struggle for liberation, and with the fight of oppressed people all over the world against American imperialism.

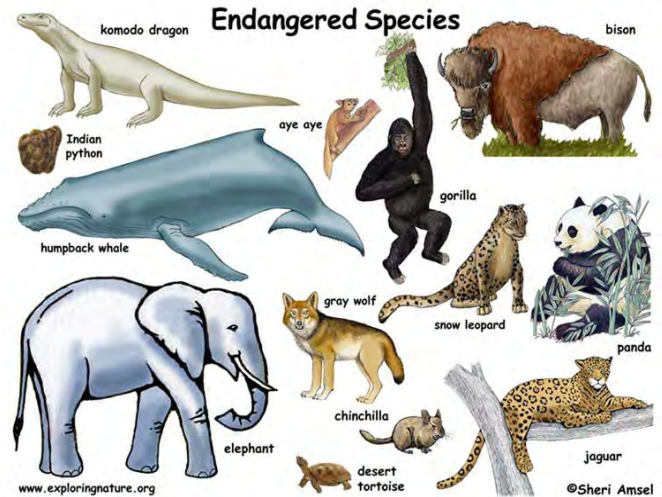
-Angela Davis

historic activist, prison abolitionist, communist & professor



Global Crisis—Environmental Collapse

Species destruction: thousands of plants and animals are going extinct. It is the 6th great extinction in the history of our planet, and it is the greatest one since an asteroid hitting the earth eliminated the dinosaurs. Dozens of species of frogs are going extinct in Central America because of a toxic fungus that previously got killed by the cold at night, but with global temperatures rising the fungus is spreading and wiping out whole species.



This past year U.S. beekeepers lost 44% of their bees. Scientific research confirms that the dramatic rise of a class of pesticides called neonicotinoids (sometimes shortened to neonics) are to blame for the rapid decline.



Topsoil is eroding at a rate of 24 billion tons per year, which works out to about **3.4 tons** per person on the planet. The history of human civilization shows that societies rise and fall based on the quality of their soil.

The planet's forests—often called the “lungs of the planet” because of all the carbon dioxide they absorb and the oxygen they produce—are being cut and burned faster than new trees can be planted and grown.

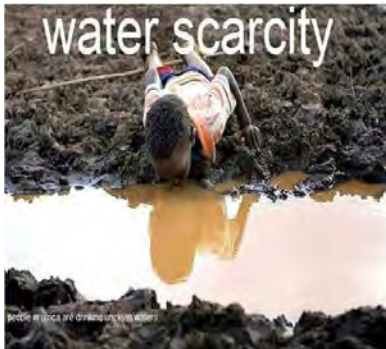


Our landfills are filling up with “waste”—a human concept (in nature, there is no waste). We say “throw it away” but there is no “away.” We live on a finite planet but we use resources as if they are infinite.



Wildfires in California and other western states are increasing in number and intensity. In the summer of 2016, the Soberanes Fire near Big Sur, California--which was started by an illegal campfire--burned more than 130,000 acres, destroying 68 structures, and costing the state more than \$200,000,000 to fight--the most expensive wildfire in California history.

All of the world's **oceans** are filling up with **plastic**. The plastic does not biodegrade but it "photodegrades" (sunlight breaks it down into small pieces) and sea animals eat the plastic, often killing them. We eat the sea life along with the plastic. Yum!



Dirty water is the biggest killer of children; every day more children die of water borne diseases than HIV/AIDS, malaria and war combined. By 2030, global demand for water will exceed supply by 40%, which will increase the need for conservation technology.



Ocean acidification

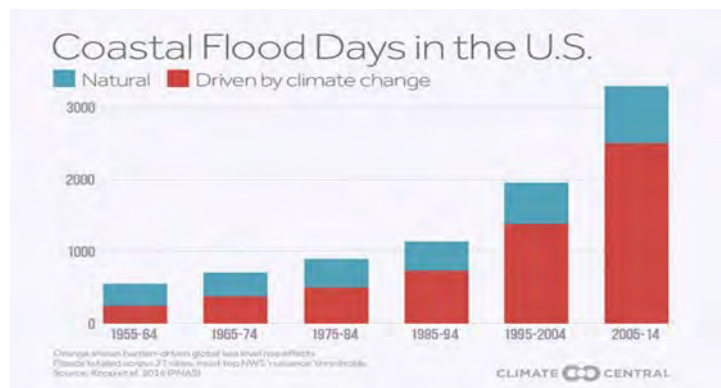
The **oceans** are a "carbon sink," meaning they absorb carbon dioxide (CO₂). We are burning so much fossil fuel that we are putting huge amounts of CO₂ into the atmosphere and the oceans are turning acidic, which is destroying coral reefs that are the basis of much of the life in the oceans.

Climate Chaos is happening *NOW*

When you tell people that ocean levels will eventually rise more than 200 feet when all the ice on the planet melts, they tend to say things like “oh, that’s off in the future.” So do we want to be bad ancestors or good ancestors?

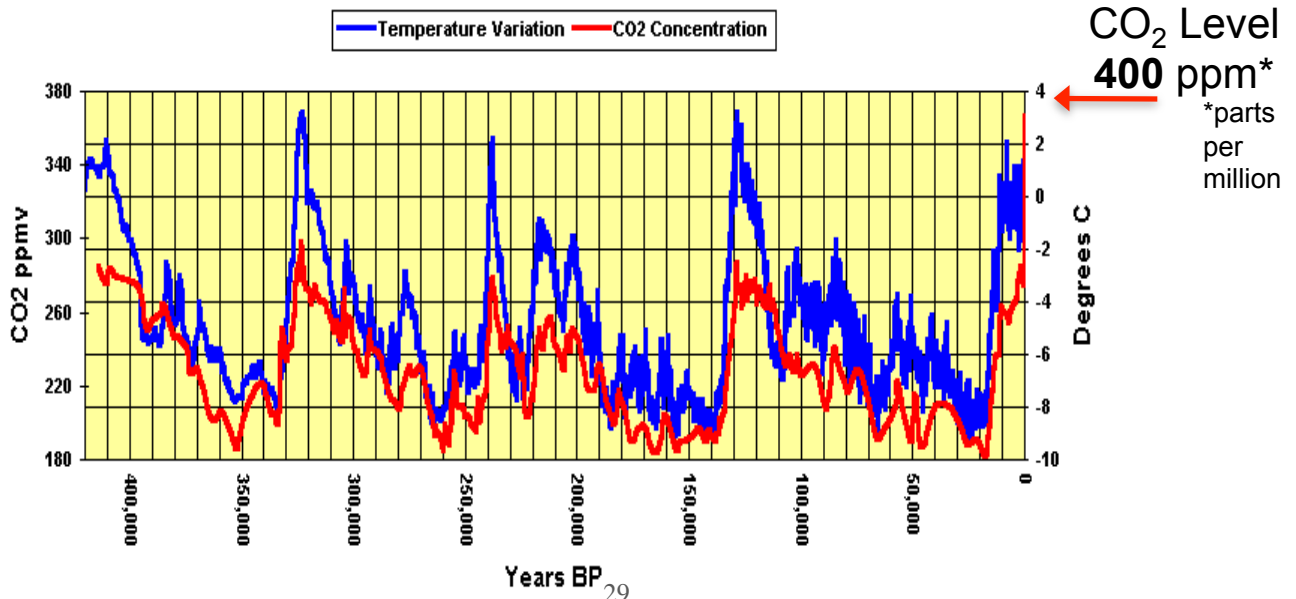


Coastal areas account for 42% of the U.S. economy



420,000 Years of Ice Core Data show that ocean levels and global temperature follow carbon dioxide (CO₂) levels. The current levels of CO₂ are way outside the band of historic variation, so global temperature and ocean levels will keep rising.

Antarctic Ice Core Data 1



Black snow?

Soot from forest fires and the burning of fossil fuels is landing on the Greenland ice sheet, turning the surface black. So instead of white ice *reflecting* sunlight, the black surface absorbs solar energy and accelerates the melting of the ice.



Jason Box's 'Dark Snow' project is the first scientific expedition to Greenland to be crowdfunded. He calculated how much extra energy is absorbed by the black snow: "In 2014 the ice sheet is precisely 5.6 percent darker, producing an additional absorption of energy equivalent to *roughly twice the US annual electricity consumption.*"

<http://darksnow.org/>

Energy from coal is toxic: Coal-fired power plants are the largest source of water pollution in the USA. The waste from coal plants includes lead and mercury, and other toxic metals. These toxins *bio-accumulate*, increasing in concentration as they travel up the food chain, ultimately collecting in our bodies.

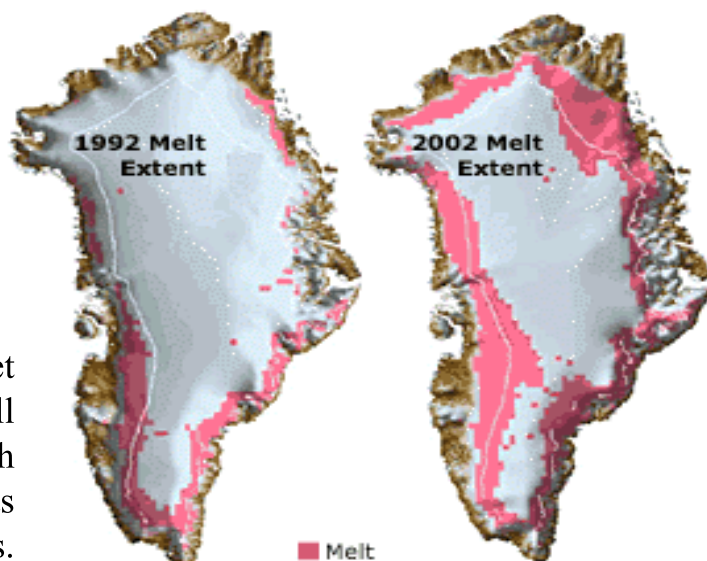
Greenland

772,000 square miles of ice
1.9 miles thick

Melting Rate

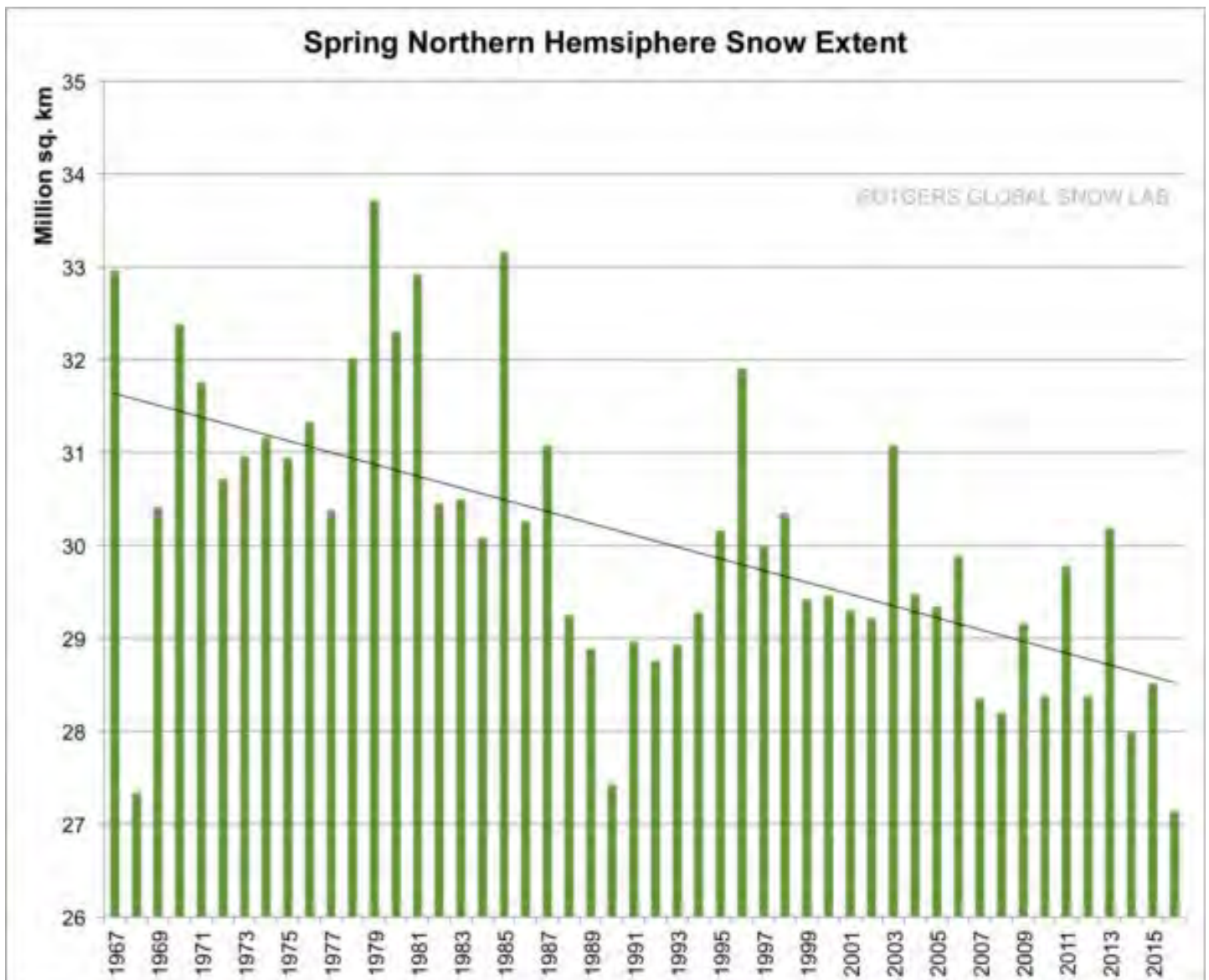
1 meter/yr 2000
10 meters/yr 2004

When the Greenland ice sheet completely melts, ocean levels will rise more than 7 meters (23 ft), enough to inundate major coastal cities such as Miami, Houston and Los Angeles.

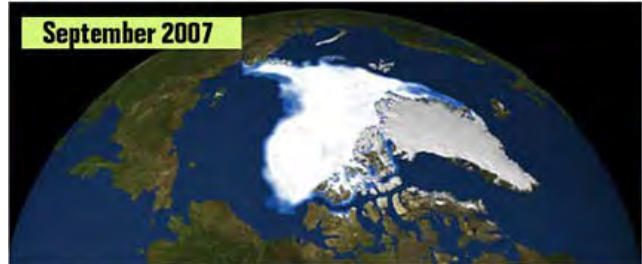


Many scientific studies show that snow pack is declining.

