

GAIA Newsletter – December 2008

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THE GAIA newsletter will regularly update the information about our 60 years crisis on this website. That is how a minority of the human population living today in the rich western world = our generation – you and me have managed to seriously harm our common environment and endanger the common future for coming generations and for thousands of species on our living planet – Gaia. We have now an enormous challenge – that is to drastically change our present way of living above our means. This can not be done with more of the same – as our present leaders are preaching in their globalization and consume more mantra. The same persons, the same model and the same thinking that has created this enormous problem cannot solve it. We need a complete turn around. And this is the most difficult thing to do – to change our selves.

Happy News 2009?

Read what the media & Michael Moore is saying about the crisis. Page 2 -14.

Re-read *The 60 years crisis!*

Sometimes it feels good to be right. I have been writing about the fundamental error in our present model since 1972 and you can read more on my home page. But I do not feel good. I am very frustrated that nothing is really changing. “Consume more” is the same old medicine to the crisis while Israel is continuing the Gaza genocide in the largest concentration camp in history. You have to act now and make the change a reality! See 33 - 53

The real global crisis!

Yes we are experiencing our first global crisis. The main global crisis is the deterioration of our common environment – air, soil, water & other species. The secondary crisis is our financial and economical crisis. Both being fueled by a model based on oil, cars and endless growth. So far reserved for the rich minority of the world but now when emerging markets are growing as well we experience the need to change our old model. The Poznan conference had a new possibility – but failed. Page 21 - 32

“How to fix the world”

2008 was a historical year. The combined financial and environmental meltdown demonstrated the fundamental error of our present dogma based on exponential “growth”. But our real problem is not this crisis per say but the crisis in our lack of new thinking. The same market fundamentalists can not “fix” the mess they have created. And not even Obama if alone. Page 15 - 20

Global & local solutions

Yes there is a need for global agreements, but we do not live in a global world. The absolute majority of the world population lives in one place. Some of us may travel and may move but we are and will be dependent on our local environment. And this is very different around the world. The biggest mistake of our time is the belief that ONE model “Made in USA” is the best for the whole world. Page 58 - 70

My “Home countries”

I am Swedish and my wife Brazilian. Two extreme variations of climate. We can learn from each other but we all have to find our own way. Page 54 -57

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Happy News 2009

Normally I do not read paper magazines or newspapers any longer for the main reason that they all write the same thing as in the television and most of the are controlled by the a few “stupid white men” with conservative views from extreme to moderate. There are very few independent media today so therefore I consult different websites instead from conventional media, CNN, WWF, blog etc. Internet is fantastic but we do have a media crisis spreading the ONE WAY WMM (White Male Message) to a majority of people without Internet. Regularly I do however read paper media to see how they cover the world. And this I do especially at the end of the year when media is looking back on the old year and forward towards the new. I did so 2007 and this is summarized in Gaia Part 6 – The Real Terrorists.

This total failure to review, question and challenge the establishment but instead as embedded echoes of the established power structure is naturally contributing to the escalation of both environmental and economical crisis. To put it bluntly – There are no longer a second opinion to be heard! There is also a media melt down!

We have now had a total collapse of the present model based on consumerism, oil, auto, supermarket and banking business. This has been taking place due to “deregulation” and “privatization” going wild with absurd benefits to a few very rich individuals. They either own the companies or they are playing with the pension funds – our money – 24 hours a day. Yes most of these multi billionaires lost a lot of money but they still have more than 1000 or even 100 000 times a normal worker. Something happened during end of 2008 that could have been used by the media to make a real analysis of what had happened. Bernard Madoff a Wall Street hero and a former NASDAQ chairman was arrested in possible the biggest fraud in history. He was running a pyramid “Ponzi” scheme that may have lost investors 50 Billion Dollars.

So why is Madoff so symbolic to what is happening with the world. One important thing is the total focus on money and short term profits. Never before in history we have had such a total dance around the Golden Calf. All our media stayed focus on the ups and downs of the Wall Streets of the world asking “market analysts” to predict what was going to happen the next day. Naturally they did not know. We are running the world as a Las Vegas casino. Some lucky few will win but the majority will loose. But the most important conclusion is THE PYRAMID. As long as someone buys in the top the pyramid is growing. And as long as someone further down sell in time he makes money. As long as someone some where in the world will manufacture toys, cloth and electronics cheaper we can buy more.

This dream of the giant ever exponentially growing Pyramid has become the nightmare destroying our planet. But naturally nothing like this was ever published. Instead bail-outs, stimulation for more consumption etc was proposed. And everybody was repeating the same mantra – “This is NOT a crisis for capitalism or globalization” – Lets us do more of the same. OK we will have a few ENRON and Madoff scandals – but so what!

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Happy News 2009 – In The Economist

The Economist is a good magazine for economical statistics and economical news. That is their job so I can not blame them for not covering the environment. But since “Global Warming” is said to be “The biggest market Failure Ever” maybe they should have included something. So what was in the Special Christmas Double Issue? To start with the statistics:

	Trade Balance	Current Account	Budget Balance
	12 month BUSD	% of GDP	% of GDP
USA	-853	-5	-3
UK	-183	-3	-5
Spain	-154	-10	-3
India	-110	-4	-4
France	-83	-2	-3
Subtotal	-1383		
Germany	283	7	0
China	279	11	0
Russia	195	6	6
Saudi	151	30	12
Norway	83	18	20
Japan	65	4	-3
Holland	60	6	1
Canada	52	1	0
Venezuela	50	15	-1
Malaysia	42	13	-5
Brazil	26	-2	-2
Singapore	21	17	1
Sweden	19	8	2
Switzerland	18	10	1
Indonesia	14	0	-4
Argentina	14	3	1
Belgium	11	1	-1
Subtotal	1383		

So USA and the main old colonial countries UK, Spain and France are the major importers. But also India.

The rest of the world are on the exporting side with the Second world war losers Germany and Japan as well as the former “red” states Soviet and Russia are the big exporters together with the old colonies and Saudi.

My home countries Sweden, Switzerland, Canada and Brazil are on the positive side.

This table is more or less the same you can read about in Gaia Part 6 – The real terrorists. It has been going on for a long time – as part of our pyramid gambling. So maybe this imbalance has something to do with the crisis. And maybe the American way of life with Wal-Mart, Exxon-Mobil, GM and Ford as the cornerstones in the consumer model is not the way forward. USA is importing consumer gadgets and oil, running two costly wars and now also bailing out banks and auto makers. Still it is a mystery how USA year after year can have such an imbalance basically borrowing for consumption. Oh yes! I forgot! It did not work! However the rescue USA campaign now going on is enormous. Because this is also a Pyramid scheme. If USA falls the world will fall. That is why central banks from Saudi to Japan is pumping money into the failed economy. Two countries are not on the list, Iceland and Lithuania (I visited both during 2008 in business). They are now basically failed states from the top of the pyramid to the bottom. This is how our present system works.

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Happy News 2009 – In The Economist

The Economist showed some other figures on what happened with our pension money. Because this was also recently changed in Sweden and other European countries to a “Made in USA” model. All these things with deregulation and privatization are always called “reforms” by the conservative leadership. But basically it is going back to the 19th century raw capitalism model. So it is not reform it is the reverse. That is why it was not suited for today’s society and definitely not for our common future.

So what happened to our pension savings according to the Economist?

“The financial crisis has taken its toll on pension funds. By October, the total assets of those in the OECD countries had fallen by nearly 20% (22 % in real terms) since the start of the year. Pension funds in the United States accounted for two-thirds of the 3.3 trillion in losses.

3.3 trillion USD in losses – 3 300 000 000 000 of our pension savings!

That is the bottom of the pyramid. Because this is how the Wall Street casino economy works. We pump our life savings into the pyramid. Smart guys are gambling with our money and they always get commission and bonuses independent if “the market” goes up or down. So also during a financial crisis there are “smart guys” out there gambling and making money. Now this Pyramid went global. So to support the rich in the OECD countries we thought we could get “the emerging markets” into the pyramid. In addition we got a few stinking rich billionaires in new countries like China, India and Russia. Because this is how this privatized and free model works. More money and power to fewer people outside democratic control. So it worked and it is still barely working. But if China pulls the plug?

There were some differences. Ireland (-34%) , USA (-26%) , Iceland (-24%) compared to “only” 12% in Sweden – as an average. But this is due to the fact that many Swedes has not gambled their pension but has it as in the good old time at a fixed interest. And in all countries you could have been above average and below. Yes you could have lost it all. Not because of you but because of the holy “Market”.

This is how the Economist describes “The world this year”:

The credit crunch turned into a full-blown global financial crisis in September when Lehman Brothers, one of Wall Street’s big investment banks, declared bankruptcy and American officials seized control of AIG to prevent the giant insurer’s collapse. As panic spread, governments engineered the rescue of distressed banks or took them over directly....America’s Federal reserve made unprecedented market interventions, such as buying large amounts of short term debt issued to companies to enable day-to-day financing....The Fed reduced its rates to near zero, lower than they have ever been.....

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Happy News 2009 – In The Economist

This is how the Economist describes “Fare well, free trade”:

Rich countries collectively face the severest recession since the second world war....This news is bad enough in itself; but it also poses the biggest threat to open markets in the modern era of globalization. For the first time in more than one generation, two of the engines of global integration- trade and capital flows – are simultaneously shifting into reverse....

Out of 160 pages now with many ads with job opportunities for “Risk management, Mergers and Acquisitions, Financial Sector Analyst, Bank Supervision Expert, Bad dept management there was one single article about the environment or rather “Climate Change Diplomacy”.

This is how the Economist describes “Fiddling with words as the world melts”:

“ At least in theory, most of the world’s governments now accept that climate change, if left unchecked, could become the equivalent of a deadly asteroid. But to judge by the latest, tortuous moves on climate-change diplomacy –at a two-week gathering in western Poland, which ended on December 13th – there is little sign of any mind concentrating effect....To be fair 10 000-odd people (diplomats, UN bureaucrats, NGO types) who assembled in Poznan, a semicolon was removed. At a similar meeting in Bali a year earlier, governments had vowed to consider ways of cutting emissions from “deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries and the role of conservation...After much haggling, delegates in Poland decided to upgrade by replacing the offending punctuation mark with a comma.....In the final hours of the conference, the governments of small sinking island nations were delighted to learn that they and not a global body would control a fund to help the adapt to a warmer world. Their mood changes when it became known that no extra money had been set aside for this purpose.