- This means that white snow, which reflects sunlight, is being replaced by darker ground, which absorbs sunlight, thus warming our planet.



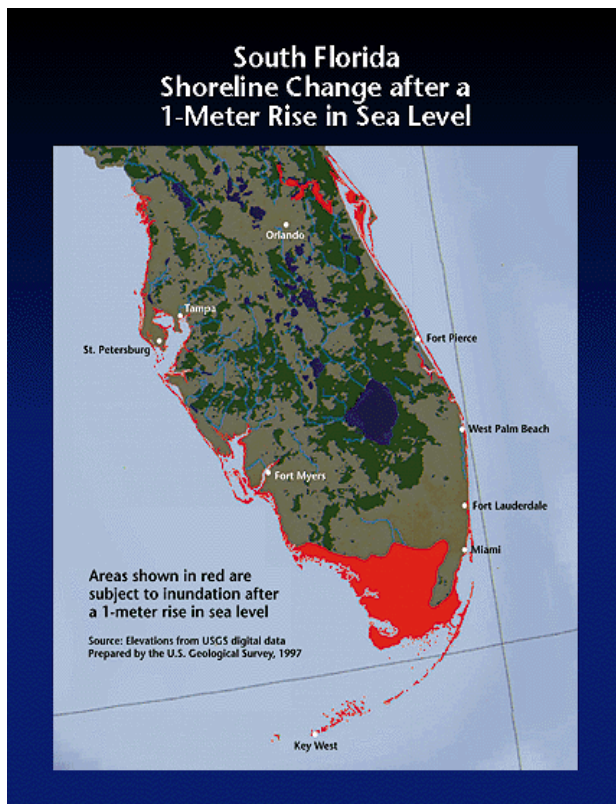
The **Arctic Ice Sheet** is melting. White ice reflects sunlight and is cooler than dark blue water, which absorbs sunlight, thus speeding up the melting.



Science says the permafrost is not *perma* any more

NOAA* reports: "In 2012, new record high temperatures at 65 feet depth were measured at most permafrost observatories on the North Slope of Alaska and in the Brooks Range." That means **methane** (CH₄) is being released from the permafrost, accelerating global warming and climate chaos.

* *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency*



Costs of Climate Chaos

- Extreme U.S. weather damage 2012: \$140 billion nationwide, shaving one percent off our total economic output.
- If the cost of "climate chaos" in 2012 were paid in each state like a sales tax, it would add an extra 2.7 percent to the bill for every purchase made in every state.

Super-storm Sandy

The devastating 2012 East Coast storm affected 24 states, forcing 776,000 people out of their homes. Sandy cost more than \$75 billion of damage.

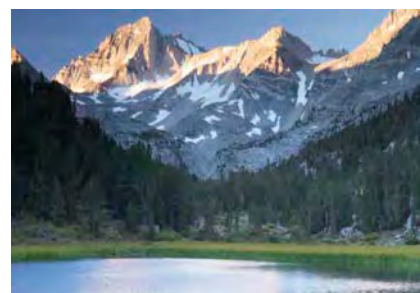
Our species is transitioning from adolescence to adulthood

- More people are realizing that the current *system* is NOT sustainable.
- Peak Oil . . . Peak Water . . . Peak everything . . . All natural resources are running out, as the population keeps growing and is expected to top out at about 9-10 billion. If all of those people were to consume and waste as much as Americans, we would need 3 or more planet Earths to support everyone. Clearly, that is not going to happen, so we need to produce and consume in ways that do not overcome nature's ability to repair itself.



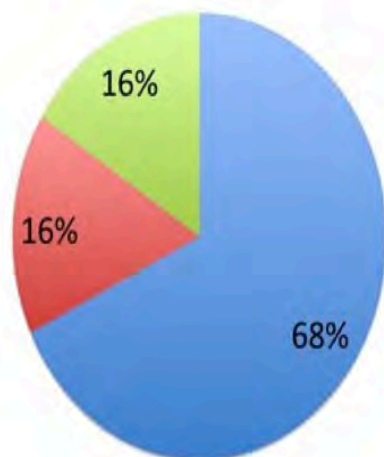
Climate Change Deniers

There are some groups that get money from the fossil fuel industry and they use it to produce propaganda arguing that there is no climate crisis and if we just keep doing what we have been doing, everything will work out.



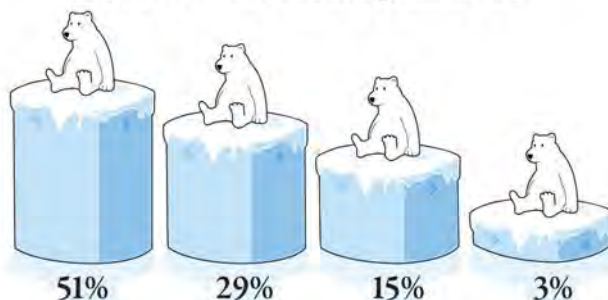
Glaciers all over the world are melting rapidly.

The majority of Americans showed their awareness when asked: "Which of the following statements about climate change do you agree with?"



And yet... Most Americans Believe Global Warming Exists

- Climate change could be a serious problem and we need to act now to try to prevent it happening in the future
- Climate change could be a serious problem but we don't need to worry about it for now
- Climate change will probably never be a serious problem



- 51% believe climate change is caused by human activities
- 29% believe it's occurring naturally
- 15% believe it needs to be proven scientifically either way
- 3% believe it doesn't exist

Crisis Can Wake People Up

People will feel the climate crisis in their daily lives as energy prices go up, droughts cause water rationing and higher water bills, weather instability and coastal erosion push up insurance rates, and people's homes get destroyed by flooding. For example, 60,000 homes were damaged or destroyed in Louisiana in the summer of 2016 due to abnormally intense rains that caused a "1,000-year flood."



Sea water will take over low-lying real estate.



Unpredictability is part of climate chaos



"Global warming" is a deceptive term because it makes one aspect of climate change the defining characteristic. Yes, global temperatures are steadily rising: almost every month sets a new record for rising temperatures. But it is the unpredictability and chaotic fluctuations that make "*climate chaos*" a more appropriate term.

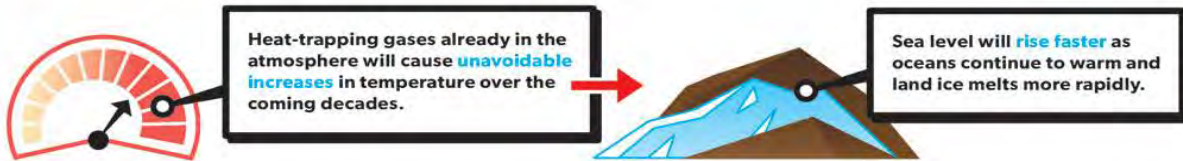
A special issue of *National Geographic* in 2013 took on the subject of ocean levels rising from the melting of glaciers and polar ice caps in the Arctic and Antarctic. The best science shows that when all the glaciers and the polar ice caps melt, it raises ocean levels more than 200 feet, enough to submerge most of the coastal cities in the world.

Coastal States at Risk from Global Sea Level Rise

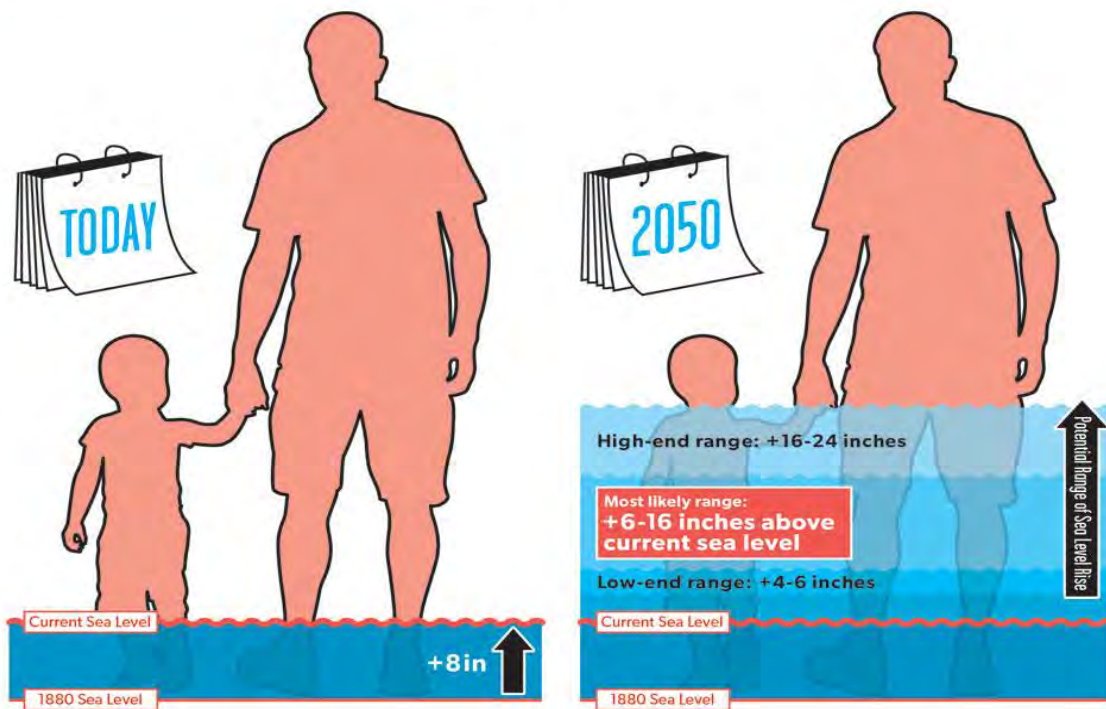


Manhattan after all the ice melts.

Sea level rise is accelerating.



Global Average Sea Level Rise



© Union of Concerned Scientists 2013; www.ucsusa.org/sealevelrise



Oil companies know their impact, just like the tobacco companies that knew that their product caused cancer. [See the movie, “*The Insider*” which documents how the tobacco industry knew about the bad health effects of their product—the only product that when used correctly kills you—and they hid that information from the public.]

During 2009 and 2010, Big Oil, Gas, and Coal spent \$347 million in campaign contributions and lobbying Congress. They got back \$20 billion in government subsidies.



“Stranded assets” are a must

In 2012, the International Energy Agency warned that two-thirds of the world’s proven fossil fuel reserves need to remain in the ground (stranded assets). That is one of the reasons why college students around the USA are pressuring their administrations to sell any college-owned stock in fossil fuel companies. The student groups are using the same strategy that we used in the anti-apartheid movement to pressure U.S. companies to pull out of apartheid South Africa. These are bad investments for financial and environmental reasons.

Kayaktivists stop Shell Oil from drilling in the Arctic



Methane (CH_4) is another major source of climate chaos—it is 20 times more heat-trapping than carbon dioxide (CO_2). In terms of climate change, industrial meat is worse than cars, because it not only puts global warming gas into the atmosphere, it also uses huge amounts of water and other resources.



One burger takes...



Producing 1 pound of beef uses 5,214 gallons of water—that's 7-minute showers every day for a year.



Carbon is NOT

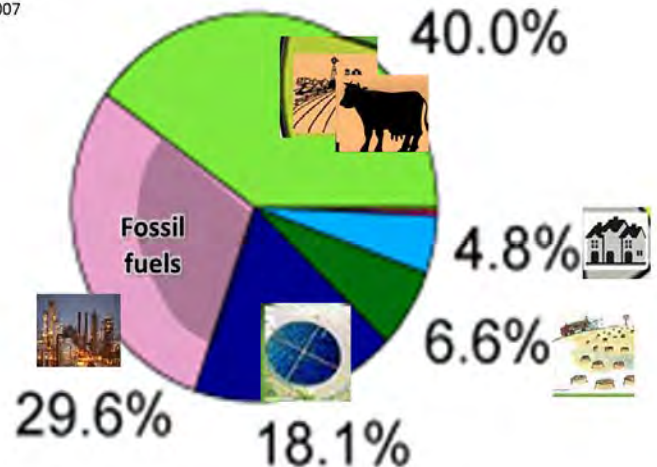
the problem...: our *placement* of it in the air and water is the problem. Carbon is supposed to be in the ground and in plants, not in the air and the oceans. Burning “ancient sunlight” (coal, oil, natural gas) is toxic to our survival. These fossil fuels are gradually giving way to conservation techniques and renewable energy (wind, solar, tidal energy, wave energy, hydro-power, and geothermal energy).

We must learn to live on *current* sunlight.



Global methane emissions 18% of total

IPCC 2007



Watch the film *Cowspiracy*

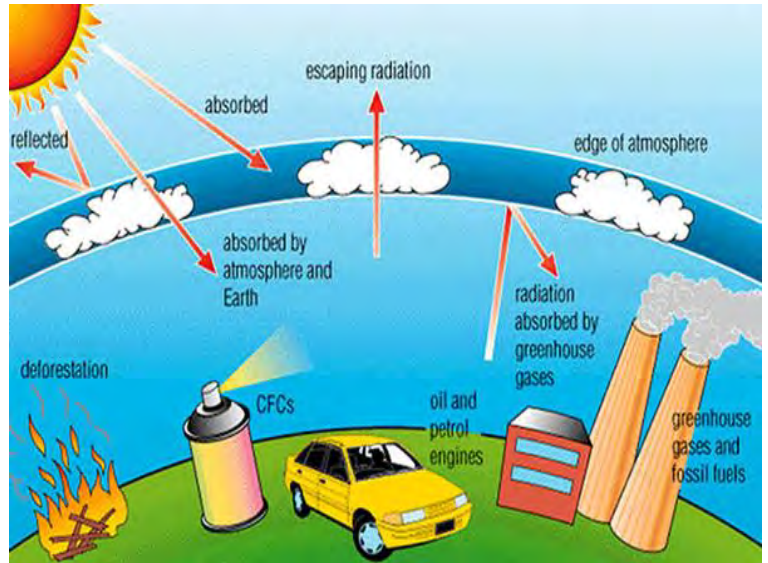
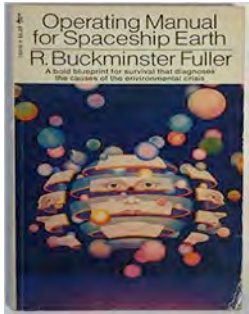


The photo is deceptive because it is mainly cow burps, not cow farts, that are emitting large amounts of methane.

Methane (CH_4) bubbles under the arctic ice shows that even these glacial lakes are warming. Methane released by plant matter at the bottom that is no longer frozen accelerates global climate change.

Anthropomorphic Greenhouse Effect

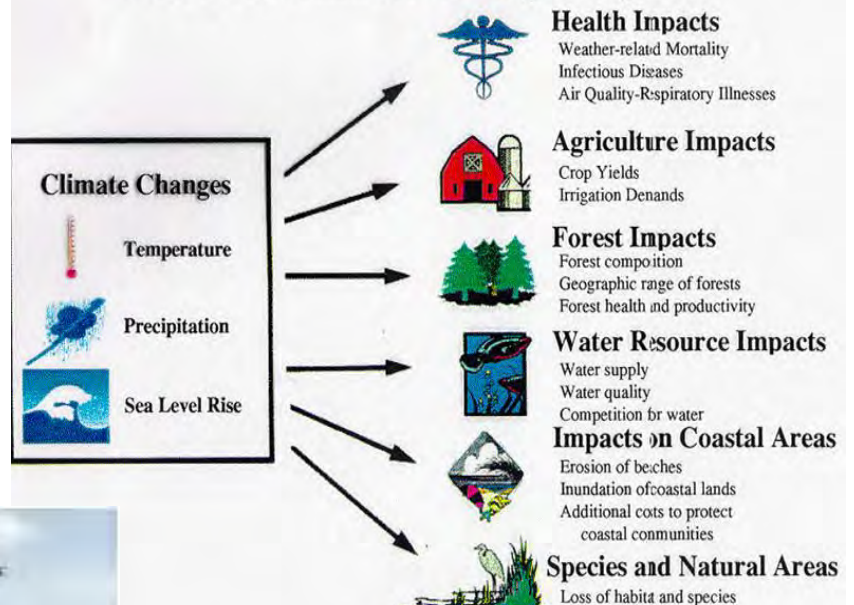
In his 1969 book, *Operating Manual for Spaceship Earth*, Buckminster Fuller reminded us that we live on a closed, finite planet with physical limits. The skin of an apple is thicker in relation to the apple than our entire atmosphere is in relation to the Earth.



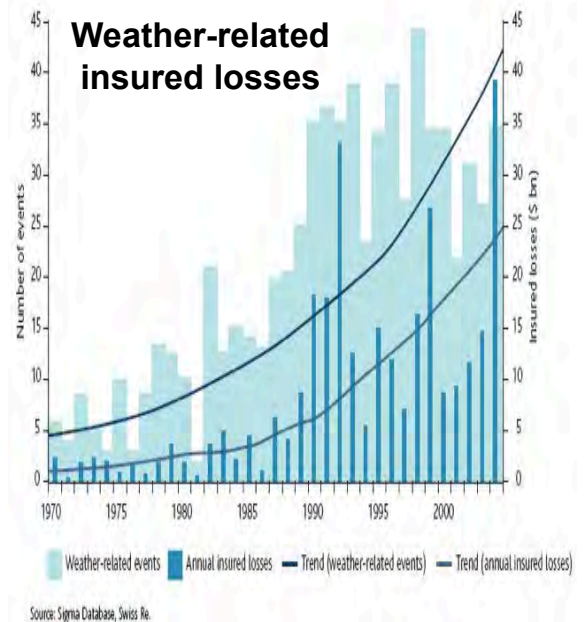
Climate chaos will eclipse other issues



Potential Climate Change Impacts



The fossil fuel industry is poisoning our environment in new ways.

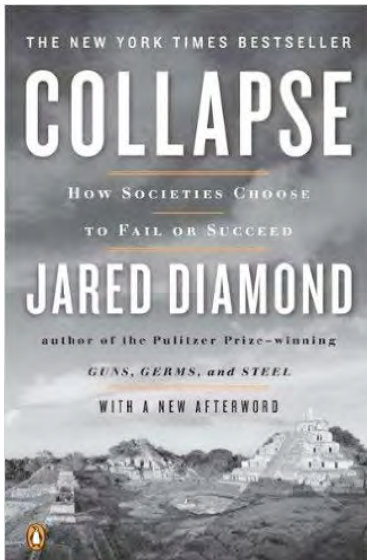




"Today the world faces a task that is exponentially more difficult than the abolition of slavery: the prevention of irreversible losses of planetary capacity to support life."

Paul Hawken, *Blessed Unrest*

Professor Jared Diamond's powerful book, *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed*, documents how human civilizations throughout history have ignored environmental feedback (Mother Nature's dope slaps) and have spiraled into oblivion.



"Everybody has a plan, until they get punched in the face."

Mike Tyson



Major Reductions Required

To achieve the needed worldwide carbon reductions, industrialized countries must reduce CO₂ emissions by 60% to 80% below today's amounts by 2050. This will produce growth in green economy sectors such as renewable energy, conservation technology, green building, biofuels, bio-plastics, and electric vehicles (California has 40% of US electric cars).

The U.S. Military Understands Climate Change Threats

Pentagon studies identify at least seven major threats.

1. More severe weather will require more disaster relief efforts.
2. Prolonged droughts will hurt base operations, decreasing readiness of our troops.
3. Scarce resources will threaten weak governments, strengthening extremist groups.
4. Warming temperatures will increase the range of tropical diseases, spurring global health crises.
5. Changing weather patterns will spur

migration, which increases ethnic and class conflicts.

6. Rising ocean levels will damage military installations, costing millions.

7. Melting in polar regions is opening new sea lanes, prompting international competition for Arctic resources.

These insights become crucial when you consider that the Republican Party is a vocal supporter of the military, but they deny the science of climate change. The military is going green, despite the naysayers in Congress.

U.S. Military Going Green

The US Army's *Sustainability Report* shows that 72% of the buildings they built recently were *LEED*-certified green buildings. (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design--US Green Building Council). Base commanders are going for renewable energy to make their bases independent from the electric grid.



Solar Powered Tents

Transporting fuel to remote locations is expensive and can be dangerous. The Army is testing photovoltaic (PV) panels to charge batteries. Thus, no smelly fumes or noise from gas generators.



Portable renewable energy stations

Skybuilt Power is contracted by the US Army to supply power stations combining solar, wind, biofuels, and biomass. Large bank of batteries store the energy and power field devices.

ZeroBase

This Detroit company has 100 renewable energy systems for the U.S. military.



Big Advances in Biofuels

The US Navy flew an F-18 Hornet on 50% **biofuel** from camelina—it's a weed! There was no difference in performance of the jet engines



Fuel Cells for Recharging Batteries

Troops carry lots of battery devices (night vision goggles, radios, etc.) that take different kinds of batteries and can weigh up to 40 pounds. Fuel cells can recharge those batteries, and the fuel cells can be charged by solar panels on tents.



Trash Into Electricity

Purdue University developed a machine for the Army that converts trash into power. This has huge implications because the Army's policy in Iraq and Afghanistan was to *burn ALL trash in open burn pits*, which caused serious health and pollution problems for local people and U.S. troops.

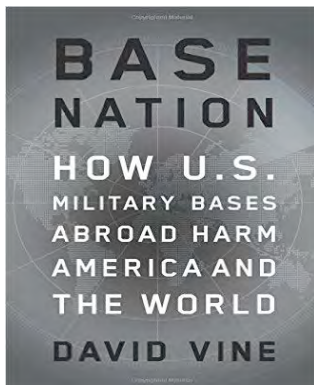
"Champions of Change" White House Program

Robin Eckstein is a combat-disabled veteran from our war in Iraq. She was an Army truck driver and experienced the real costs of our dependence on oil. She now works with *Operation Free*, veterans educating about climate change and our need to switch to renewable energy.



The force structure and strategic doctrine of our military does not match the current threat.

The U.S. force structure was built up with a focus on fighting a Soviet tank army in central Europe. But the big threat now is a suicidal guy with a radioactive suitcase bomb, and he *wants to die*, so there is no deterrent. So it is more a battle of **hearts and minds**, not tanks and missiles.

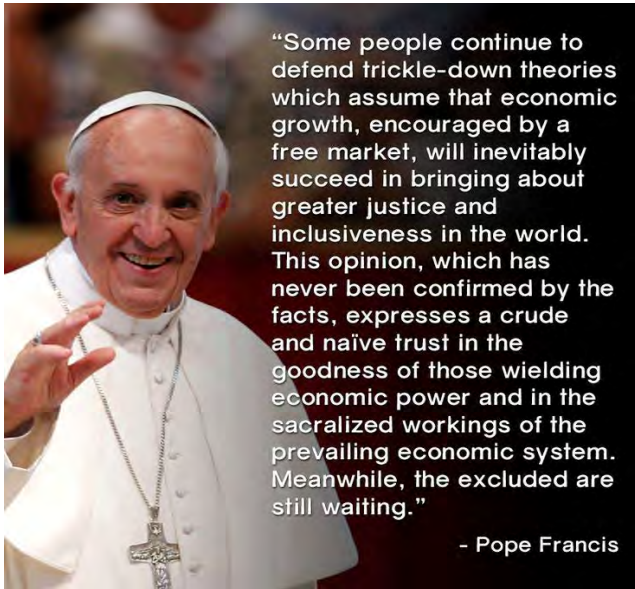


Can We Convert Military Bases?

We have roughly 800 bases outside the United States. For national security reasons, environmental reasons, and economic reasons, we could transform U.S. military bases into Eco-Development Centers promoting renewable energy, green building, organic agriculture, recycling and composting, "upcycling," biofuels, etc.

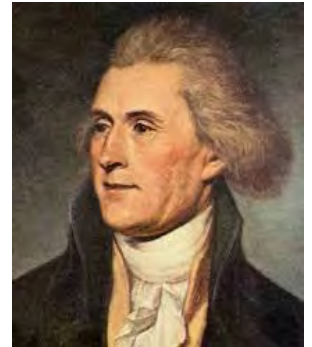
Corporate Takeover in the U.S.

Major sectors of the U.S. economy (food and farming, health care, pharmaceuticals, oil and gas, the “public” airwaves) are now dominated by just a few (sometimes foreign) corporations, and they are constantly trying to buy our politicians to do the bidding of narrow special interests.



“I hope we shall crush in its birth the aristocracy of our monied corporations which dare already to challenge our government to a trial by strength, and bid defiance to the laws of our country.”

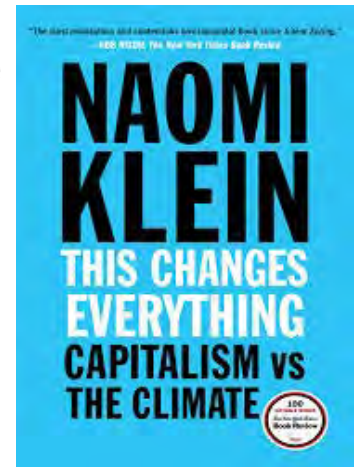
Thomas Jefferson,
3rd President of the
United States



System change, not climate change

In her exhaustive study of the political economy of environmental collapse, Naomi Klein argues that the climate crisis *cannot* be solved under corporate capitalism. The ideology “free market fundamentalism” negates the massive government action that is necessary.

Extractive-ism is
a resource-depleting model

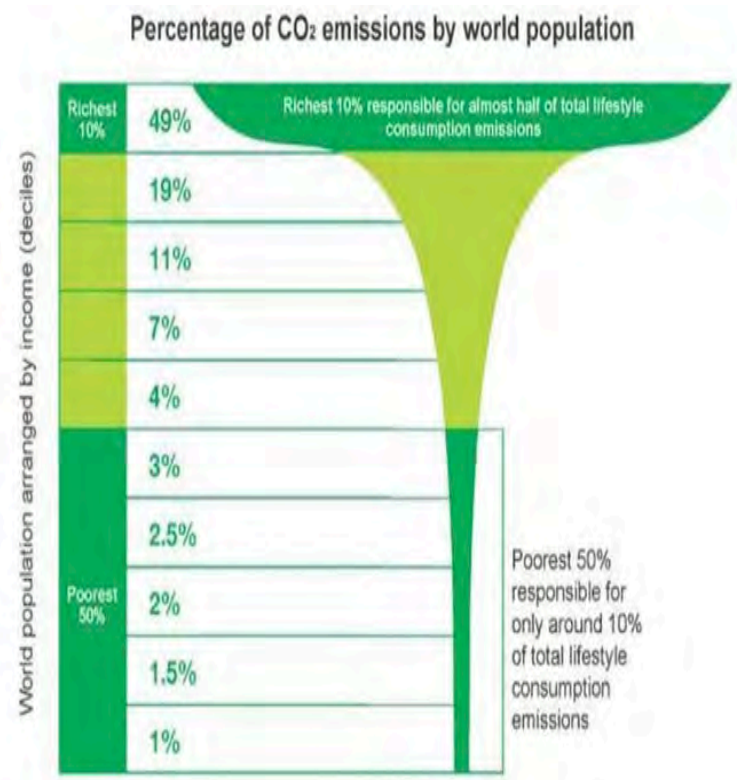


Key Messages for Every Human

1. Climate scientists agree that climate chaos is happening and we are a major cause.
2. We are pushing our climate system toward abrupt and irreversible changes with highly damaging impacts.
3. The sooner we act, *the lower the risk and cost.* And there is much we can do.

Environment and Inequality Are Linked

Because they consume far less than the rich, the poorest 50 percent of the world's people are responsible for just 10 percent of the polluting emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂). The richest ten percent of the world's people are responsible for 49 percent of climate changing emissions.



Political Impact of Climate Chaos

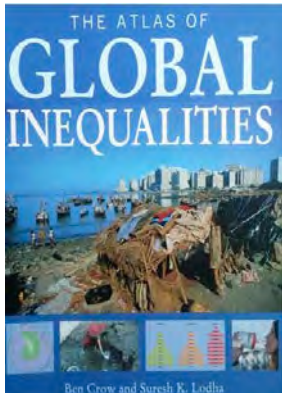
Climate chaos has been acknowledged by cities, with 76% of the 207 cities surveyed admitting climate change could affect the local economy. In light of this risk, climate adaptation plans are now key policy documents for 102 cities, and 757 adaptation activities have been introduced worldwide. But poor cities, especially those on coasts, will have a much more difficult time adapting than rich cities.