What surprises me is how very little analysis and conclusions there is about the crisis. And no criticism except the sarcastic remark about the Poznan failure. Believe it or not but Alan Greenspan – one of the masterminds behind this crisis- writes in a guest article that “Banks need more capital”. Instead the Economist is like many others featuring an article about Charles Darwin – “Survival for the fittest” – Is this the new (and old) financial policy?

Maybe no-one really understands what has happened or is it a cover up. However there is something to laugh about: “The Credit Crunch Game”; *As though readers haven’t suffered enough already this year, we are offering them the chance to be crushed, humiliated and impoverished all over again...Our board game puts players against each other and encourage them to pick on the weakest, kick opponents when they are down and generally manifest all the characteristics that bring success in the financial world – Winner takes it all.* “I just bought Iceland on ebay” is one of many real jokes.

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Happy News 2009 – In Fortune magazine

It must be a very big challenge to write about where to invest your money in the middle of a big financial crisis in this forum for multibillionaires and dreams of gold. But Fortune Special Issue January 12, 2009 gives it a try with "INVESTOR GUIDE 2009. Remember however that Fortune is for the rich and famous – not for you and me.

"Should you jump in now?" Allan Sloan starts with : *Has there ever been a time that feels worse than now to talk about houses and stocks. Not in my 40 years of writing about business. The sickening collapses in house and stock prices from their peaks have trimmed about \$13 trillion (Yes it says thirteen trillions – 13 followed by 12 zeros!) – almost a year's output for the entire U.S. economy – from Americans' net worth. Not since the Great Depression almost 80 years ago have we seen anything like these simultaneous housing and stock implosions.*

After such a start you would believe that Fortune would in any way be reflective and question BAU – Business As Usual. But instead the following main contributions can be studied:

"The best for 2009 – Here's the silver lining of the market meltdown."

"The Case for Bonds – Solid corporate issues are offering juicy yields"

"Stock picks from the experts" with four experts propose stocks to buy (Including ABB). But I have always wondered what is the cause and effect. If the experts propose us to buy one specific share and we all follow that advice – yes naturally it will go up – until.....

"Riding the housing bust – Investors are scooping up foreclosed properties, afraid of missing the real estate opportunity of a life time" So what Fortune is saying: Take advantage of other people misfortune: *Cross the country shrewd investors alert to outrageous bargains are beginning to stir...The opportunists range from first-time homebuyers to the most sophisticated of investors: billionaire John Grayken who made a fortune during the S&L crisis....* So this is the aftermath of the crisis – ordinary people loses – the rich guys take it.

"So where in the world to put your money" gives advices what to invest in foreign (non US) stocks. The only problem is when the advisers are looking back they actually one year before proposed Bank of Ireland (Down 90%) and Mobile Telesystem (Down 70%). So much for expert advises.

"When bad years happen to good funds – even the best managers lost money in 2008. But we found five with stellar long-term records who see today's crisis as a golden opportunity."

So here is the Bible for making money with money – other peoples money and hard work!

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Happy News 2009 – In Fortune magazine

But finally we got to something more interesting in “Playing the Blame Game” when Geoff Colvin asked the one trillion dollar question – What happened in 2008? He formulates four possible answers:

1. Free markets
2. Greenspan did it
3. Bill Clinton spawned the sub prime epidemic
4. Americans lost their self-discipline

Rather fascinating analysis. Colvin do say the crisis depends on all but he chose no. 4 – we are all to blame (At least the Americans) Nothing about the imbalance and deficit. Nothing about the cost of the war, oil import or the environment. Nothing about president Bush. Nothing about Wall Street. Nothing about the pyramid model . How about greed? That we are actually creating a world based on “paper money” and expectations where a small bunch of people are gambling with our money in a few chaotic stock markets every day and where billions of dollars is transferred with the speed of light over Internet 24 hours a day.

“Free trade” does not really imply trade of “physical things”. It means circulating money as currencies and “financial products” with NO ADDED VALUE – just to gamble. It is 100 TIMES more money out there for this gambling compared what is needed for trade of real products. This crisis is the result of many different causes over a longer time period as part of one pyramid model that does not work anymore. The same model that has brought us the environmental and economic crisis. So why is NO-ONE discussing this – the failed model. Are we all totally brain washed by our own commercials – buy – invest – be happy...or sad!

Then Fortune brings in the fortune tellers – all white Americans and most of them old white men with lots of money or a professor title in economy. They all try to explain “something”: *“It’s the bursting of a huge leverage-up credit bubble....resulting in the destruction of over 30 trillion dollars in paper wealth....(\$30 TRILLION IN PAPER MONEY!) We are having a recession and it is getting worse.....Wall Street and Main Street are fearful that a recession may be replaced by a near depression...Twelve months of the Obama Nation will not be sufficient to heal the damage of half-century’s excessive leverage....I think overall economy will be worse than people expect. The biggest issue will be consumer spending.....”*

When I read this I get very tired. How can so much insignificant bull shit be printed? Who care what a multi billionaire who made his money on speculation think about the common future of our common planet. He is thinking about how to make even more money for himself. These guys are not looking after the long time decisions about our common future. Because our reality is not about making a few even more stinking rich but to save a shrinking planet and save GAIA from this devastating model encouraging present mismanagement by a few money addicted players. Didn’t McCain mention Greed?

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Happy News 2009 – In the daily newspaper

In the age of TV, Internet and free hand-outs like METRO the daily printed newspaper has an even bigger challenge to add something different. Unfortunately this is mostly ugly and odd stories and photos about celebrities mixed with endless advertisements to buy more and equally endless lists of stock markets and other financial crap. Who are really following these boring tables in all media if on shares goes up or down 0.1 % - every day? The general public? The next question is for whom is the newspaper printed?

And what is the mission of the newspaper? To just repeat what the established power want us to read. The market fundamentalist new Pravda. The North Korea Financial TV news. One reason that our western media is so 100% biased is naturally that they are owned and financed by a few white old men. This is another false truth of our democratic society – No we do NOT have a free press – we have an embedded press sleeping with the established power. Still to be honest reality wins. This was the case with the Obama victory. Yes he had a lot of money and ads backing him up but he had a massive media campaign against him – but still he won. OK he did not win the white majority but he won the black, white, Hispanic.

Herald Tribune is the global edition of the New York Times and it is December 26 issue it had some interesting news. One was “Policing of stock fraud falls in the U.S. – Bush-era records show major drop in prosecution. This together with more light on the Madoff scandal – the possible biggest fraud in history a few years after the Enron and WorldCom frauds. And yes – we just had a financial crash now showing inside trading and illegal borrowing and so complex “financial products” that it can be labeled “fraud”. So where there any editorial about this – no!

However on the section Views – opinions & letters Thomas L. Friedman have a few interesting remarks about America after a trip to China: *If we're so smart, why are other people living so much better than us? What has become of our infrastructure, which is so crucial to productivity? back home, I was greeted by the news that General Motors was being bailed out – that's the GM that Fortune Magazine just noted “lost more than \$72 billion in the past four years, and yet you can count on one hand the number of executives who have been reassigned or lost their job....*

We've indulged ourselves for too long with tax cuts we can't afford, bailouts of auto companies that has become giant wealth-destruction machines, energy prices that do not encourage investment in 21st-century renewable power systems or efficient cars, public schools with no national standards to prevent illiterates from graduating. To top off, we've fallen into a trend of diverting and rewarding the best of our collective IQ to people doing financial engineering rather than real engineering. These rocket scientists and engineers were designing complex financial instruments to make money out of money....That's why we don't just need a bailout. We need a reboot. We need a national makeover.

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Happy News 2009 – In the daily newspaper

The frustration showing in the comments from “a normal American” on previous page is probably shared by many. But the conclusion from Friedman is still “America has the best society and innovative culture and we just need more tax incentives to the private sector. Everybody is now waiting for Obama to save America. But no-one want to question the American way. And the American way is still the template for the rest of the world including China and India including the American definition of freedom and democracy. Does it really matters if it is Robert Murdoch or some un-known Chinese official who decides what is in the paper. And what is better for the Chinese. No we need a much more radical change!

Further down on the same page Stephen Back writes about “The Obama bubble”. *“Barack Obama’s success is the political equivalent of the financial bubble that is deflating at the moment In other words, Obama’s meteoric rise is based on “irrational exuberance” and will have to come down to reality unless he can levitate or walk on water. While just about everybody is glad that Bush administration will shortly leave office, what kind of miracles are expected from Obama? The Bush administration is very busy spending the last available dollars on bailouts and Obama will find nothing left to use.*

While Israel is killing hundreds of Palestine men, women and children with their ultra modern air planes, helicopters and laser guided robots in the Gaza, the worlds largest concentration camp being starved behind walls and children with stones and home made rockets try to defend themselves there is “no comments” from our western world and media. However Munjeb Farid Al Qutob from London writes in a letter the following: *It is time to contemplate the plight of Muslims who have been displaced from their ancestral homeland or held captive in the occupied Palestine territories, and the viciousness being meted out against Kashmiris, Iraqis and Afghans under the watchful eyes of European leaders.*

The Wall Street Journal December 24-28 had very little to say as well. Two stories was about that the financial crisis hits both U.S. churches and U.S. owned casinos. The last happens to be in Macao China and Venetian – the casino I just visited. (See October newsletter). On page 8 they say *“U.S. economy has some openings –bankruptcy law and crisis management consulting are thriving...health care, insurance and education industries are still hiring...(And since it is private in USA you can make money) In the editorial USA Today December 26 tries to describe 2008 and ask the question if this was an epic year. It also review other historical years and gets an interesting conclusion about 1968. “A turning point in history failed to turn...it did not produce the change people expected...the year is notable mostly for the backlash it spurred, including the election of President Nixon...”*

And we naturally remember the killings of Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King. So even though the year of 2008 should trigger a radical change it may not because we do not think differently. The old power structure and the conservative forces are today so totally dominant controlling our complete lives that a radical change needs a global awakening.