"Recognizing that sustainable development, democracy and peace are indivisible is an idea whose time has come."

Wangari Maathai
Winner of the Nobel Peace Prize

Global Crisis—Rising Inequality

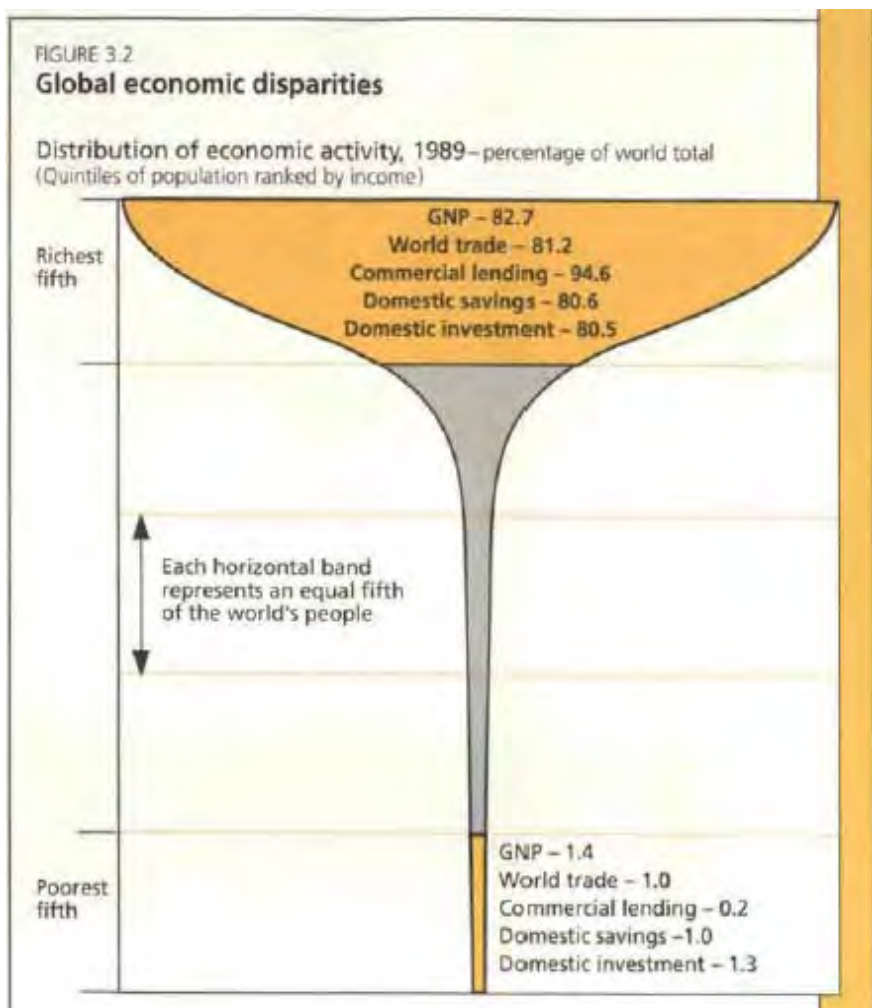


Christine Lagarde, head of the International Monetary Fund, notes that *the 85 richest people in the world control as much wealth as the poorest HALF of the global population (3.5 billion)*. “With facts like these, it is no wonder that rising inequality has risen to the top of the agenda—not only among groups normally focused on social justice, but also increasingly among politicians, central bankers and business leaders.”

That's 85 vs. 3,500,000,000!

She continues: “The problem is that opportunities are not equal. Money will always buy better-quality education and health care, for example. But due to current levels of inequality, too many people in too many countries have only the most basic access to these services, if at all. The evidence also shows that social mobility is more stunted in less equal societies.”

IMF research found that more unequal countries tend to have lower and less durable economic growth.



If it were “our” children who were living in garbage dumps, scrounging for (dangerous) “food” and other supplies from the trash, and breathing the toxic smoke from the regular fires, would we do something to stop it? Well, aren’t these OUR children, in the best spiritual sense?



Racial Inequality: A Human Invention

“Race” is a concept, invented by humans to help navigate the world and justify inequality. Most of the people that dominated the world over the past 500 years have light colored skin (Europeans), compared to the peoples who were dominated by imperialism and who tend to have darker skin.



Racism is not just about skin color, it is about one group of people having the power to dominate another group. One of these men is from England and the other is from Ireland. Both are “white” right? Yet people from England ruled brutally over the people of Ireland militarily, culturally, and economically for 800 years. So many Irish died and emigrated that Ireland today has half the population it had 200 years ago.



*“All the races are
God’s bouquet.”*

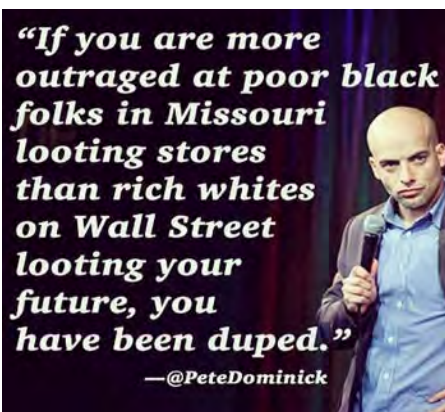
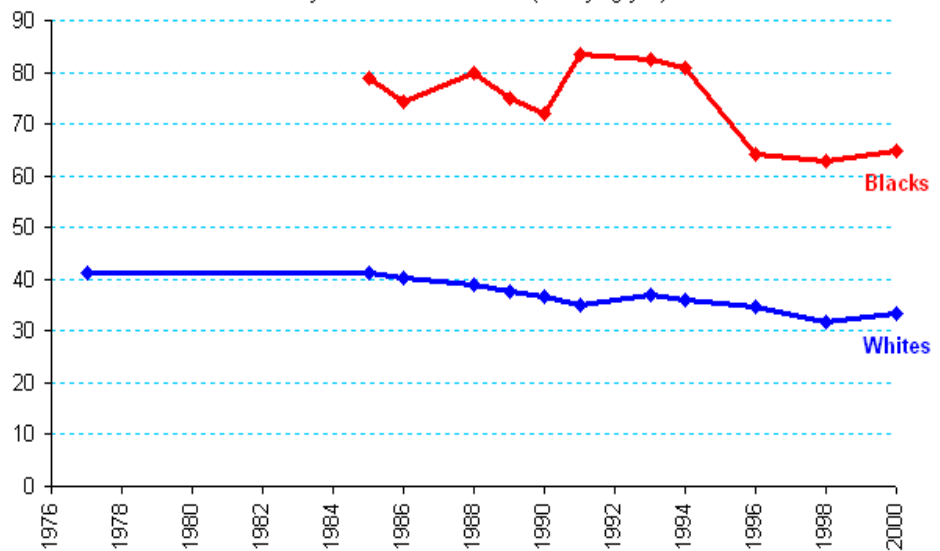
Little Richard Penniman

**Strong relationship
between inequality
and imprisonment
rates in US states**

Louisiana imprisons people at more than 6 times the rate in Minnesota, and Louisiana ranks at the highest levels of inequality and Minnesota ranks at the lower end of inequality.

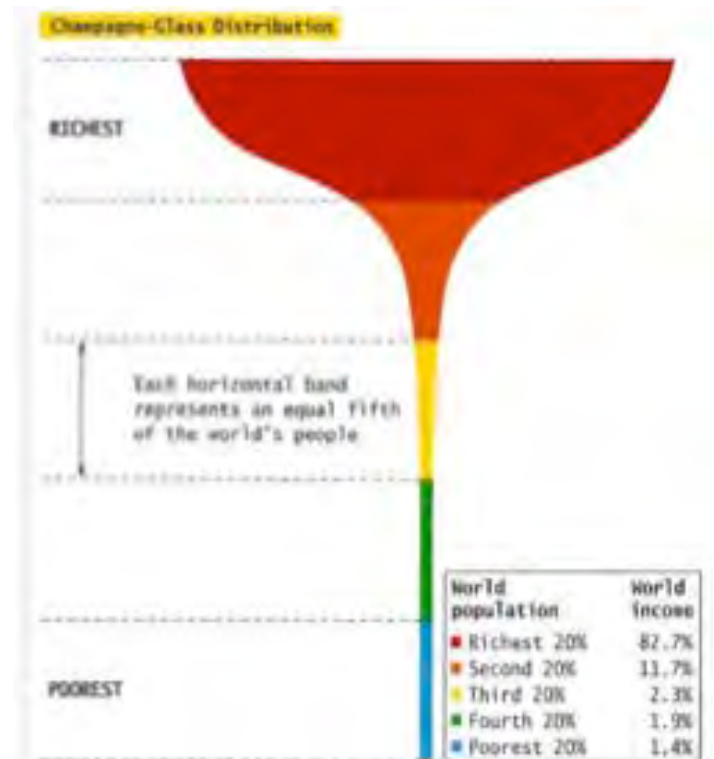
Black and White Views of the Causes of Racial Inequality:

On the average (Negroes/Blacks) have worse jobs, income, and housing than white people. Do you think these differences are: A. Mainly due to discrimination? (% saying yes)

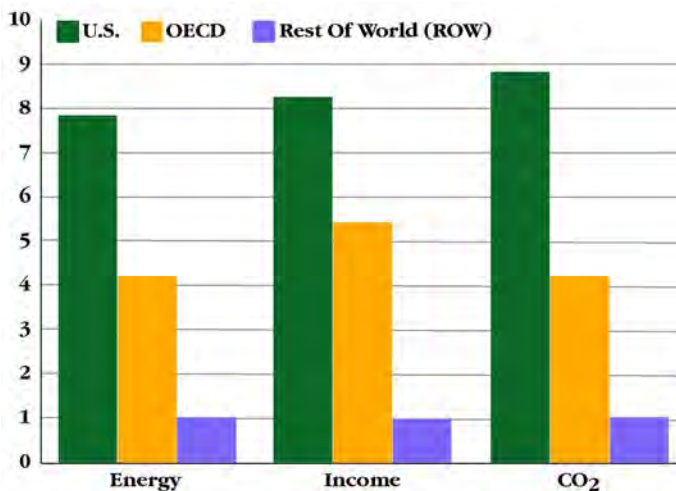


Different measures of global inequality show the same disparities

Global income is highly skewed: the richest 20% of the world's people get more than 80% of world income, while the poorest 60% of people get less than 6% of world income.



Unequal Energy, Income, Pollution: A Basis for Resource Wars?

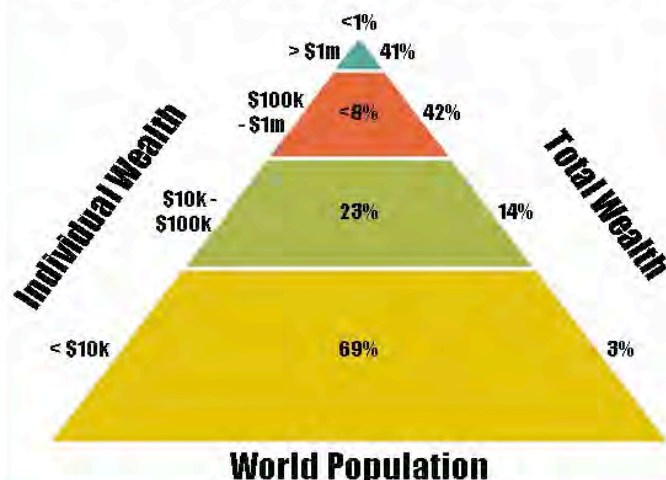


The USA and the 20 other richest countries (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development—OECD) are just 15% of the world's people but they burn half the world's energy, pollute half the world's climate change gases, and they enjoy half the world's wealth.

Global Inequalities



GLOBAL WEALTH



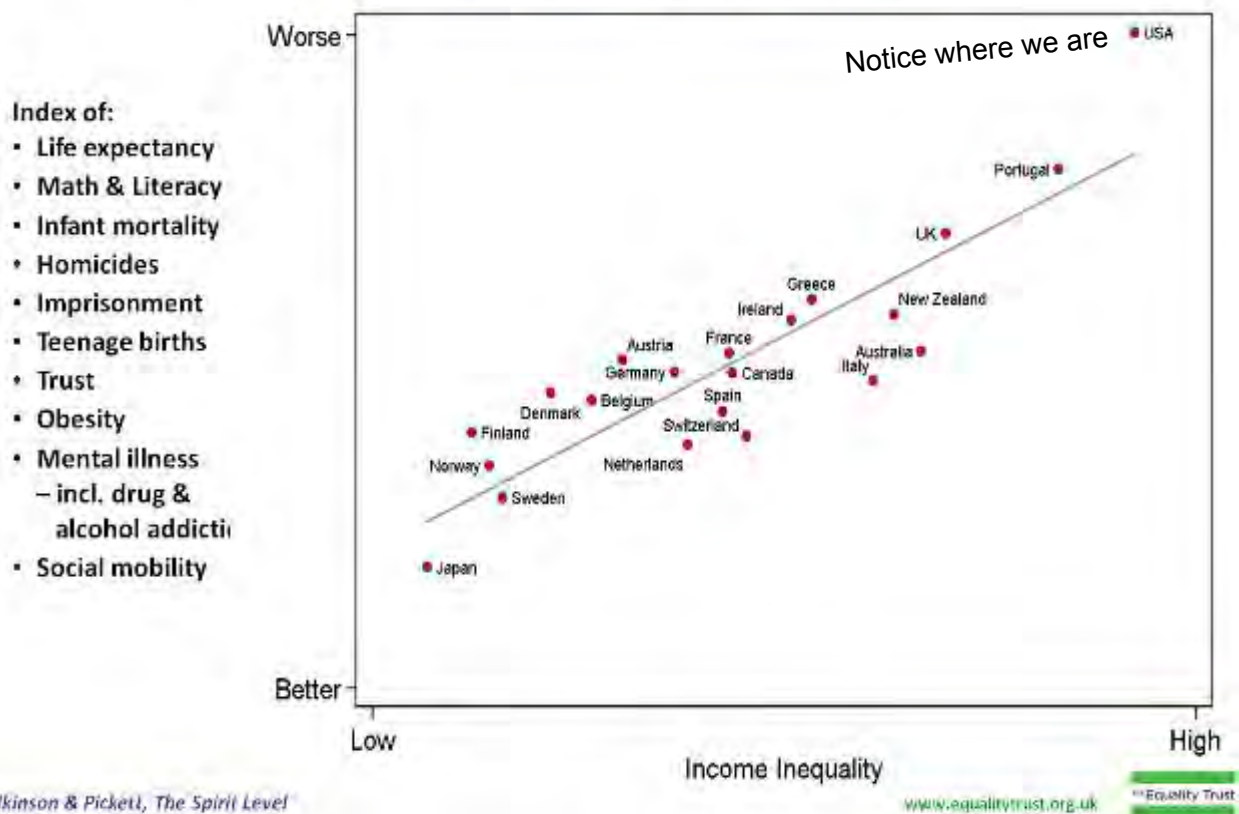
Global Rule-Making by 1%?

Politicians depend on corporations and wealthy individuals for campaign funding, so corporate interests dominate the political process. Eighty-five percent of funding for U.S. congressional campaigns comes from large donors, giving them enormous influence.



Solutions will *NOT* come from people in limousines with security guards.

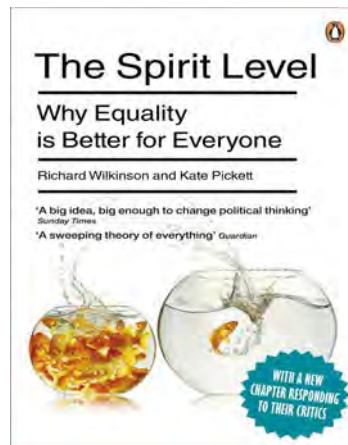
Health and social problems are worse in more unequal countries



Countries with greater inequality have:

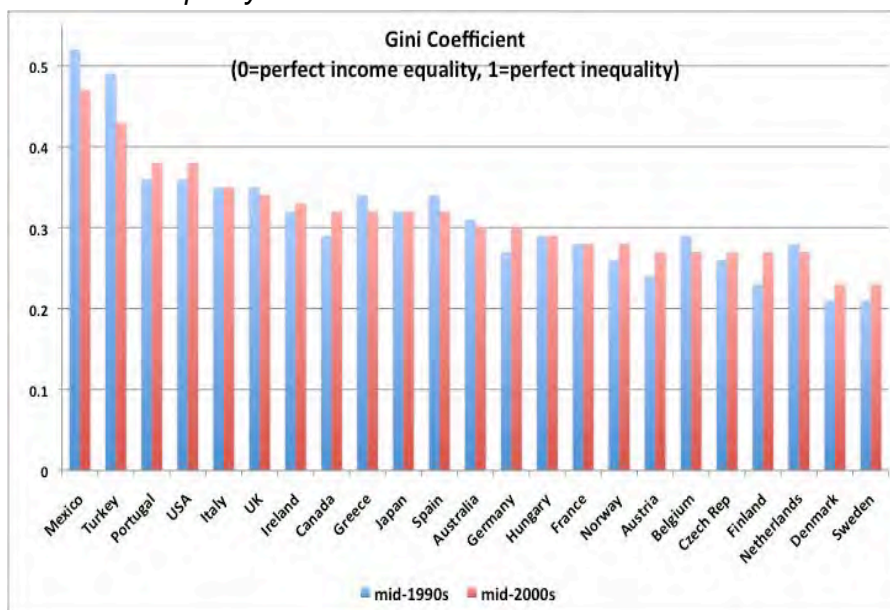
- More mental health challenges;
- More homelessness;
- More crime and more prisons;
- Less democratic political participation;
- and general quality of social relationships is worse in more unequal societies.

Data is our friend:
Comparative data
from dozens of
countries shows the
many negative
effects of inequality.



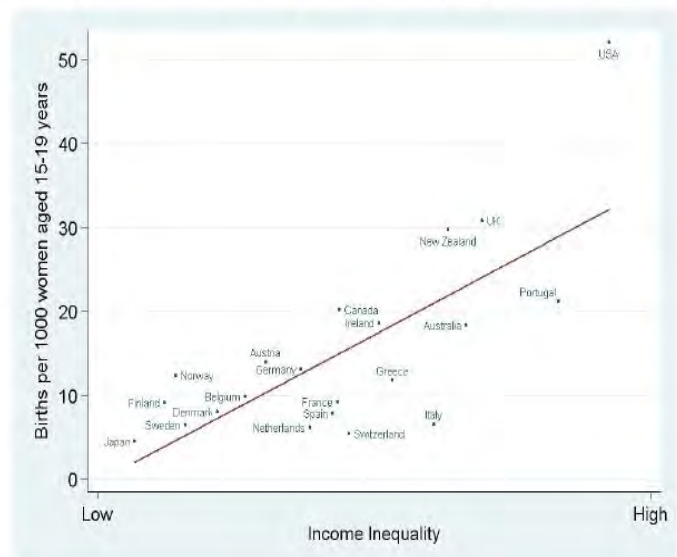
In their path-breaking book, *The Spirit Level: Why Equality is Better for Everyone*, authors Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett amass data from many countries, showing how inequality undermines the quality of life. They raise the crucial question: “How is it that we have created so much mental and emotional suffering despite levels of wealth and comfort unprecedented in human history?”

Gini coefficient is a globally accepted measure of inequality. Zero is perfect equality; one is perfect inequality. Note that we are near the bad end!



*People with the least climate impact,
suffer the worst consequences of
climate change.*

Teenage Birth Rates are Higher in More Unequal Rich Countries



Source: Wilkinson & Pickett, *The Spirit Level* (2009)

www.equalitytrust.org.uk Equality Trust

Infant Mortality Rates are Higher in More Unequal Countries



Inequality is getting worse
in the USA too.

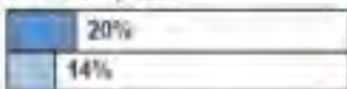
Inequality still present in America

Black Americans' overall well-being is nearly three-fourths that of whites, according to a study by the National Urban League.

Some of the findings

Black White

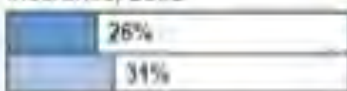
People without health insurance, 2002



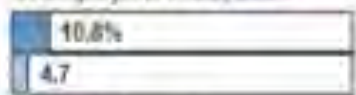
Median net worth, 2000



People in poverty without health insurance, 2002



Unemployment rate, 2004*



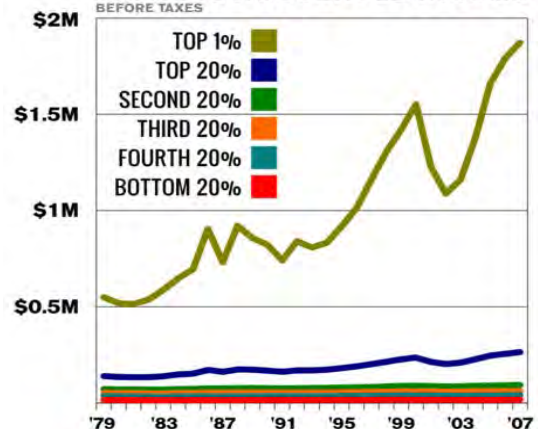
* January to November

SOURCES: Bureau of Labor; National Urban League; Census Bureau



TO FIX EDUCATION, FIX INEQUALITY

AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD INCOME



SOURCE: Congressional Budget Office. Figures in 2007 dollars.

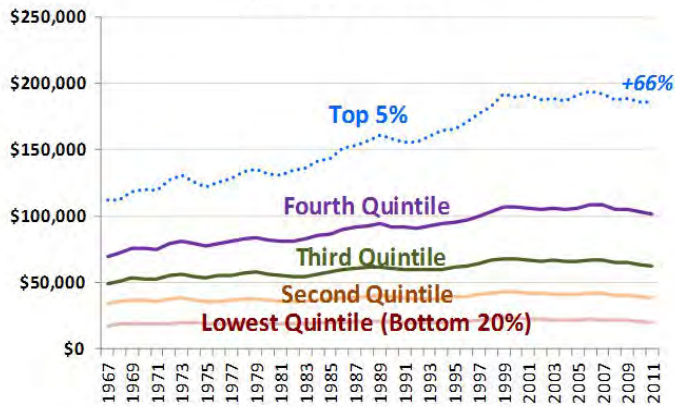
Occupy Posters newsposters.tumblr.com



If the picture on the left
shocks you more than the one on the right,
you need to revise your views on immorality.

Historical US Income Inequality

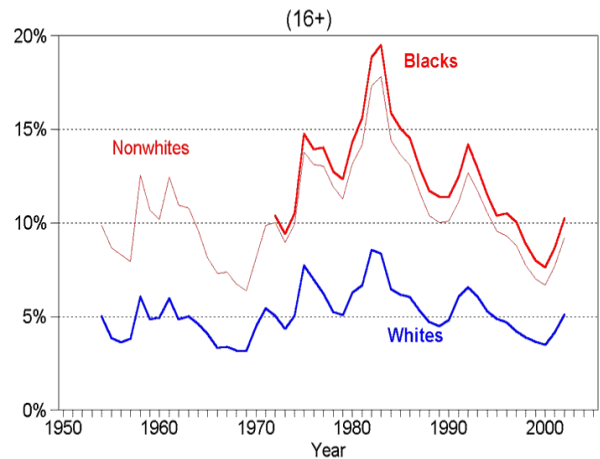
Source: US Census Bureau, Income Limits for Each Fifth and Top 5 Percent of Households (2011 Dollars)



Wealth is shifting upward in the class structure and toward the F.I.R.E sectors (finance, insurance, real estate), which don't produce much of anything new and tangible. These sectors are speculative and the "casino economy" they represent is gaining more power than the real economy: Wall Street overpowers Main Street.

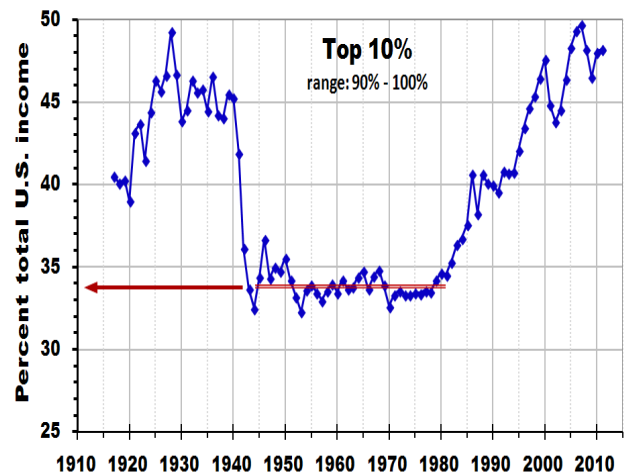


Unemployment rates by race



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, <http://www.bls.gov/data/>

Share of Total U.S. Income (top earners)



Data: Saez, Piketty: <http://elsa.berkeley.edu/~saez/>

LastTechAge.wordpress.com

Income Concentration at the Top Has Risen Sharply Since the 1970s

Share of total before-tax income flowing to the highest income families (including capital gains), 1913-2012



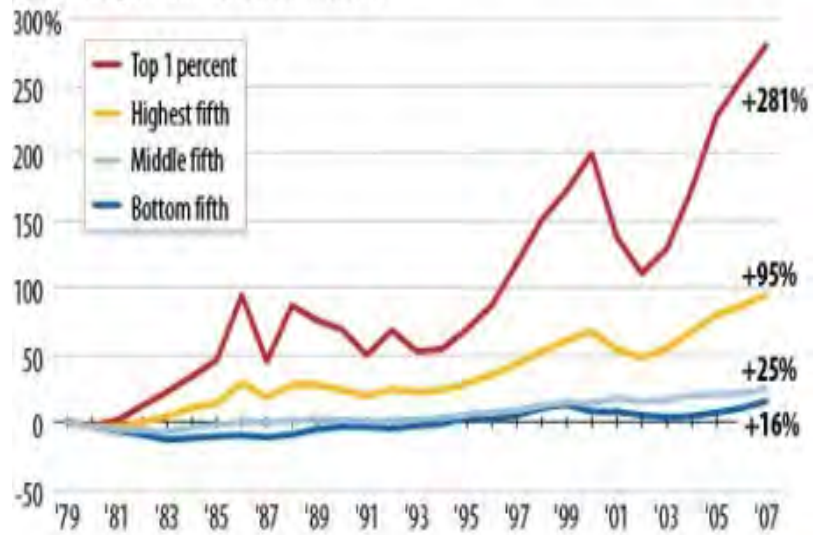
Source: 'Economic' News, based on IRS data





Income Gains at the Top Dwarf Those of Low- and Middle-Income Households

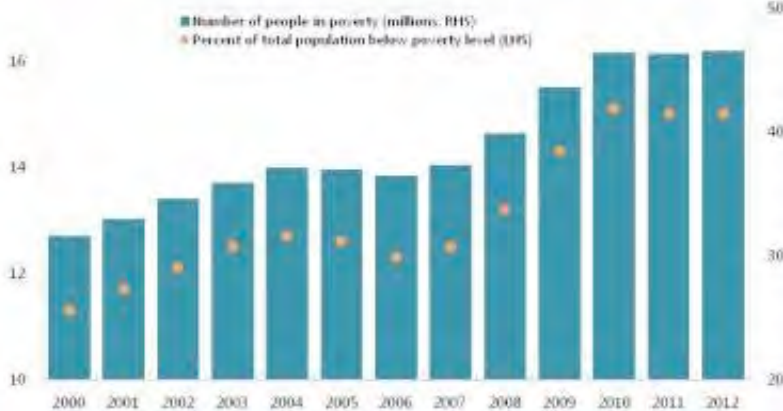
Percent Change in After-Tax Income Since 1979



Source: CBPP calculations from Congressional Budget Office data.

clipping.org

Chart 1. Poverty on the Rise

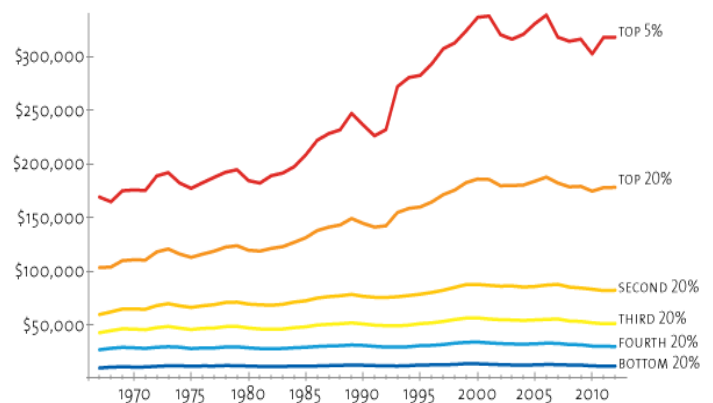


Source: U.S. Census Bureau.