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Happy News 2009 ...a message from Michael Moore

You may share my view that media is an a very deep crisis as well. And I just do not mean a financial crisis. Some of us may not care since we use Internet. But many does not have this possibility. The consumerism indoctrination going on is massive and whether we are aware or not we do get indoctrinated. We are being manipulated and that is using more and more sophisticated methods. The new mantra such as deregulation to globalization has all of a sudden become absolute truth "reforms". No one is questioning except a few demonstrating kids. And we do as we are told. That is maybe why I still am so surprised that although we should be aware of global warming we do nothing of significance. The main reason i believe is that if we would act it would be contracting the other mantra – consume more –BUY!

I regularly get the newsletters from Michael Moore – one of the very few who dares to speak out with a different view. I do not always agree with him but I often do and I always enjoy what he is writing our showing in his movies. So I will share two of the recent newsletters with you. This one is called **Saving the Big 3 for You and Me**
For more info go to MichaelMoore.com

Wednesday, December 3rd, 2008

Friends,

I drive an American car. It's a Chrysler. That's not an endorsement. It's more like a cry for pity. And now for a decades-old story, retold ad infinitum by tens of millions of Americans, a third of whom have had to desert their country to simply find a damn way to get to work in something that won't break down....

... You might assume from this that I couldn't give a rat's ass about these miserably inept crapmobile makers down the road in Detroit city. But I do care. I care about the millions whose lives and livelihoods depend on these car companies. I care about the security and defense of this country because the world is running out of oil -- and when it runs out, the calamity and collapse that will take place will make the current recession/depression look like a Tommy Tune musical. And I care about what happens with the Big 3 because they are more responsible than almost anyone for the destruction of our fragile atmosphere and the daily melting of our polar ice caps.

Congress must save the industrial infrastructure that these companies control and the jobs they create. And it must save the world from the internal combustion engine. This great, vast manufacturing network can redeem itself by building mass transit and electric/hybrid cars, and the kind of transportation we need for the 21st century.

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Happy News 2009 ...a message from Michael Moore

And Congress must do all this by NOT giving GM, Ford and Chrysler the \$34 billion they are asking for in "loans" (a few days ago they only wanted \$25 billion; that's how stupid they are -- they don't even know how much they really need to make this month's payroll. If you or I tried to get a loan from the bank this way, not only would we be thrown out on our ear, the bank would place us on some sort of credit rating blacklist).

Two weeks ago, the CEOs of the Big 3 were tarred and feathered before a Congressional committee who sneered at them in a way far different than when the heads of the financial industry showed up two months earlier. At that time, the politicians tripped over each other in their swoon for Wall Street and its Ponzi schemers who had concocted Byzantine ways to bet other people's money on unregulated credit default swaps, known in the common vernacular as unicorns and fairies.

But the Detroit boys were from the Midwest, the Rust (yuk!) Belt, where they made real things that consumers needed and could touch and buy, and that continually recycled money into the economy (shocking!), produced unions that created the middle class, and fixed my teeth for free when I was ten.

For all of that, the auto heads had to sit there in November and be ridiculed about how they traveled to D.C. Yes, they flew on their corporate jets, just like the bankers and Wall Street thieves did in October. But, hey, THAT was OK! They're the Masters of the Universe! Nothing but the best chariots for Big Finance as they set about to loot our nation's treasury. Of course, the auto magnates used be the Masters who ruled the world. They were the pulsating hub that all other industries -- steel, oil, cement contractors -- served. Fifty-five years ago, the president of GM sat on that same Capitol Hill and bluntly told Congress, what's good for General Motors is good for the country. Because, you see, in their minds, GM WAS the country.

What a long, sad fall from grace we witnessed on November 19th when the three blind mice had their knuckles slapped and then were sent back home to write an essay called, "Why You Should Give Me Billions of Dollars of Free Cash." They were also asked if they would work for a dollar a year. Take that! What a big, brave Congress they are! Requesting indentured servitude from (still) three of the most powerful men in the world. This from a spineless body that won't dare stand up to a disgraced president nor turn down a single funding request for a war that neither they nor the American public support. Amazing.

Let me just state the obvious: Every single dollar Congress gives these three companies will be flushed right down the toilet. There is nothing the management teams of the Big 3 are going to do to convince people to go out during a recession and buy their big, gas-guzzling, inferior products. Just forget it. And, as sure as I am that the Ford family-owned Detroit Lions are not going to the Super Bowl -- ever -- I can guarantee you, after they burn through this \$34 billion, they'll be back for another \$34 billion next summer.

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Happy News 2009 ...a message from Michael Moore

So what to do? Members of Congress, here's what I propose:

1. Transporting Americans is and should be one of the most important functions our government must address. And because we are facing a massive economic, energy and environmental crisis, the new president and Congress must do what Franklin Roosevelt did when he was faced with a crisis (and ordered the auto industry to stop building cars and instead build tanks and planes): The Big 3 are, from this point forward, to build only cars that are not primarily dependent on oil and, more importantly to build trains, buses, subways and light rail (a corresponding public works project across the country will build the rail lines and tracks). This will not only save jobs, but create millions of new ones.

2. You could buy ALL the common shares of stock in General Motors for less than \$3 billion. Why should we give GM \$18 billion or \$25 billion or anything? Take the money and buy the company! (You're going to demand collateral anyway if you give them the "loan," and because we know they will default on that loan, you're going to own the company in the end as it is. So why wait? Just buy them out now.)

3. None of us want government officials running a car company, but there are some very smart transportation geniuses who could be hired to do this. We need a Marshall Plan to switch us off oil-dependent vehicles and get us into the 21st century.

This proposal is not radical or rocket science. It just takes one of the smartest people ever to run for the presidency to pull it off. What I'm proposing has worked before. The national rail system was in shambles in the '70s. The government took it over. A decade later it was turning a profit, so the government returned it to private/public hands, and got a couple billion dollars put back in the treasury.

This proposal will save our industrial infrastructure -- and millions of jobs. More importantly, it will create millions more. It literally could pull us out of this recession.

In contrast, yesterday General Motors presented its restructuring proposal to Congress. They promised, if Congress gave them \$18 billion now, they would, in turn, eliminate around 20,000 jobs. You read that right. We give them billions so they can throw more Americans out of work. That's been their Big Idea for the last 30 years -- layoff thousands in order to protect profits. But no one ever stopped to ask this question: If you throw everyone out of work, who's going to have the money to go out and buy a car?

These idiots don't deserve a dime. Fire all of them, and take over the industry for the good of the workers, the country and the planet. What's good for General Motors IS good for the country. Once the country is calling the shots.

Yours,

Michael Moore
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Happy News 2009another message from Michael Moore

The next newsletter was called **Senate to Middle Class: Drop Dead.**

Friday, December 12th, 2008

Friends,

They could have given the loan on the condition that the automakers start building only cars and mass transit that reduce our dependency on oil.

They could have given the loan on the condition that the automakers build cars that reduce global warming.

They could have given the loan on the condition that the automakers withdraw their many lawsuits against state governments in their attempts to not comply with our environmental laws.

They could have given the loan on the condition that the management team which drove these once-great manufacturers into the ground resign and be replaced with a team who understands the transportation needs of the 21st century.

Yes, they could have given the loan for any of these reasons because, in the end, to lose our manufacturing infrastructure and throw 3 million people out of work would be a catastrophe.

But instead, the Senate said, we'll give you the loan only if the factory workers take a \$20 an hour cut in wages, pension and health care. That's right. After giving BILLIONS to Wall Street hucksters and criminal investment bankers -- billions with no strings attached and, as we have since learned, no oversight whatsoever -- the Senate decided it is more important to break a union, more important to throw middle class wage earners into the ranks of the working poor than to prevent the total collapse of industrial America.

We have a little more than a month to go of this madness. As I sit here in Michigan today, tens of thousands of hard working, honest, decent Americans do not believe they can make it to January 20th. The malaise here is astounding. Why must they suffer because of the mistakes of every CEO from Roger Smith to Rick Wagoner? Make management and the boards of directors and the shareholders pay for this.

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Happy News 2009another message from Michael Moore

Of course that is heresy to the 31 Republicans who decided to blame the poor, miserable autoworkers for this mess. And our wonderful media complied with their spin on the morning news shows: "UAW Refuses to Give Concessions Killing Auto Bailout Bill." In fact the UAW has given concession after concession, reduced their benefits, agreed to get rid of the Jobs Bank and agreed to make it harder for their retirees to live from week to week. Yes! That's what we need to do! It's the Jobs Bank and the old people who have led the nation to economic ruin!

But even doing all that wasn't enough to satisfy the bastard Republicans. These Senate vampires wanted blood. Blue collar blood. You see, they weren't opposed to the bailout because they believed in the free market or capitalism. No, they were opposed to the bailout because they're opposed to workers making a decent wage. In their rage, they were driven to destroy the backbone of this country, not because the UAW hadn't given back enough, but because the UAW hadn't given up.

It appears that the sitting President has been looking for a way to end his reign by one magnanimous act, just like a warlord on his feast day. He will put his finger in the dyke, and the fragile mess of an auto industry will eke through the next few months.

That will give the Senate enough time to demand that the bankers and investment sharks who've already swiped nearly half of the \$700 billion gift a chance to make the offer of cutting their pay.

Fat chance.

*Yours,
Michael Moore*

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MichaelMoore.com

What Michael Moore is pointing out is the strange effect of this chaos. That actually the people and the very model that has caused this is are rewarded and more money is pumped into failing banks and industries. We have now the chance to reduce the effects of the financial and environmental melt down. By requiring these industries and banks to direct the money (our money) to green development. The real problem is that today's real decision makers are outside our democracy. And the reason is that this has been the trend since Thatcher – Reagan started the deregulation. Deregulation meaning that instead of controlling essential common interests with democratically elected governments and municipalities as well as trade unions – to let a few huge trans national corporations and banks control our common future. We have to regain real democracy. Power to the people!

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How to fix the world

How to fix the world – A guide for the next president. This is the headline of Newsweek special edition 2009 with a thoughtful Obama on the front cover.

The world of today is “Made in USA” including the environmental crisis, the financial crisis and the ongoing wars. So maybe Newsweek is right. It is also the U.S. president’s job to fix it. But can he? And fix it to what?