Average Household Income, 1967-2012

in 2012 dollars, by percentile



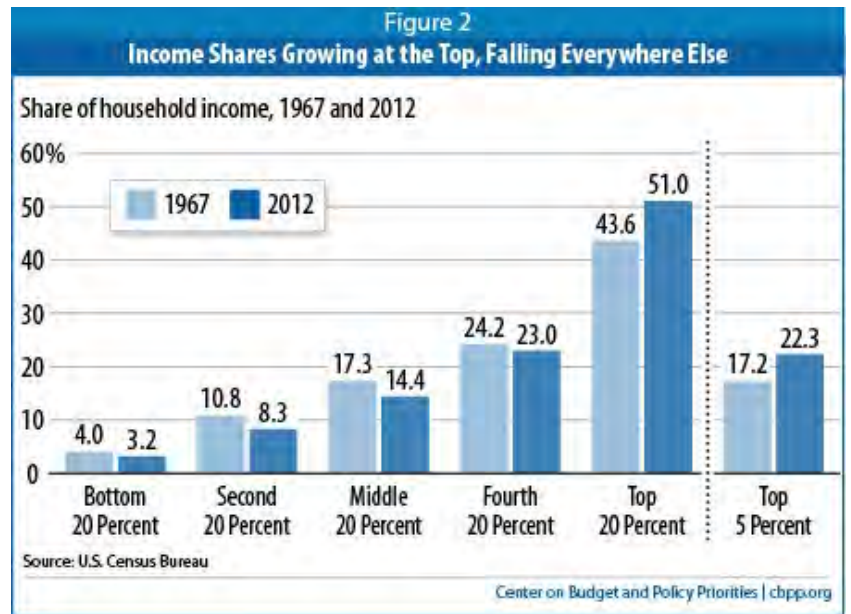
SOURCE: CENSUS BUREAU

Mother Jones

EXTREME POVERTY IN THE UNITED STATES



THIS IS WHAT INVISIBILITY LOOKS LIKE

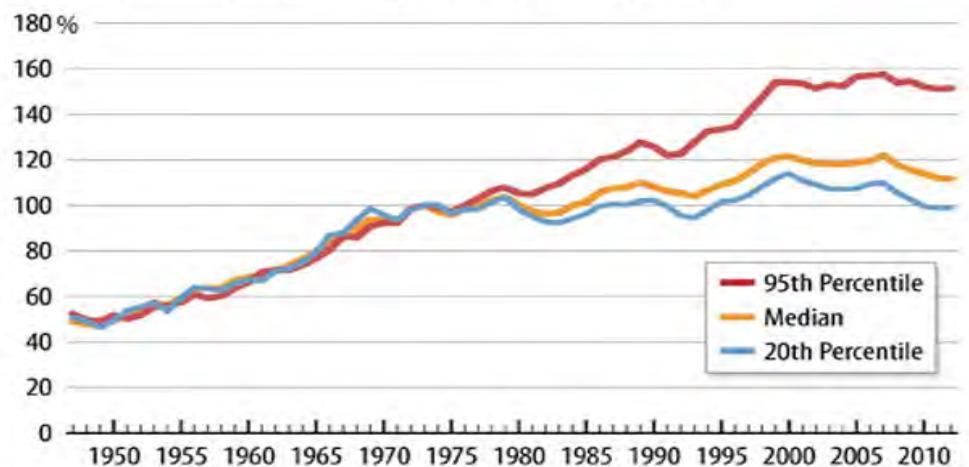


Corporations Not Paying Their Fair Share



Income Gains Widely Shared in Early Postwar Decades – But Not Since Then

Real family income between 1947 and 2012, as a percent of 1973 level



Source: CBPP calculations from U.S. Census Bureau data

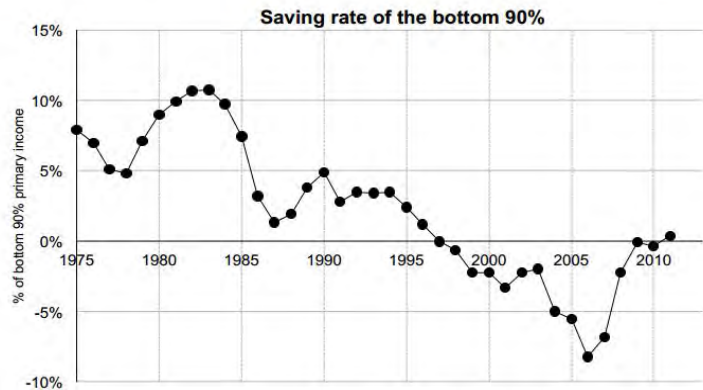
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities | cbpp.org



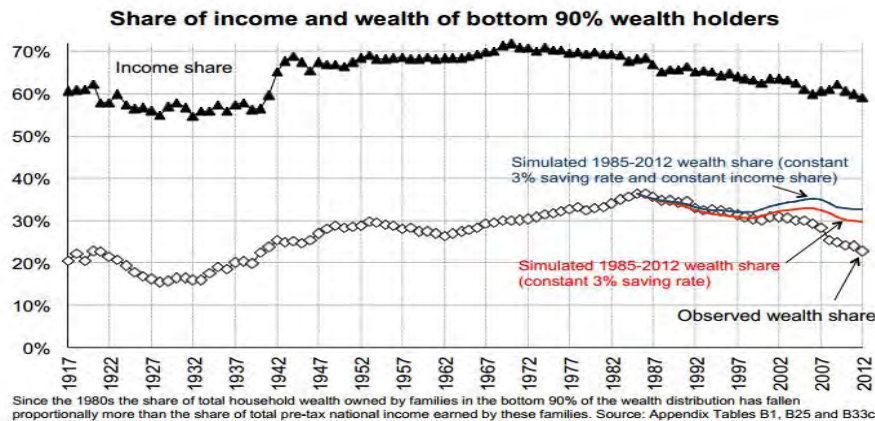
Individually and as a nation, we are going deeper in debt.



The bottom 90% massively dis-saved in the decade preceding the crisis



Bottom 90% wealth share decline due to (a) savings collapse, (b) income share fall

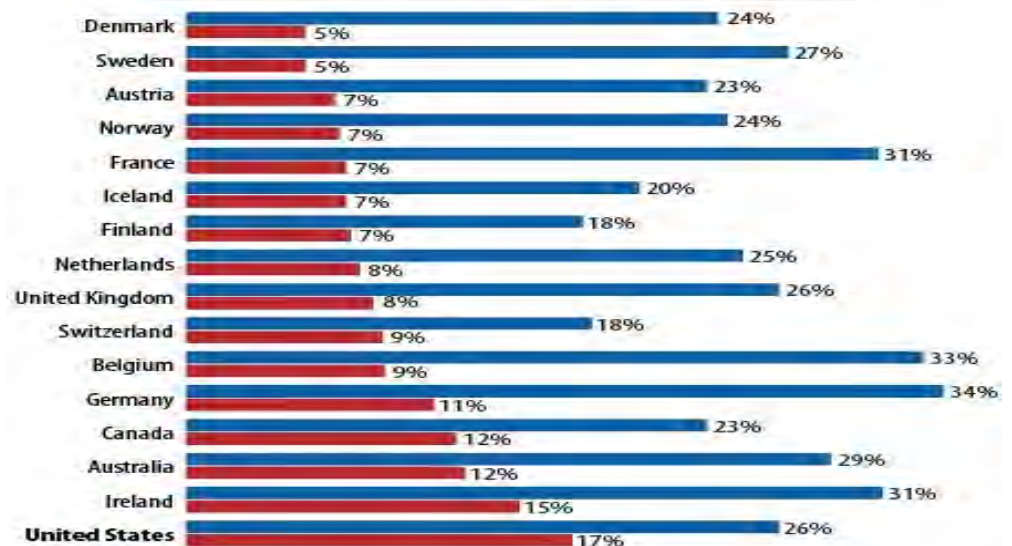


Jesus?

U.S. Poverty Rate Is High After Taxes and Transfers Compared to Similarly Wealthy Countries*

Poverty rate according to common international standard, 2005

Before Taxes and Transfers After Taxes and Transfers



*Note: The poverty threshold is defined as 50% of national median income, a widely accepted international standard. The comparison includes countries for which comparable data are available with median equivalized individual disposable incomes within 25% of US median income (\$26,990) in 2005 US dollars converted by purchasing-power parity. The lowest and highest were France (\$20,660) and the Netherlands (\$28,032).

Source: OECD, Growing Unequal? Income Distribution and Poverty in OECD Countries, 2008.

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities | cbpp.org



The documentary, *The Corporation*, analyses corporate behavior as a psychologist would analyze a person with a mental disorder, and finds similarities to the sociopath: a person who does not care about his negative impacts on those around him.

poverty in America

The Census Bureau uses a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who is in poverty. If a family's total income is less than the family's threshold, then that family and every individual in it is considered in poverty.

The poverty rate for children is higher than for any other age group. 19% of all children in this country are living in poverty.

Over 35 million Americans experience food insecurity each year, which means they do not have enough food due to lack of financial resources.

In 2007, the poverty rate was 24.5% for blacks, 21.5% for Hispanics, 10.2% for Asians, and 8.2% for whites.

facts

SOURCE: soundoffforpoverty.org

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN POVERTY BY STATE 2007 - 2008 AVERAGE

CA	4,966,000
TX	3,869,000
NY	2,746,000
FL	2,310,000
OH	1,502,000
IL	1,413,000
GA	1,386,000
NC	1,354,000
PA	1,304,000
MI	1,174,000

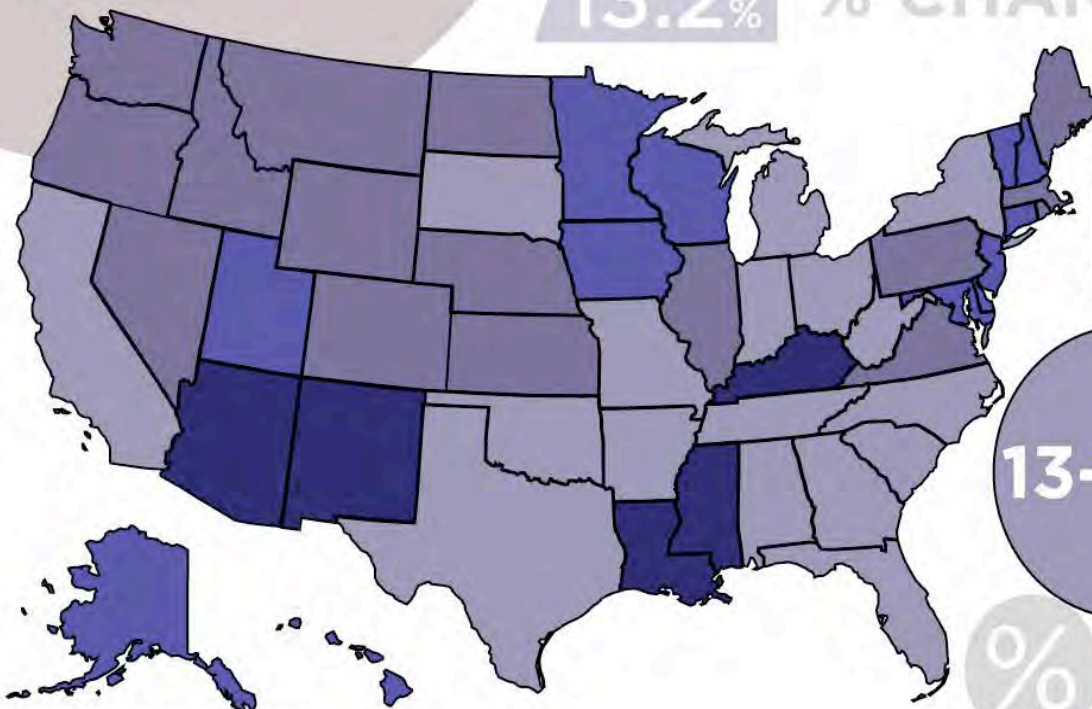
2008
Total %
of poverty
in America

13.2%

AZ: 1.8
IN: 1.8
GA: 1.5
SC: 1.4
ID: 1.3
SD: 1.2
WA: 1.2
NM: 1.2
CA: 1.2
RI: 1.1

AK: -0.04
OK: -0.08
D.C.: -0.09
TX: -0.3
WV: -0.4
OR: -0.6
IA: -0.04
UT: -0.8
AR: -1.2
MS: -1.3

% CHANGE OF POVERTY RATES 06-08



BREAKDOWN
percentage of people
living at or below the
poverty line in each
State.

13-15.9

7-9.9

10-12.9

16+

SOURCE: US Census Bureau

Solutionaries to the Rescue

The world is now poised at a great crossroads. Two very different paradigms vie for authority regarding how we should manage this planet.

One path is the dominant paradigm of ‘globalization from above’ with our direction determined by the unelected elites who run the transnational corporations and quasi-governmental bodies such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Trade Organization. Their logic is simple, for it is the logic of capital: grow, grow, grow, even if it is at the expense of nature and working people. It is a value system that looks at a 1,000-year-old redwood tree and sees \$250,000 worth of lumber, instead of a gift of creation that should be preserved for future generations to enjoy.

The top-down, undemocratic brand of globalization is easy to judge because it has a long track record. The past 70 years since the end of World War II have seen transnational corporations and their servant institutions grow ever more powerful, setting the rules of the global economy and controlling the flow of a greater and greater portion of the world’s wealth.

And what have we seen? There is growing inequality: the richest 20% of the world’s people account for 86% of consumption spending, while the poorest 80% get just 14% of consumption spending. There are more alarming levels of environmental destruction every year. And the quality of our communities and our spiritual life are increasingly sacrificed to the gods of money and commodity consumption.

The second paradigm, ‘globalization from below,’ is a grassroots perspective that puts the needs of common people and Mother Nature ahead of those of the money changers. Bottom-up, people’s globalization emphasizes life values, not money values, as the best guiding principles

for the global family. This ‘democracy-without-borders’ worldview is outraged by the fact that we could easily feed the 30,000 children per day who currently die from hunger-related diseases, and yet our ‘leaders’ ask us to trust “market forces” that are incapable of responding to the poor because the poor do not have the cash that markets respond to.

There is a way to settle this dilemma. Let’s put it to a global vote! Let’s plan for the year 2020 to be a year of polling the people of the entire planet, asking them which set of values and policies we should follow. We could ask

global questions such as: Should we continue destroying the environment or should we preserve nature for future generations to enjoy? Should our species continue spending trillions of dollars per year on weapons of war, or should we shift that money into education and health programs? Should women have equal status with men?



Is it right that an average of 30,000 children die every day from hunger-related diseases while the world produces huge surpluses of food?

Who would publicly oppose a global democratic discussion of these and other crucial issues confronting our species? The world now possesses the technical capacity to organize a global vote that would offer the citizens of the planet clear choices as to which system—life values or money values—they favor.

The Social Immune System

Just as the human body has an immune system that can recognize threats and mobilize to counteract the danger, the human species has a social immune system of people who feel so much compassion for other forms of life that they must take action to make things better. This social immune system comprises the peace movement, the climate change movement, the women’s movement, the family farm movement,

the environmental justice movement, and thousands of grassroots organizations seeking justice and environmental sanity. Let's call it the **SOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT**.

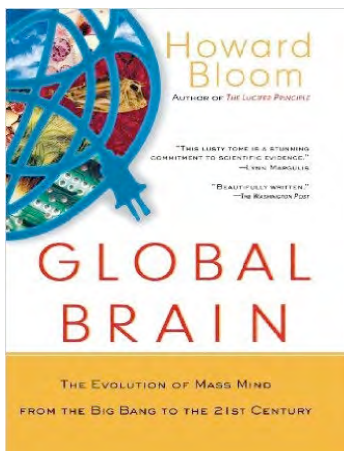
The First Global Revolution

Every revolution until now has been a *national* revolution, with the revolutionaries seeking to run that country differently. Now we are in the early stages of the first *global* revolution. It is a revolution in values, seeking to switch from money values ruling over the life cycle (people and nature), to a system where life values rule over the money cycle. Instead of subordinating society and nature to the economy, we are learning to subordinate the economy to people and nature.

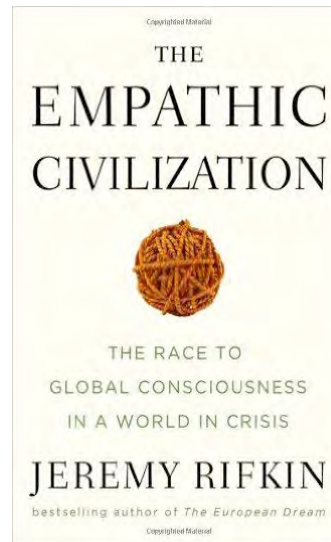
Grassroots internationalism has been spreading rapidly as more and more people understand that we have a responsibility to those who are suffering. Global solidarity takes many forms: sister cities, sister schools, campaigns against corporate abuses, efforts to demilitarize the planet, and environmental activism. The Internet is helping us develop what some people are calling *global brain*: a heightened level of global human connection and joint action never before seen in human history.

Biosphere Consciousness

One of the most important developments in recent decades is the steady evolution of "biosphere consciousness": being able to feel deeply the damage we are doing to our planet's



In his book, *Global Brain: The Evolution of Mass Mind from the Big Bang to the 21st Century*, Howard Bloom traces the development of global consciousness.



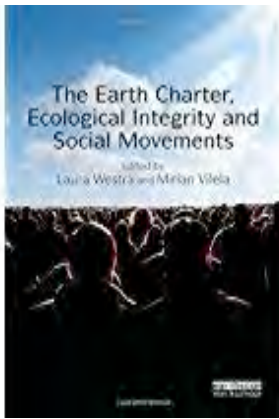
Rifkin predicts:
 "...the realization will set in that we share a common planet, that we are all affected, and that our neighbors' suffering is not unlike our own. ... Only by concerted action that establishes a collective sense of affiliation with the entire biosphere will we have a chance to ensure our future. This will require biosphere consciousness."

ability to support life as we know it, and understanding that we need to change our behavior or Mother Nature will give us dope slaps that could be lethal (witness the way Hurricane Matthew in October 2016 hammered the Caribbean islands and the southeast coast of the USA).

Humans are learning how to extend their sense of empathy and compassion to all living things, not just the few people they consider "family." As our sense of family grows to include all living things, we recover some of the spiritual wisdom that was possessed by most of the indigenous people whose cultures were destroyed by the colonial conquest. Native peoples saw God in everything, and this caused them to treat their natural surroundings with respect and reverence. This kept them from trashing the environment the way industrial capitalism has done. Author Jeremy Rifkin raises the key question: "Can we reach biosphere consciousness and global empathy in time to avert planetary collapse?" Answering this questions gives each of us a guide for how we plan the rest of our lives.

"The love of money is the root of all evil."
 (The Bible, New Testament, 1 Timothy 6:10)

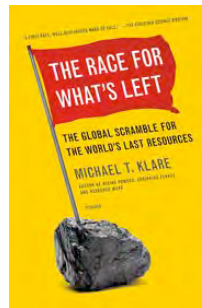




The Earth Charter was created by the independent Earth Charter Commission, to produce a *global* consensus statement of values and principles for a sustainable future. Over five thousand people contributed. The Charter has been endorsed by thousands of organizations. www.EarthCharter.org.

Which Future: Fighting or Adapting?

In his book, *The Race for What's Left: The Global Scramble for the World's Last Resources*, professor Michael Klare contrasts a positive “race to adapt” to the danger of people going to war over diminishing natural resources. “*The race to adapt will reward the governments, companies, and communities that take the lead in developing efficient, environmentally friendly industrial processes and transportation systems, and it will punish those that persist in clinging to existing habits. Ultimately, power and wealth will come not from control over dwindling resource supplies, but from mastery of the new technologies.*”



To pass on to our grandchildren healthy, thriving communities, instead of a desperate world, we need to accelerate the transition to the green economy: one that works for people and planet, social and economic justice, community and environmental health. So here are some ideas for future action to speed up the paradigm shift that can save humanity from itself.

First, we need to change the story. The green economy story is changing global culture from one of protest—a narrative about “them,” the people in power—to a narrative about us. How do we recruit more people to the triple-bottom-line economic model (integrating social and economic justice, environmental restoration, financial sustainability) that is steadily replacing the outdated profit-maximizing economic model?

Our analogy is the Titanic. The corporate economic model that exploits nature and creates greater inequality has hit the iceberg of unsustainability and it is sinking. So, we have two types of political activity to choose from. We can either run around the decks of the Titanic screaming “I protest, this boat sucks,” or

The Global Goals (below) lay out the major challenges we face in bringing about a Happy Planet. The Happy Planet Index, <http://happyplanetindex.org/>, measures each country's performance on measures of social equality and environmental sanity.



we can get busy building a solar-powered, wind-powered boat with a party on deck, people with drinks in hand, dancing to cool music, and we pull up alongside the Titanic, and people will jump willingly to our boat.

There are two kinds of analysis: the analysis of the way things *are*, and the analysis of the way we can *make things be*. So, whenever anybody starts spouting that cynical “we can’t do it” line, we need to shift them over to the analysis of the activist.

We need to push capital into the triple-bottom-line type of investing – for people and the planet. We have to get away from the short-term perspective of the current investment system, which seeks to maximize profits on a quarterly, even daily and sometimes minute-by-minute basis. We have to move from this “short-termism,” which is at the root of the problem with our current economic system, to one that takes the long-term view. The long view would be about not just sustainability but about environmental restoration and making sure each person on the planet, and every community, has what they need to thrive.

This way of thinking about investing is already here. There is more than \$2 trillion invested in socially screened investments. Of the different kinds of socially responsible investments (stocks, bonds, community investing) the category of community investing is the fastest growing.

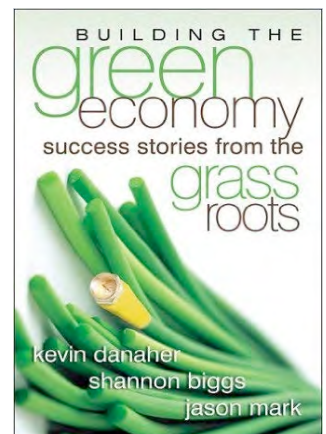
We are now seeing a growing competition between a single-bottom-line economy that is all about money, and a triple-bottom-line economy that balances social equity, environmental restoration, and financial sustainability. Our prediction is that the triple-bottom-line economy is the stronger model and will eventually prevail,

but we need to accelerate that transition.

We are in the process of redefining free enterprise from “the freedom of big corporations” to go anywhere and do anything to people and planet, to “the freedom of everyone to *be* enterprising.” The current system concentrates capital upward in the class structure; we want to push capital down and out. Jim Hightower says, “Capital is like cow manure. If you concentrate it in a big pile, it stinks. If you spread it out evenly, it makes things grow.”

The choices you make every day can accelerate the growth of the green economy. By living, buying and investing green, you are nurturing the choices that sustain us all. Two out of three Americans now use some form of holistic health care. Organic food, Fair Trade coffee, and green buildings are growing faster than their conventional counterparts.

In my book, Building the Green Economy: Success Stories from the Grassroots, we document the many ways ordinary people are laying the foundations of the next economic system: one that repairs the damage we have done to Mother Nature.



With each green step you take, you help solve our planet’s problems. When you buy Fair Trade, you ensure a fair wage for producers around the world. By choosing local, organic food, you reduce the dangerous pesticides used on conventional crops, prevent farmworkers from exposure to these toxins, and save family farms. By making your home more energy efficient, you improve the comfort of your home and save money, curb climate change, and create green jobs. And the more energy we save, and the more renewable energy we bring on line, the faster we’ll be able to shut down dirty coal plants, breathe cleaner air, and stop the economic injustice of toxic facilities in communities of color.



I put together the Green Festival Reader to highlight the many brilliant thinkers who speak at the Green Festivals, a huge green economy event I started in 2002, and we spread it to eight cities across the United States.

We need to connect the dots, building even more bridges among people who care deeply about the future. We have social justice groups, environmental groups, save-the-dolphins groups, save-the-forest groups; and we have people working on inner city poverty, homelessness, health care, spirituality, improving education and many other issues. People are starting to understand that the problems are interconnected, and so are the solutions. We are learning to accelerate our bridge building among these issues, people and groups, creating greater synergy. So we are seeing more low-income housing projects with solar energy on the roof, and organic farmers actively opposing wars for oil.

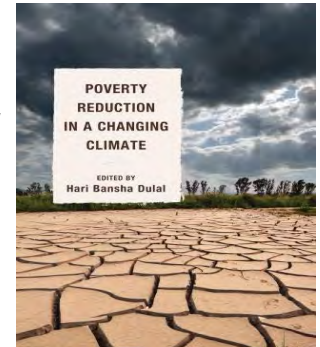
We need to network the green thinkers in the three main sectors of government, nonprofit, and private enterprise.

What we show in our book, *Building the Green Economy: Success Stories from the Grassroots* (PoliPoint Press, 2007), is that alliances of nonprofits, green companies and government agencies can, together, change our society from the bottom up. This movement is creating a different political model. The old political model —of the Republicans, Democrats, Marxist-Leninists, etc.— was to create a political party that could somehow gain state power and then change the economy from the national government level downward. The green economy movement is reversing that entire process, saying: get control of the economy at the local level and build up from there, so when you eventually get control of government at higher levels you have already changed the economy at the grassroots. Those changes are much more likely to last if they are rooted in local communities, under local control.

You can see the power of this growing everywhere. In San Francisco and other cities the movement is passing laws that say, for example, “When the city government is buying stuff, it has to be shown that the stuff was not made in a sweatshop.” People are coming together—from Cape Ann, MA, to Ashland, OR, to Chicago, IL, to Sarasota, FL—they are coming together to build resilient communities. They are

connecting the dots, helping create strong local food systems, helping everyone save energy, developing new “green collar” jobs for youth and low-wage workers, involving music, art and culture: in short, creating a world that works for all.

We are finding ways to address poverty and environmental destruction with the same policies.



The Honey Bee Economy

We need to design everything with a cradle-to-cradle perspective. Think of the honey bee. Does the honey bee hurt the flower when it makes honey or does it help the flower when it makes honey? Nature operates on a totally closed loop. In nature, there is no waste. People say, “Throw it away.” There is no away.

Bill McDonough, the famous green architect, says “take the exhaust pipe of the car, bend it back into the cab of the car, and tell the engineers to make that okay.” With that approach we’d get really different cars: ones that are clean, safe and fuel-efficient. We would give this idea a little political twist and say, “take the smoke stack of the factory, put it into the living room of the owner of the factory, and then tell the engineers to make that okay.” Factories would clean up their acts really fast.

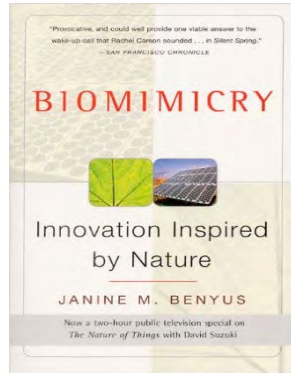
We need to spread green measurement of growth. What is the ideology of the cancer cell? Grow, grow, grow. The cells of a metastasizing tumor have no concern for their impact on neighboring cells. What is suburban sprawl? What does the traditional capitalist property developer do? They don’t care about their impact on the environment. It is grow, grow, grow: the ideology of the cancer cell.

The world has two systems in conflict: the money cycle and the life cycle. Our species needs to answer this question: should we have money values dominate the life cycle, or should life values rule over the money cycle?