The second world war severely damaged most of the world, except USA and a few other countries like Sweden. It was therefore natural that the American model of life was planted from Japan to Germany. The Marshall plan helped Europe to recover. Israel was created with American support and British retreat. USA was even considered as friend to the third world now trying to become free from their European occupiers. The Vietnam war temporarily changed this and USA was criticized by many. And Soviet union was still a threat to the U.S: hegemony. However the American way of life was successfully exported to the growing upper and middle classes around the world. And after the fall of the Soviet union a “new world order” was declared and America has been in total command, politically, economically, culturally and military.

The result we can now see after 8 years George W Bush. An environmental & financial meltdown caused by a system failure of a model based on oil, cars and speculation. Three wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and Palestine – all against the Muslim world and all because of oil. So when Newsweek say “How to fix the world” is the task for the American president you may agree. But looking at the record after the successful Second World War victory you may have another opinion. Or you may still believe that The America is biggest, best and most beautiful. The end of history and the ONLY way for the whole world.

Jimmy Carter is an exceptional U.S. president, different from most. A great person trying to do good things. As a president he personally negotiated the peace between Egypt and Israel. Most of all he has integrity and as a former president he continues to speak out for what he believes in. Two years ago Newsweek presented another special issue – “Who’s next in 2007”. Several pages was about the mess in Iraq and Afghanistan but not really about how the people there were suffering since most American media can only see the world with one biased eye and perspective. On the last page Jimmy Carter was interviewed because the criticism of his latest book where he used the word “Apartheid” to describe the Israeli treatment of the Palestinian people. His book was never discussed in U.S. from the real content but only this single word. So when Newsweek Elenor Clift asked him about this he answered.

“One of the purposes of the book was to provoke discussion, which is very rarely heard in this country, and to open some possibility that we could rejuvenate or start the peace talks in Israel that has been absent for six years – so that was the purpose of this book”

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Newsweek Elenor Clift continued with *“The word apartheid – did you agonize about that?”*
“Not really . I didn’t agonize because I knew that’s an accurate description of what’s going on in Palestine. I would say that the plight of the Palestinians now – the confiscation of their land, that they’re being suppressed completely against voicing their disapproval of what’s happening, the building of the wall that intrudes deep within their territory, the complete separation of Israelis from Palestinians – all of these things in many ways are worse than some of the aspects of apartheid in South Africa.”

“Why do you think you're under attack for the book and the title?”

“You and I know the powerful influence of AIPAC (the American Israel Public Affair Committee), which is not designed to promote peace. I am not criticizing them, they have a perfect right to lobby, but their purpose in life is protect and defend the policies of the Israeli government and to make sure those policies are approved in the United States and in our Congress – and they’re very effective at it....And any member of Congress who’s looking to be re-elected couldn’t possibly say that they would take a balanced position between Israel and the Palestinians, or that they would insist on Israel withdrawing to international borders, or that they would dedicate themselves to protect human rights of Palestinians – it’s very likely that they would not be re-elected.”

So this is why Israel can continue their genocide in Palestine in the end of 2008 and beginning of 2009 with full support of USA. January 9 when the UN security council finally agreed on a resolution telling Israel to withdraw (But USA did not vote) Israel has killed 774 persons and injured more than 3200 while 11 Israeli soldiers and 3 civilians had also been killed. The very different numbers may depend on that Israel is using modern U.S. airplanes & helicopters to do the killing while the Palestinians use stones and home made rockets.

The 2007 version of Newsweek did naturally not cover anything on the environment or Global warming. It did not comment on the financial meltdown already going on with one exception – A small piece about the importance of the U.S. economy and that a slow down in U.S. would bring the world with it. And this proved true. It had also another interesting article – “Is America Ready” about the possibility for Hilary Clinton or Barack Obama to become first president of their kind. Now we now the answer. It is Obama who “Has to fix the world”. And Newsweek have some of their own as well as invited writers giving advices in their Special Edition produced in cooperation with World Economic Forum. In the introduction Newsweek write:

“It may have been a brutal presidential campaign, but winning was the easy part; now Barack Obama has to govern. He enters office facing the most adverse set of circumstances since Franklin Roosevelt became president in 1933: two wars, global economic and energy crisis, a changing climate and food shortages (to name a few challenges). It makes you wonder why he wanted the job.”

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In “Writing the rules for a new world” Fahred Zakaria concludes:

“Historians will probably look back on the meltdown and see it as one largely caused by success....In the world of economics, prosperity and low inflation unleashed two massive forces. The first was cheap credit and the second vast pools of capital....Add to these greed and stupidly – and you begin to understand how it all came apart....As bad as it look, the current financial crisis will end.. Why do I say this. Because governments are more powerful than markets. They can close markets down, nationalize firms and write new rules. And Washington has one other unique power: it print money....”

Does this round of intervention mark a return to socialism, or even the old mixed economy? ...There will be a return to regulation. But regulation is not socialism. Capitalism is now a global phenomenon. It is being powered by the actions of companies and government and individuals all over the world....The real problem we face today is not crisis of capitalism. It is crisis of globalization....The great project of the 21st century should be a new architecture – one that helps to ensure growth and peace for the world”

Hey Obama we have some good advices to you. You should work for peace and growth in the world. Like when you ask one of the beauty contestants what she believe in – peace in the world. And then the holy growth – for whom and of what? And hey. There is an environmental crisis going on because of this growth....In America and its image – Why the election mattered” Gideon Rose writes: *“The 2008 presidential election will have a major impact on U.S. foreign policy – but not for the reasons many think....Under Obama, most U.S. politics toward most issues will remain essentially unchanged – as they would have no matter who was elected in November....”*

The difference is according to Gideon Rose that Obama administration beside initial good will can better do “sophisticated adult management.

In “Fixing Uncle Sam’s image Problem” Kishore Mahbubani from Singapore writes: “Since 2000, The United States standing has deteriorated in all parts of the world, and anti Americanism has grown intense....The Bush administration got things badly wrong by acting as if U.S. security could be enhanced by demolishing or ignoring key agreements, like the Kyoto accords or the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty....Fortunately, the economic meltdown may finally have changed Americans view on this question....All this suggests that the first step to fixing America's image problem will be for Washington to acknowledge that despite it’s power, the United States is not invulnerable. If it’s going to thrive in today’s interconnected world, it needs new habits of cooperation based on healthy respect for the interests of everyone else.”

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In Newsweek you may see the different approaches taken by American writers and a few International contributors. The America focused writers from Newsweek, Foreign Affairs, American Enterprise Institute, Council of foreign Relations, John Hopkins University, University of Chicago, U.S. government, U.S. Industry, BP Capital, The DOW Chemical Co. Boston University, New York University, Colombia University, World Bank, World Trade Organization have with very few exceptions no new advices since they are already convinced that the world should be designed for United States and not the reverse.

So this is why the conclusions will basically support BAU – Business As Usual – with the exception that USA has to fix it's image problem. It is therefore thrilling to read "How to save democracy" when the author say that the world is suffering a democratic contraction despite "U.S. values – individual freedom, popular sovereignty, limited government and rule of law – are embraced by progressive leaders around the world..." The problem is that people around the world are voting the "wrong" organization to power. Maybe this could have something to do with the fact that George W Bush himself became president without winning the majority of the popular votes, approved torture, Abu Graib, Guantanamo, did not sign any international agreements, lied and cheated about WMD, started several wars ending up killing millions of innocent people. And this U.S. defined freedom has a lot to do with the economic "freedom of" large corporations, deregulation, privatization, capitalization – what McCain called the "fundamentals" and what now ended up in the financial meltdown.

The following articles are: "Bringing China into the fold", "Talk tough with Teheran", "Winning in Afghanistan", "To fix Islam", "How we can feed the world". The last one is promoting US way of farming with more pesticides and biotechnology such as EU is trying to halt but USA see as an attack on "freedom". In *"Time to kill the oil best"* Michael T. Klare say *"Americans want to see a substantial reduction in their country's reliance on imported oil especially from hostile countries (Middle East, Russia, Venezuela)Around this cheap and versatile fuel, the United States built an impressive civilization – one featuring universal car ownership, highways stretching to the horizon, endless suburban tracts, affordable airline travels, malls, Disneyland and other aspects of the American dream....Many aspects of the American dream have become unattainable to ordinary citizens. Gasoline has grown expensive."* So Americans do not in general care about the environment or Global Warming. The main problem is price and those hostile states.

Klare does however conclude with: *"Accelerating the development of advanced biofuels using nonfood crops, and of plug-in hybrids cars and advances automobile designs; expanding public transportation; and persuading Americans to drive less, drive slower or carpool more often. Since none of these initiatives are likely to succeed by themselves, It will have to be promoted with equal vigor."*

....This will need a lot of money. O yes we just had the bailout of GM, Ford and the banks.....

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The inability for these Americans to understand a world outside America is for me one of the biggest mysteries in all of this since I have lived in USA Several years and experienced it. "If you don't like it why don't you go back from where you came". The mystery is because USA is build by immigrants from the rest of the world – a multicultural melting pot – but turned into a complete ONE WAY STREET with basically no real discussions and debate as former president Carter and no logic as Al Gore describe. How can this really CHANGE if most of America still believe hat America IS the ONLY world and that the American way of life IS the ONLY way. And the only challenge is to convince the rest of the world to be American. So Obama has a tough job – if he believes there is another world outside USA.

"The Quickest route to Green" is written by the chairman and CEO of The Dow Chemicals!
*"An energy strategy is not just about the price of gas. It's about the size of the U.S. national debt and the countries that finance it. It's about the conflicts that arise around the word over the supply of oil. It's about the cost of consumer goods and keeping inflation in check. It's about the ability of industrial companies to hold on to manufacturing jobs. And it is about addressing climate change and the environmental consequences of the dependence on fossil fuel...the United States could reduce energy use by percent by applying technology available today"...*All of this is absolutely right. Imagine the chairman and CEO of DOW is promoting change..... but what he really says is more tax credits to the private sector.