An economy based on money values says, “if you have a 2,000-year-old redwood tree, it is not a gift of the creator to be preserved for the enjoyment of future generations, it is \$250,000 worth of lumber on the lumber market. Cut that sucker down.”

A life values economy, on the other hand, has a different set of values that is sometimes summarized as *biomimicry*: observing how nature does things and imitating that process.

In her book, *Biomimicry: Innovation Inspired by Nature*, Janine Benyus documents the many companies making better profits by learning from Mother Nature.



Mother Nature’s beta (testing) phase has been billions of years. She has tested all these systems, and weeded out the ones that didn’t work. Mother Nature loves all of her children – regardless of size, species, number of legs, amount of fur, color of hair, race or religion. We need to do the same.

What is the most universal human value that has survived thousands of years of history in many different cultures? It is “do unto others as you would have others do unto you.” Now the challenge before us is, how do we take that word “others” and expand it to include all species. As William McDonough says, “How do we love all the children of all species for all time?”

We now know from neurological science, if I do an act of kindness toward someone, her serotonin levels go up, my serotonin levels go up, and anyone who observes that act of kindness, their serotonin levels go up. Low

“I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality... I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality, and freedom for their spirits.”

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

serotonin is associated with anxiety, depression, schizophrenia, and suicide. When you are kind and considerate of others, you raise the levels of healthy chemicals in your body (serotonin, dopamine, adrenaline) and make other people feel good at the same time. We have the ability to heal ourselves and heal the planet at the same time by being generous of spirit.

We have got to change the definition of love from the Hollywood version of two individuals creating an island of happiness in a sea of misery, to big love, the kind of love Jesus and Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. King were talking about; the love of all life, unconditional love, the automatic love a baby has for its parents.

“Free enterprise”?

Which definition should we choose?

1. The freedom of big corporations to go anywhere and do anything to people and planet.
2. The freedom of everyone to BE enterprising.

The project before us is how do we save humanity from itself. Yes, that sounds like a big project, but I. F. Stone used to say, “If you are expecting an answer to your question during your lifetime, you are not asking a big enough question.” The masons who laid the foundation layer of cathedrals in Europe that took centuries to build knew that they would not see the final product of their work; but they knew they had to do very solid, precise work because of all the weight that was going to come on top of their work. That is the consciousness we need now. We are called on by history to lay the foundation for a future global economy with no starving children, no clear-cut forests, no endangered species, and no wars for oil. We need to muster the courage to become good ancestors. We need to accelerate the transition to the green economy and not leave a burnt cinder of a planet for our great grandchildren.

We can do this. Let’s get going! We hope this course gives you some new ideas, and the motivation to accelerate your good works for *your* future, and for all life on this planet.

Your Role in the Global Future

A term you are going to hear more about in the future is resilience. The dictionary defines resilience as “the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties.”

The science of evolution proves that species that are more adaptable and resilient to changing circumstances are the species that survive the best. What is true for a species is also true for you as an individual. You will have a better, more enjoyable life if you learn to adapt to changing

conditions around you.

What we present in this final Module 7 is the most up-to-date science on human happiness and resilience. If the human species is to survive on a planet going through severe climate change and growing inequality, we will need to develop personal and social systems of resilience.

The chart below explains the set of personal attributes of a person who is truly resilient. How would a community foster the growth of these?



Moral Authority Demands Action

“The hottest places in hell are reserved for those who, in times of great moral crisis, maintain their neutrality.” Dante Alighieri, *Inferno*

“We must learn that passively to accept an unjust system is to cooperate with that system, and thereby to become a participant in its evil.”

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Happiness Science

It is normal and healthy to experience a variable range of moods and emotions, both positive and negative.



Emotional Variability is Normal

Humans have a built-in bias toward negative perceptions. As we evolved from the great apes we developed strong memories for things that are dangerous or cause pain.



“Alienation”

Many people today are experiencing disconnection and depression.

Because we are social animals, we require meaningful relationships with other humans, or we suffer.



Occasional depression is okay, chronic depression is NOT.

“Knowing your own darkness is the best method for dealing with the darknesses of other people.”

~ Carl Jung ~

OkkyDay.com

Cultivating Emotional Resilience

You can cultivate contentment and calm serenity as the neutral midpoint of emotional variability. Develop flexibility of emotional responsiveness to both positive and negative events.



Oxytocin studies: our brains reward us for working/playing well together. Strong positive relationships are the *foundation of happiness*.



“There is no coming to consciousness without pain. People will do anything, no matter how absurd, in order to avoid facing their own soul. One does not become enlightened by imagining figures of light, but by making the darkness conscious.”

~ Carl Jung ~

OkkyDay.com



All is love, or calling for love



Science and Spirituality Are Merging

How We Focus Our Attention Shapes Our Brain

Emotional well-being comes from “within” so it is important to examine what you “let in” to your consciousness, and what you focus your attention on.

Create an Internal Sense of Well-Being

Seeking happiness “out there” in material goods, titles, fame, leads to all sorts of problems. Capitalism promotes the idea that possessing things is more important than relationships with people and nature.



“Life is about belonging, not belongings.”

Bill McKibben



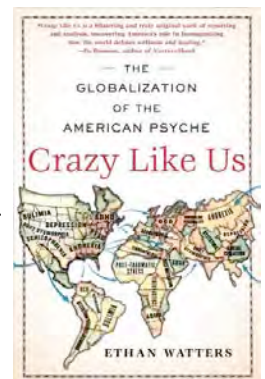
Profiting from Depression?

Huge profits are made from the epidemic of depression: drug companies, hospitals, therapists, insurance companies, and corporate health care providers all have a financial interest in keeping depression at high levels.

Crazy Like Us: The Globalization of the American Psyche

Journalist Ethan Watters documents huge marketing campaigns by transnational drug companies who promote the idea of perfection being attainable through drugs.

More Americans die from legal prescription drugs than from illegal drugs.



We are hard-wired for love

The VAGUS NERVE regulates your heart and lungs and also runs the muscles in your face that you use to build relationships.



Regard Negative Attitude as an Affliction

- Regular hostility increases your risk for heart disease.
- Hating others harms *you* more than the *other*.
- Holding a grudge is like taking poison and waiting for the other person to die.
- Let go of negative past and negative future (“woulda, coulda, shoulda”).

AFFECTION IS GREATER THAN PERFECTION



Emotional Resilience

- You can increase emotional resilience and shift your emotional set point in the direction of greater positivity.
- Achieving optimum emotional well-being is as important as maintaining optimum physical health.

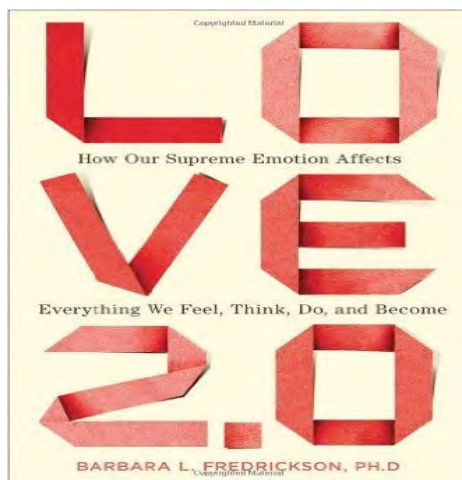


When you do an act of kindness toward someone, their *serotonin* levels go up, yours go up, and anyone who observes that act of kindness also gets a boost.

An Empathic World?

“If we have gone from empathy in blood ties, to empathy in religious associational ties, to empathy based on national identification, is it really a big stretch to imagine the new technologies allowing us to connect our empathy writ large to the human race in a single biosphere?”

Jeremy Rifkin, *The Empathic Civilization*



Dr. Barbara Fredrickson,
Love 2.0: How Our Supreme Emotion Affects Everything We Feel, Think, Do and Become.
Her excellent website is:
www.PositivityResonance.com

Brain science proves that the Golden Rule (“do unto others”) improves *your own* health as well as the physical and emotional health of others. Now we need to expand the definition of “others” to mean all living things. *Just don't take it too far, like this boy...*



“Forgiveness is a powerful weapon because it takes away fear.” *Nelson Mandela*



“*Right mindfulness*” is the calm focus on the present moment and what you are now experiencing.

Serenity Prayer

“God grant me the courage to change the things I can, the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, and the wisdom to know the difference.” *Reinhold Niebuhr*



Neuroplasticity: It's time for a change.



Neuroplasticity demonstrates the brain's ever-changing potentials. People who have had strokes can retrain their brains to function again by building new neural pathways. Smokers and overeaters learn how to transform their lives.

Develop Your Sense of Well-Being

Neuroplasticity means you can retrain your brain. Brain scientists have proven that “neurons that fire together, wire together,” which means if you practice a new behavior (e.g., giving up smoking cancer sticks—otherwise known as cigarettes) your brain will grow new neural pathways for that more healthy behavior, just like lifting weights builds new muscle mass.

1. Identity the habit you'd like to transform and set the intention.

If you have a high level of intention—you are really committed to change—creating new pathways in your brain is within your power.

3. Shift your focus.

To create new neural pathways you take the focus off the old habit, and then that old habit eventually falls away. Don't pay attention to the donuts and smokes. Focus your awareness on good, wholesome, healthy alternatives.

Retrain Your Brain

“We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them.”

Albert Einstein

Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction

Practicing MBSR increases the gray matter in brain areas involved in learning, memory, and emotion regulation.

Use Images of Contentment



2. Observe what the old habit or pathway is doing in your life.

Look at feelings, thoughts, and how your body is responding to the habit, and see what results you're creating in your life. Be the witness, and be aware.

4. Use your imagination.

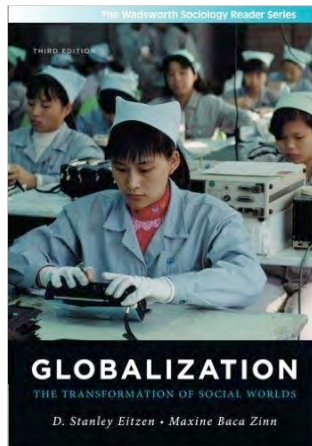
You can build new neural pathways through your imagination. Imagine the new behaviors over and over. Keep repeating that in your mind so you build new pathways. Focus your mind and retrain your brain.



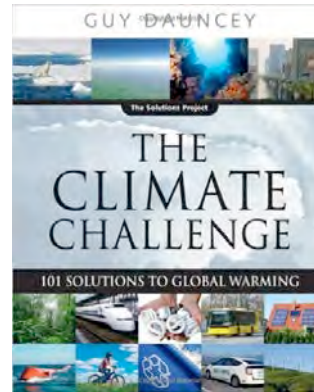
Before you judge others or claim any absolute truth, consider that...

...you can see less than 1% of the electromagnetic spectrum and hear less than 1% of the acoustic spectrum. As you read this, you are traveling at 220 kilometres per second across the galaxy. 90% of the cells in your body carry their own microbial DNA and are not "you". The atoms in your body are 99.999999999999999999% empty space and none of them are the ones you were born with, but they all originated in the belly of a star. Human beings have 46 chromosomes, 2 less than the common potato. The existence of the rainbow depends on the conical photoreceptors in your eyes; to animals without cones, the rainbow does not exist. So you don't just look at a rainbow, you create it. This is pretty amazing, especially considering that all the beautiful colors you see represent less than 1% of the electromagnetic spectrum.

Other resources on the subject of globalization

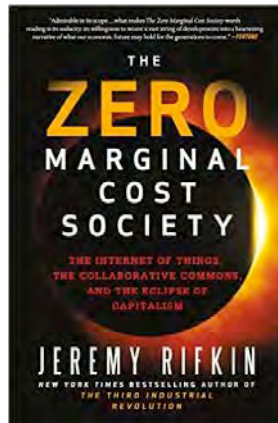


Globalization: The Transformation of Social Worlds features more than 40 authors on diverse aspects of globalization.

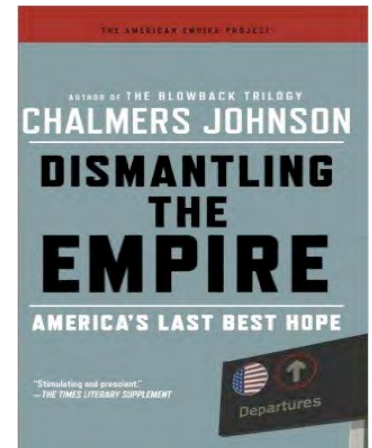


Probably the best book for enumerating the many ways we can get involved in saving our species from self-destruction.

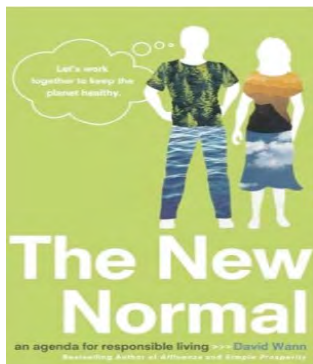
The emerging Internet of Things is speeding us to an era of nearly free goods and services, precipitating the rise of a global Collaborative Commons and the eclipse of capitalism.



When I am asked, “What is one book I should read?”, this is the one I recommend. *Cradle to Cradle* will change the way you look at our global economy.

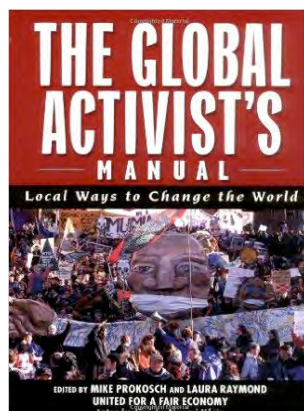


Chalmers Johnson is the most prolific, hard-hitting critic of U.S. military power in the world.



Subtitled, “An Agenda for Responsible Living,” David Wann’s *The New Normal* explains how we can thrive without damaging the environment we all depend on.

Subtitled, “Local Ways to Change the World,” *The Global Activist’s Manual* lays out practical examples of local actions people have actually done to make the world a better place.



Leading theorists and activists—the Zapatistas’ Subcomandante Marcos, Soweto anti-privatization campaigner Trevor Ngwane, Brazilian Sem Terra leader João Pedro Stedile, and many more—give their analyses of globalization, and the nuts and bolts of mobilizing against a US-dominated world system.