The positive is that the economic crisis has generated concerns about the U.S. energy. The negative is that the way of life that has given us the environmental and economical crisis has not been questioned. Global warming is just one sign of the deterioration of GAIA. If Newsweek had decided to ask Al Gore, Barry Commoner, Greenpeace, WWF etc. to write the advices for Obama it would have been different. But they did not. They did however ask Ban Ki-Moon and here is some of his comments under the headline "We're in for stormy weather – overshadowed by economic headlines, serious climate trouble looms ahead":

"The past year will be remembered for the global financial crisis. But net year will be no less dangerous, albeit for a different reason. Lost among the economic headlines is an even more important fact: emission of carbon dioxide, the leading greenhouse gas, rose by an unexpected 3 percent in 2007....there is other bad news. Everyone knows the accelerated melting of Artic see ice. Now recent U.N. reports offer evidence of less visible but equally troubling challenges. Our planet's species are going extinct at an unprecedented rate...All this points to a stark truth: though we can overcome the financial chocks of 2008, we will not overcome the climate-change crisis unless we act fast."

The environment and economy is connected for a simple reason. If the economy grow according to today's model we will have more pollution. A recession may therefore be good for the environment. But the real challenge is to redesign our present inefficient model to a sustainable way of living adopted to different parts of our common planet with all life forms.

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How to (not) fix the world with BAU – Business As Usual

Now I do not believe our present “Market” will solve our present crisis. In theory it would be fine. If we had a “free” market consisting of the “free” will of all inhabitants on earth – this would be a truly democratic market. But it is not. The market today is controlled and governed by the financial interest of a few companies and persons. Globalization = Centralization and not looking after the sustainable life on earth. This is why the Thatcher – Reagan – Bush doctrine was to deregulate everything and downsize government except the police & military. Well even the military has been privatized in the Iraq.

The logical twist in this is that the same “liberal” gang has been promoting “freedom and democracy” around the world. But if we do not need government what shall we then use free election for. If the power of the market, the industries, the media is controlled by a few men in global corporations who is not being elected – what is the democracy really giving us. Well it did something. After eight years it was possible to get rid of Bush. But we did not get rid of all the others of his friends that has not been elected.

Naturally there are many intelligent and honest people working within the upper management of these companies – most of them are really like you and me – with our good and bad sides. But their job is to make money – not to protect the environment. When I look through Newsweek, Fortune and the Economist for the different advertising from these companies I was first thrilled with the many Cartier, Rolex etc. ads. I did not know that we needed so many watches besides the other ads from banks and oil, car and consumer goods companies, Shell, Chevron, Total, Toyota, Sanyo etc. So maybe this is what our market is about – oil, cars, electronics, banks...and expensive watches.

But I was also thrilled to see the “green” approach taken by several of them. Toyota *“aim zero emission. We are committed to preserving the delicate balance between man and nature”*. Chevron present *“Energyville”* ad on-line game where you can design your sustainable city. Shell present *“The Engine –One of mankind's biggest challenges is to make this world work in a way that sustains everything that is wonderful about this planet.”* Shell even published a plan from “The principle voices” with many good ideas to improve the environment. Sanyo even took the GAIA idea from Lovelock (and my GAIA newsletter) and boldly states *“Sanyo – Think Gaia For Life and for Earth”* with examples of their more efficient air-conditioning.

So to think positively you may say Hurray – these guys have really changed.” If you want to think negatively you may say. “These guys have hired a new advertising agency to protect their image”. Or you may chose the middle way. These guys has understood there is money to make on the environment. Some of them are buying up new technology firms. Let’s hope that they are not repeating what happened in Los Angeles in the beginning of the 20th century when the oil companies bought up the electrical tram system (the largest in the world) to replace with free ways.And we have had electrical cars since >100 years!

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The real global crisis

If you read GAIA – The sixty years crisis you may understand why I call it this. Since 1949 we have seen a new model for the world develop based on oil, cars and shopping malls with the only goal to continuously increase consumption. By doing so we believe we are getting “growth”. This growth is reflected in higher stock values and higher property values. Our “personal wealth” is increasing. For a few it is increasing extremely much – million or billion of dollars. The basic idea is that if some of us become so rich the rest of us will chase for the same fortune. We will work more and harder but especially try to invest so the money will do the work for us. We will make money with money. If we are really smart we will gamble with other peoples money so we do not need to take any risks – only the fat bonus.

This whole model is constructed as a pyramid game that always need more people down in the bottom so the top can grow. And it is the people in the bottom who are carrying all the weight and are doing all the hard work. So in order to grow this pyramid you have to find these people who are willing to do so. Today they are workers in India, China, Brazil, Mexico or African, Asian & Latin American illegal or temporary immigrants in rich countries who can clean be prostitutes and do this things rich people do not want to do. The problem starts when there are not enough people who want to stay at the bottom of this pyramid.

We have now experienced some effects of this pyramid growth. The exponential increase of consumption during the last 60 years has given the rich world many new gadgets and comfort but also resulted in an environmental meltdown. Endless growth is not physically possible on our planet without taking a tremendous toll on existing nature and life. And now we have also experienced the financial and economical failure of this model. we should have the opportunity of a life time to change to a better and sustainable model. We have the knowledge and we have the technology –but we have to change our basic pyramid model and some aspects of the way we live. Instead of commuting several hours in car on crowded roads we may have to work near where we live and be forced to have more spare time to walk in the nearby forest so we can become healthier. What a “terrible” future!

If we instead would use all our resources to bail out banks, car manufacturers, build more roads and skyscrapers and stimulate consumption so we can continue this growth by including a couple of billion people from India and China we will also continue the destruction of this planet. Our only planet can not withstand a “Made in USA” way of living for all it’s inhabitants. We are already far above a sustainable level. So IF we want a better world for everybody the 20% living in the rich world has to significantly lower their consumption so the 80% living in the poor world are allowed to increase their use of necessary components for a better life. This is why it is so difficult for the world (And especially USA) to agree on a common road forward. Because promoting equality – isn’t that “socialism”. So we are now trying to find a way for the rich to be even richer and the poor to be on a decent level but some of them to be a rich as us, e.g. Chinese, Indian and Brazilian billionaires. This is the real crisis. An error in our thinking – the law of reason.

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The real global crisis also in Poznan

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

**The United Nations Climate Change Conference, Poznań, Poland - COP 14
1-12 December 2008**

The United Nations Climate Change Conference in Poznań opened on Monday, 1 December. The Conference is a milestone on the road to success for the processes which were launched under the Bali Road Map. The meeting comes midway between COP 13 in Bali, which saw the launch of negotiations on strengthened international action on climate change, and COP 15 Copenhagen, at which the negotiations are set to conclude.

If you read GAIA – The sixty years crisis you may understand why I together with many others call Poznan another failure. I have followed all environmental conferences since Stockholm 1972 and they all basically repeat the same problems but never agree on any solutions on the root cause. Yes it is true that several good deeds have been achieved but this basic conflict between endless growth and endless deterioration of the environment has never really been addressed. These are some of the comments after Poznan:

The agreement made by EU leaders on December 12 at Poznan, known as the climate and energy package, has been condemned as a failure by Climate Action Network Europe, Friends of the Earth Europe, Greenpeace, Oxfam and WWF....More specifically, EU leaders only made a weak and ambiguous commitment to the 30% reduction in EU emissions by 2020 they had trumpeted just last year. Furthermore, today's agreement would mean that unacceptably high levels – around two thirds - of these reductions could be met by buying carbon credits from projects outside EU borders. EU leaders also refused to introduce measures, such as fines, to compel countries to meet their national targets – a fundamental flaw, which could prompt governments to think that they can get away with inaction.

Green and development groups are therefore calling on the European Parliament to show strong support for far greater European emission reduction efforts when it votes next week on effort sharing and reject today's deal on this law. European citizens should express their outrage – and ask their national parliaments to stop external credits being used to buy the way out of real emission reductions within Europe....

Climate Action Network Europe, Friends of the Earth Europe, Greenpeace, Oxfam and WWF said: "This is a dark day for European climate policy. European heads of state and government have reneged on their promises and turned their backs on global efforts to fight climate change. "Angela Merkel, Silvio Berlusconi, Donald Tusk and Nicolas Sarkozy should be ashamed. They have chosen the private profits of polluting industry over the will of European citizens, the future of their children and the plight of millions of people around the world. The Parliament can and should amend the worst parts of today's deal."

The EU also abjectly failed to make binding commitments to provide funds to help developing countries adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change, and to reduce the growth in their emissions – a move which has threatened the collapse of the ongoing UN climate negotiations in Poland.

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The real global crisis also in Poznan

If you re-read my June newsletter you will find out about the launching of the <350 campaign. That is that the world has to limit the content of the carbon dioxide to 350 ppm to avoid severe consequences. Today we are at 386 ppm and rising about 2 ppm per year. In Poznan Al Gore was now supporting this conclusion.

“Al Gore gave the international climate talks in Poznan a new set of marching orders this afternoon, declaring that old targets for fighting global warming had been made obsolete by new science and that 350 parts per million CO₂ was the new standard for which the world must aim. “Even a goal of 450 parts per million, which seems so difficult today, is inadequate,” said Gore, adding, we “need to toughen that goal to 350 parts per million.”

The number itself is less than a year old—NASA scientist James Hansen first set it as a goal in a scientific paper last winter. But in the months since, a global effort led by 350.org has spread the goal with rallies and demonstrations on every continent.

“Our efforts reached a new level this afternoon, when Al Gore changed the decade-old goal for a new climate agreement,” said 350.org co-founder Bill McKibben. “The world now has a new target, one that negotiators must figure out how to meet by next year in Copenhagen if those talks are to be a success.”

350.org also used the occasion to announce an international day of action to spread the number next October 24, with events planned from high in the Himalayas to undersea on the Great Barrier Reef. “We need to take this movement for survival to the farthest reaches of the planet,” said Ely Katembo, 350.org organizer from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. “We’re talking to everyone, from wired teenagers in Europe to Masai tribesman on the plains of Kenya.”

The response to Gore’s remarks highlighted growing international acceptance of the goal—his call for a 350 target drew the longest applause of his speech.

“Actions are already streaming into the 350.org website from Norway, Korea, Ecuador, and more” says Jon Warnow, web strategist for the project. “16 years ago, when the Kyoto protocol was debated, this sort of campaign wouldn’t have been possible. Now, with the internet, we have the tools we need to organize at the scale of the problem we face.”

A variety of international voices spoke out in support of 350.org’s call to action. International human rights icon, Desmond Tutu, called the campaign, “an effective way to take action to turn around the climate crisis.” Leading United Kingdom environmental author, George Monbiot wrote, “This is a great initiative, which all those who care about the future of humanity should support.” More “350 Messengers” are displayed on the 350.org website.

“A year ago, nobody had ever heard of 350. But it turns out it’s the most important number on the planet,” said McKibben. “If people around the world know nothing else about global warming, we need them to understand that 350 represents a kind of safety—if we can get that message across, then they’ll demand dramatic action from their leaders.”

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The real global crisis also in Poznan

Climate deal a failure, say NGOs

12 December 2008

The agreement made by EU leaders on December 12 at Poznan, known as the climate and energy package, has been condemned as a failure by Climate Action Network Europe, Friends of the Earth Europe, Greenpeace, Oxfam and WWF.

Green and development groups described the deal on the Effort Sharing law (which sets national emission targets for sectors not included in the EU's emissions trading) as inconsistent with the EU's long-standing target of keeping global warming below 2 degrees Celsius.

The EU has once again failed to lead in climate negotiations by choosing to employ measures that will fall some way short of the intended 20% reduction in greenhouse emissions by 2020.

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EU Climate and Energy Package: WWF response

12 December 2008

WWF-UK is calling on the European Parliament to reject parts of the deal agreed by European Heads of Government for the EU Climate and Energy Package today. The agreement has been jointly condemned as a failure by Climate Action Network Europe, Friends of the Earth Europe, Greenpeace, Oxfam and WWF.



WWF described today's deal on the Effort Sharing law (which sets national emission targets for sectors not included in the EU's emissions trading scheme such as transport, buildings and agriculture) as inconsistent with the EU's long-standing target of keeping global warming below 2 degrees Celsius. The conservation organisation therefore calls on the European Parliament to reject this part of the package.

"EU politicians may be hoping to trumpet today's deal on climate change as a great success, but in reality this is a significant failure," said Colin Butfield, Head of Campaigns at WWF-UK. "Europe has essentially decided to off-set almost two thirds of its own greenhouse gas emissions, to have consumers pay for emissions permits that polluting companies will have received for free and to avoid supporting poorer countries in the fight to tackle climate change."

"By refusing to place a pollution limit on fossil fuel power stations as part of the Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) Directive, EU Heads of Government have also failed to ensure that heavily polluting power stations will no longer be part of our future and are leaving the door open for new unabated coal throughout Europe."

POZNAN, Poland (Reuters) - President-elect Barack Obama's goals for curbing greenhouse gases to 2020 are inadequate to fight global warming, Chinese and Indian delegates told Reuters at U.N. climate talks on Wednesday.

EU "leaders" follow industry on climate

12 Dec 2008

Brussels, Belgium/Poznan, Poland: Last year's bold commitments on climate were translated into feeble commitments on action today as European leaders finalised the more contentious aspects of the climate and energy package, Europe's headline response to the climate change issue.

With support for a 30% reduction in Europe's emissions by 2020 now no more than a muted whisper, leading NGOs including WWF called on the European parliament to vote down the Effort Sharing law that is a key outcome of the leaders' summit.

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The real global crisis also in Poznan

It seems that it was only USA that was happy about the result according to the reports:

The outcome "was what we were hoping for, and when I say we I think more than just the US," James Connaughton, chairman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, told AFP.

"But it is going to require some very sustained work and also a higher level of political will on everybody's part. [It] lays bare the challenge that lies ahead the challenge of getting to an agreement within a year."

South Africa Environment Minister Marthinus van Schalkwyk said that some of the issues up for discussion had "led to tension between developed and developing countries."

"But even so I think we will be ready for negotiations and tension and confrontation are part of negotiations. I will be ready and am looking forward to next year," he told AFP.

Su Wei, the Chinese chief climate negotiator, said he was "disappointed by the slow progress -- even no progress" at Poznan, with "some parties not going to move anywhere" on certain issues.

"I think the developed countries are blocking on every item. I don't think that they are objectively prepared to make any progress," Su told AFP.

Green groups were highly disappointed, with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) saying Poznan was a "major missed opportunity" for hammering out concessions on how to slash greenhouse-gas emissions.

"This was a moment in time when real leaders would have stepped up and taken the positions that would combat the economic and climate crisis at the same time," WWF bemoaned.

It said the "only positive decision" was on progress to launch a fund to provide cash to help poor countries cope with climate change -- the so-called Adaptation Fund.

Developing nations battled for this Fund to tap wider sources of revenue from the burgeoning carbon market under the Kyoto Protocol, but this was rejected by wealthy countries -- a confrontation that reflected "bitterness," de Boer admitted.

"Developing countries rightly expect the world's wealthiest nations to take the lead. Instead, industrialized countries are continuing to dodge their financial and technology transfer obligations to developing nations," Friends of the Earth International said.

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The real global crisis also in Poznan

"The meeting accomplished little more than rehashing the same language discussed in Bali," Greenpeace said. "Saying the same thing you said a year ago is not progress."

"The best way forward at this point is to draw a line under the Poznan meeting, and look forward to what we can -- and must -- accomplish in less than a year," Greenpeace said.

British charity Oxfam said Poznan "exposed a shameful lack of progress."

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) describing it as a "major missed opportunity" to thrash out concessions on slashing greenhouse-gas emissions. "This was a moment in time when real leaders would have stepped up and taken the positions that would combat the economic and climate crisis at the same time," WWF said.

Scientists point the finger for climate change at human influence, especially the burning of fossil fuels in power stations, factories and by cars, as well as through deforestation and agriculture. Gigatonnes of greenhouse gases spew each year into the Earth's atmosphere, acting like an invisible blanket that stores solar heat and changes the climate system. By century's end, sea levels will rise, deserts will grow and storms floods and droughts could become more frequent.

Even though the peril now seems clear, addressing its source carries an economic cost, because it implies a switch away from fossil fuels that remain the backbone of the world's energy supply. This is why the negotiations in 2009 are likely to be tense. Rich countries acknowledge their historic role in the problem but say emerging powers like China and India must also slow their surging carbon pollution. Developing nations argue that the industrialized world should lead by example, and foot the bill for clean-energy technology and coping with the impact of global warming.

Former U.S. Vice President Al Gore... urged the conference to stay focused on reducing the global carbon emissions that have already begun to change the conditions of life on Earth.... Gore warned the ministers to strengthen their carbon emission reduction targets to take account of growing evidence that global warming will strike harder and sooner than scientists had previously thought. "I call on the people of the world to speak up more forcefully," Gore said.

"We need to focus clearly and unblinkingly on this crisis rather than spending so much time on OJ Simpson, Paris Hilton and Anna Nicole Smith... This challenge "affects the survival of human civilization," Gore said. "We cannot negotiate with the facts, we cannot negotiate with the truth about our situation, we cannot negotiate with the consequences of unrestrained dumping of 70 million tons of global warming pollution into the thin shell of atmosphere surrounding our planet every 24 hours," he said.

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The real global crisis of rich and poor

To get another angle than the conventional Euro-American single minded description on the Poznan meeting I will quote two Chinese journalists Wei Jianhua & Zhang Zhang:

“ POZNAN, Poland, Dec. 5 (Xinhua) -- Delegates from some 190 countries continued to focus on a shared vision on fighting climate change and adaptation to its adverse effects on Friday, but differences remained largely unresolved between developed and developing nations. Countries were still wrangling over a variety of issues related to the global fight against climate change, trying to seek ways to seal a deal in Copenhagen, Denmark, next December to succeed the first period of the Kyoto Protocol, which is to expire in 2012.

The developed countries are seeking to set up a shared vision on long-term goal for emission cuts, saying that such a goal will set the direction for future actions. Some industrialized countries believe that a 50-percent cut of emissions against the 1990 level by 2050 is necessary for the goal of preventing rising temperatures. The developing nations, however, rejected such a global goal at this stage, arguing that such a vision is not feasible since there are no concrete plans for providing finance and technology required by the developing countries. Brazil said a shared vision should be guided by the provisions and principles of the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change, such as the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

Su Wei, deputy head of the Chinese delegation to the Poznan talks, said a shared vision on long-term cooperative action should not be a single-dimension objective only for mitigation, but a multi-dimension objective including mitigation, adaptation, technology, financing, and sustainable development. A mid-term reduction target for developed countries is key to any long term goal, Su said, noting that cutting greenhouse gas emissions by at least 25-40 percent by 2020 compared to 1990 levels should be a goal observed by developed countries.

India, another major developing country, said U.S. president-elect Barack Obama's target of cutting U.S. emissions back to 1990 levels by 2020 is inadequate to avoid global warming. U.S. emissions are still running about 14 percent above 1990 levels. While acknowledging Obama's target as a progress, Indian Foreign Ministry official Dinesh Patnaik said the U.S. target "is not ambitious enough."

On the adaptation fund, the developing countries believe that there is a need to scale up finance and technology transfer for poorer countries, while the developed ones only stressed the importance of technology needs assessment. Calling on delegates to advance funding for climate change projects, U.N. climate chief Yvo de Boer told a press conference on Thursday that "the developing countries are especially vulnerable and will be the hardest hit" as they have limited capacity to cope with climate change and need financial and other assistance to implement adaptation actions."

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The real global crisis of rich and poor

The Poznan meeting demonstrated once again the fundamental gap between the “have a lot” and the “have very little”. Between the “developed first world” and the “developing third world” and what now is called “emerging markets”. Once again we need to look at our short history. Up till 60 years ago “the emerging markets” where all colonies to white Europe. The second world war changed this somewhat and USA entered as a new colonial power trying to have “the right governments” in place in Latin America and Asia. And this is basically still going on as we see in Iraq and Afghanistan. So we have for a long time – basically since America was discovered by the Europeans 500 years ago looked at the non-white world as “a resource” for our own wealth. For slaves and raw materials no modified to cheap labor and cheap consumer goods.

When we declare our absolute truth and knowledge of what is going on in the world we often forget how a very short time in history we have to support this “truth”. And instead we are looking 24 hours a day on different “trends”. Hypnotized in our own ego. What we have not understood is that the pollution done by us – less than 20% of the world population – during the last 60 years is more than the previous 60 million years. And “we do not know shit” about the consequences more than they are going to be many and drastic.

Science Magazine January 2009 writes about the 150 years anniversary of Charles Darwin’s evolution theory. Imagine – this was only 150 years ago. After the w have learned about the origin of the Universe and Earth – 5 – 15 billion years ago. That is a lot. We have also learned about the so-called Cambrian explosion more than 500 million years ago when thousands of different species were created. And then the human evolution from some 6 million years ago. to Homo Sapiens some 100 000 years ago. All in Africa as part of a rich environment. The French writer Le Clezio got the Nobel price in literature 2008. A fascinating man with a different perspective on life compared to today’s market doctrines. He describes very realistic the consequences of the white supremacy colonizing the world but also declare his love to original humanity. One of his books is L’Africain” – The African about his experience in Africa. Our origin from where we send the salves to America.

In another book “Raga- Approche du continent invisible”, Raga - the invisible continent he describes the horrifying assault on islands in the Pacific by first the British & French later American & Australian invaders resulting in a similar genocide as in America with the island population reduced from about 1 million year 1800 to 45 000 just before the second world war. As part of what was known as “Blackbirds” slaves was captured from the islands and sent to Australia until early 1900. And now we know that the rising sea-level due to the global warming will destroy many of these “islands of paradise.” So our 60 years crisis is a crisis of our man made civilization – with roots in the colonial oppression, slavery and world wars. Looking for gold and resources to get rich. Nothing to be proud of. Sill we believe that the same model and the same thinking from the 19th century is the ONLY way.

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The Real Global Crisis - Greenhouse gases will heat up planet for ever

Greenhouse gases will heat up planet 'for ever'

New study shows the effects of CO2 pollution will be felt for hundreds of thousands of years

By Geoffrey Lean, Environment Editor

Sunday, 30 November 2008

Geoffrey Lean from UK based Independent published this article Nov 30, before Poznan:

Global warming is for ever, some of the world's top climate scientists have concluded. Their research shows that carbon dioxide emitted from today's homes, cars and factories will continue to heat up the planet for hundreds of thousands of years.

Their findings – which contradict a widespread belief that the atmosphere would recover quickly once humanity stopped polluting it – come at the beginning of the most crucial week for the climate this year. Tomorrow Britain's powerful Climate Change Committee will lay out a road map to put the country on track to slash its greenhouse gas emissions by 80 per cent by 2050. At the same time, the world's governments will meet in Poznan, in Poland, to try to set the world on the path to agreeing a new international treaty next year, billed as the last chance to keep global warming to tolerable levels.

The new research will add to the pressure on ministers at home and abroad to take radical steps. And it will add urgency to attempts to find ways of removing excess carbon dioxide already in the atmosphere, as well as trying to prevent further emissions.

It comes as a shock because most governments, and even many scientists, have assumed that carbon dioxide emissions would work their way out of the atmosphere in about a century, enabling it to clean itself fairly rapidly once the world switched to clean sources of energy.

But one of the main researchers – Professor David Archer of Chicago University – warns that "the climatic impacts of releasing fossil fuel carbon dioxide into the atmosphere will last longer than Stonehenge, longer than time capsules, far longer than the age of human civilisation so far. Ultimate recovery takes place on timescales of hundreds of thousands of years, a geologic longevity typically associated in public perceptions with nuclear waste."

Carbon dioxide mainly leaves the atmosphere by being soaked up by the oceans, but Professor Archer says that "the pervasive notion in the climate science community and in the public at large" that this happens relatively quickly is no longer valid. He and other leading scientists spell out why in a paper to be published in the journal Annual Reviews of Earth and Planetary Sciences.

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The Real Global Crisis - Greenhouse gases will heat up planet for ever

"The ocean is getting fed up with absorbing our CO₂," he says. The surface waters, about 100 metres deep, which used to sop up the gas quite fast, are now getting saturated with it – turning acid in the process – and so decreasing their uptake. They need to be replaced with fresh water from deep down, but this overturning circulation "takes centuries or a millennium". And global warming is expected to slow this down: the hotter the surface layer becomes, the longer the replenishment takes.

Indeed, the forthcoming paper will add, research shows that even this renewing process will not be enough to remove all the vast amounts of carbon dioxide that humanity is now adding to the atmosphere. Much of it will have to wait hundreds of thousands of years before being removed by another, infinitely slower, process: the natural weathering of rocks, which incorporates the gas into other substances. And the more pollution that is emitted now, the worse this will become.

Research by another of the paper's authors, Professor Ken Caldeira of the Carnegie Institute for Science, in Stanford, California, adds another alarming twist to the story. He was surprised to find that even after the pollution stops, the Earth's temperature will not start to fall but will settle at a new, higher level.

Professor James Hansen, director of Nasa's Goddard Institute of Space Studies, and perhaps the world's most revered climate scientist, warns that the "long lifetime of carbon dioxide emitted by fossil fuel burning" means that just slowing down emissions is no solution. Instead, he says, some of the fuels must "be left in the ground" for ever, and that the gas must actually be removed from the air.

He proposes removing carbon dioxide by growing trees, which soak it up as they grow, and then burning them to produce electricity and capturing the gas before it is emitted. He also proposes that no more coal-fired power stations be built.

Tomorrow's report by the Climate Change Committee – chaired by Lord Turner, who also heads the Financial Services Authority – is expected to discourage the construction of new coal-fired stations, such as the one proposed for Kingsnorth in Kent.

More and more of our scientists are now concluding that the effects of carbon dioxide on the environment is much more severe than earlier predicted. We are moving into a phase of positive feedback when we really do not know what will happen. The use of fossil fuel is the main reason. But we have many other polluting processes taking place at the same time with hundreds of artificial substances pushed into the ecosystem. And now we have started manipulating life itself. All this has happened during one generation -our generation – The black ages governed by the "stupid white men".

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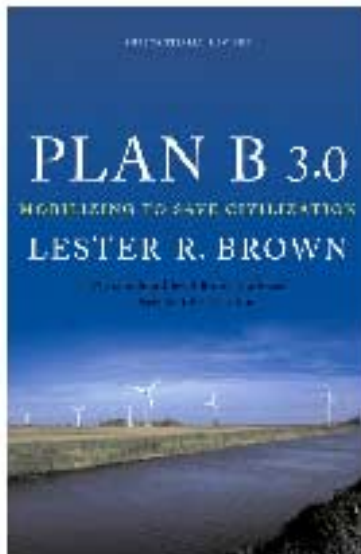
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The Real Global Crisis – Plan B for wartime mobilization

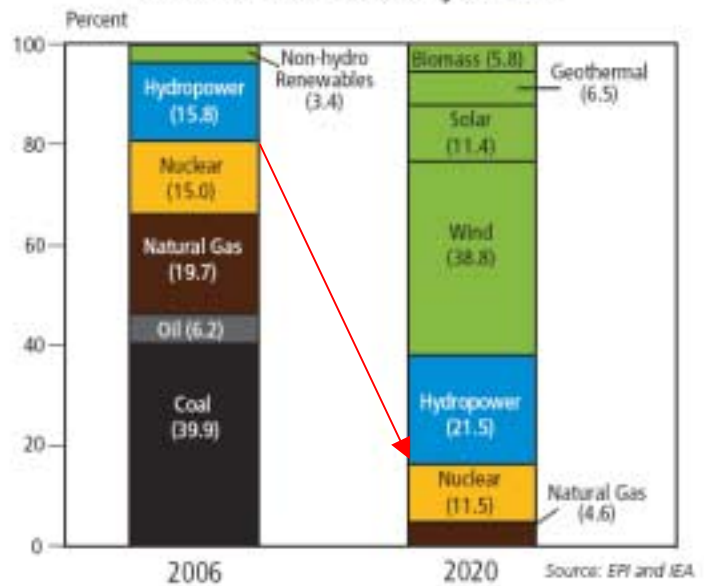
Lester Brown known from the World Watch institute has published Plan B on the Earth Policy Institute. He calls for even more urgent actions – a wartime mobilization.

Welcome to Earth Policy Institute, dedicated to building a sustainable future as well as providing a plan of how to get from here to there. –

Lester Brown, President



World Electricity Generation by Source in 2006 and in the Plan B Economy of 2020



“There are many things we do not know about the future. But one thing we do know is that business as usual will not continue for much longer. Massive change is inevitable. Will the change come because we move quickly to restructure the economy or because we fail to act and civilization begins to unravel?”

Saving civilization will take a massive mobilization, and at wartime speed. The closest analogy is the belated U.S. mobilization during World War II. But unlike that chapter in history, in which one country totally restructured its economy, the Plan B mobilization requires decisive action on a global scale.

On the climate front, official attention has now shifted to negotiating a post-Kyoto protocol to reduce carbon emissions. But that will take years. We need to act now. There is simply not time for years of negotiations and then more years for ratification of another international agreement.....”

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The Real Global Crisis – Plan B for wartime mobilization

“We know from our analysis of global warming, from the accelerating deterioration of the economy’s ecological supports, and from our projections of future resource use in China that the western economic model—the fossil-fuel-based, automobile-centered, throwaway economy—will not last much longer. We need to build a new economy, one that will be powered by renewable sources of energy, that will have a diversified transport system, and that will reuse and recycle everything.

We can describe this new economy in some detail. The question is how to get from here to there before time runs out. Can we reach the political tipping points that will enable us to cut carbon emissions before we reach the ecological tipping points where the melting of the Himalayan glaciers becomes irreversible? Will we be able to halt the deforestation of the Amazon before it dries out, becomes vulnerable to fire, and turns into wasteland?

What if three years from now scientists announced that we have waited too long to cut carbon emissions and that the melting of the Greenland ice sheet is irreversible? How would the realization that we are responsible for a coming 23-foot rise in sea level and hundreds of millions of refugees from rising seas affect us? How would it affect our sense of self, our sense of who we are? It could trigger a fracturing of society along generational lines like the more familiar fracturing of societies along racial, religious, and ethnic lines. How will we respond to our children when they ask, “How could you do this to us? How could you leave us facing such chaos?”

As we have seen, a corporate accounting system that left costs off the books drove Enron, one of the largest U.S. corporations, into bankruptcy. Unfortunately, our global economic accounting system that also leaves costs off the books has potentially far more serious consequences.

The key to building a global economy that can sustain economic progress is the creation of an honest market, one that tells the ecological truth. To create an honest market, we need to restructure the tax system by reducing taxes on work and raising them on various environmentally destructive activities to incorporate indirect costs into the market price. If we can get the market to tell the truth, then we can avoid being blindsided by a faulty accounting system that leads to bankruptcy. As Øystein Dahle, former Vice President of Exxon for Norway and the North Sea, has observed: “Socialism collapsed because it did not allow the market to tell the economic truth. Capitalism may collapse because it does not allow the market to tell the ecological truth.”

Adapted from Chapter 13, “The Great Mobilization,” in Lester R. Brown, Plan B 3.0: Mobilizing to Save Civilization (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2008),

Well these words were written before the financial meltdown with the economic truth....

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The sixty years crisis

The sixty years crisis is my attempt to compile facts and thoughts about the global development including several major aspects such as environment, culture, economy and science. But most of all to relate this development to ourselves. To you and me. Because the sixty years crisis is for me a crisis of our present civilization that we are all part of. We often forget that we are living within such a very short period in history. There is a Swedish expression translated to "speed blind". This means when you drive a car very fast you lose the perspective of this speed and can naturally also lose control and cause an accident. This is what we are doing right now. We have lost the perspective of the speed we are destroying our common Earth with. And we are blind for the effects of consumerism.

I have been writing about this for more than 30 years. All the time since the first environmental conference in Stockholm 1972. And I am sad to say and I am also frustrated that although something has improved the main direction of our war against Nature is the same and so very few of us dare or can have another opinion compared to the mainstream market dogma and the dance around the "Golden Calf". Still I am trying to spread my own beliefs through my Newsletters on Internet. The GAIA homepage has been around for more than one year and is now more valid than ever before. So please read it or re-read it. Download it as pdf or read it directly from the Internet on your pc. Pass it on to your friends. Here follows a couple of slides from the different parts. But the resolution is bad so after reviewing them please go to the main documents on the GAIA home page. After the Introduction part A –The Problem! and B – The Solution? you will find the following separate pdf files. This ends with my own journey. Because all this depends on us – you and me. It is personal!

The sixty years crisis

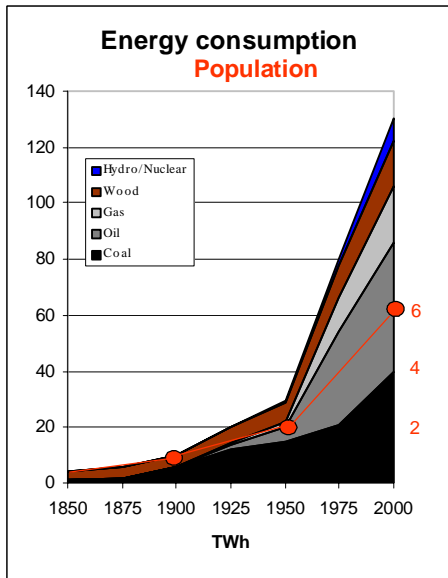
- The crisis!
- The surprise?
- Gaia – our living planet
- Our common history – and future
- The facts
- The real terrorists
- The American dream
- My Home Countries
- The globalization nightmare
- So where do we go from here?
- My own journey

Please continue to read the following parts of this Internet book with more facts about the crisis and thoughts about our common future

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The unsustainable development



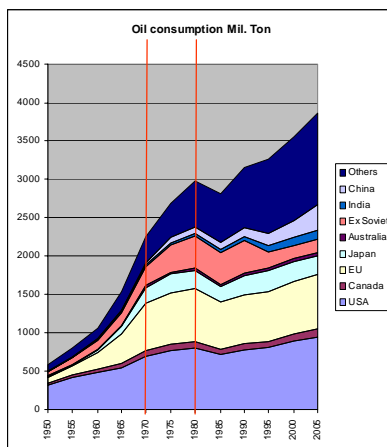
There are probably several reasons for this sudden spark. But the absolute most important is the discovery of fossil fuel – the eternal fire from Pandora's box. Coal, gas and oil for our ships, machines, houses, cars, airplanes. Fertilizers, chemicals, plastics.

From 1850 to 1950 we grew in pace with the industrialization. But in just 50 years from when I was born 1949 to the Millennium shift the total world population increased from 2.5 billion to 6.2 billion or 250%. And during the same period burning of fossil fuels increased 500%. The increase increased in what we call exponential growth from 1949 and on.

Just looking at this diagram we should have understood the simple fact that such a development was unsustainable long time ago. This is not any "rocket science". It is a simple conclusion that should not have been a surprise for anyone.

Gaia Introduction – The problem! –page 13

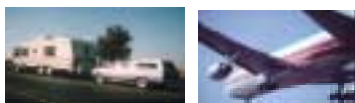
So what happened after 1949?



Since 1949 the oil consumption in the world has increased 8 times. After the second world most cars and oil consumption was in United States. Many of the other countries were devastated after the war. Europe and Japan were rebuilt with American help and with the new American model. It was the car and toy manufacturing plants that got Germany and Japan rolling. And American airplanes was connecting "*the new brave world*".

But oil was not restricted to cars and airplanes. Fertilizers, chemicals and machines mechanized the farming. Instead of living on locally grown food we changed to meat and black carbonated coke. All production was centralized and uniformed.

Everything was processed, packed and shipped in an increasing number of trucks. Black asphalt became wider and longer roads. Concrete and steel for skyscrapers. And we were all watching this American dream on TV "*Made in Hollywood*". The American way of life was now becoming the European & Japanese way of life.

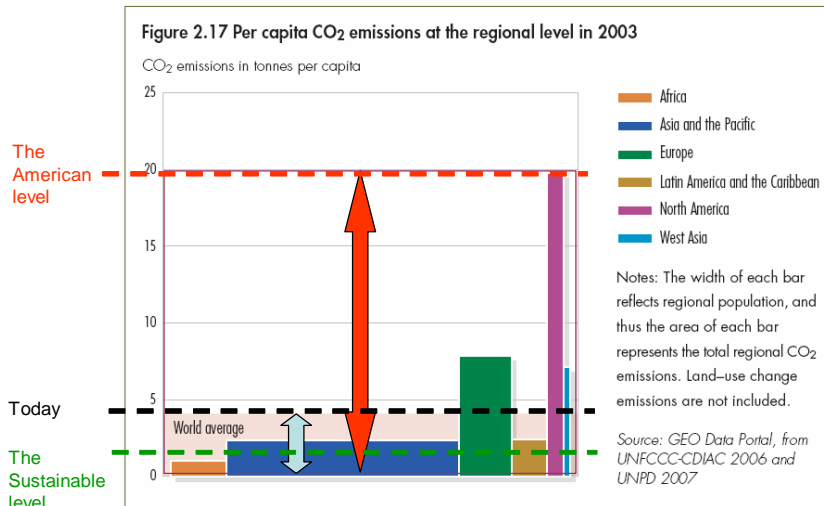


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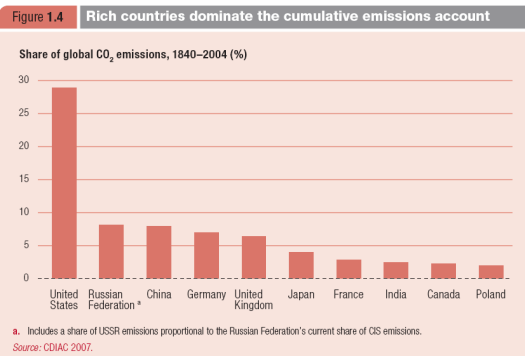
**The problem is that the world can not sustain the American way of life
The bucket is already full!**



Gaia Introduction – The problem! –page 24

We are to blame (US, AU, CA, JP, EU)

It is now a fact that the burning of fossil fuel result in increased concentration of carbon dioxide in the air and this creates the global warming. It is also a fact that about 50% of this pollution stays in the atmosphere for hundreds of years. We are carrying our history with us. So therefore it is a fact that we in the rich western world with USA in the lead are responsible for what is happening now. But what we now call “The emerging markets” in Asia who produces our cheap consumer gadgets but also more cars are catching up! But it is our model, our corporations, our super market and our consumer addiction that is driving this.



<http://hdr.undp.org/en/>

Published 12:00 GMT (10 am in Brasilia) 27 November 2007

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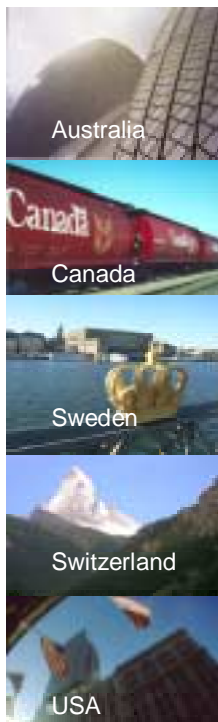
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This is the hard reality!

- Global warming is a reality and it is putting the whole earth at risk
- Global warming is only one symptom of escalating consumption
- The ecological balance is disturbed by us – causing mass extinction
- We the rich in the developed western world are responsible for the crisis
- We have known about this for a very long time but done nothing
- Instead we have accelerated in this devastating and wrong direction
- We seem blocked in this dead end street of endless consumption
- So we have to slow down, turn around and find a sustainable direction
- We in the western world have to change our way of living –NOW
- It is very urgent and it is going to affect every aspect of our lives
- Unfortunately many of our leaders have not yet understood this
- The lack of political, economical and media leadership is shameful
- As Al Gore puts it we have all failed since we are going down together
- We need a total “revolution” in our values, thinking and model
- This is why the task “to change the world” is your mission.

Gaia Introduction – The solution? –page 23

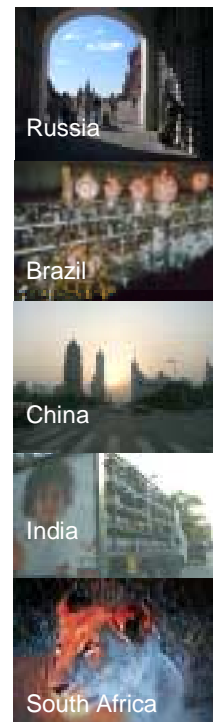


ONE different world

I have been very fortunate to be able to travel, work, live and make friends in different countries around the world. The greatest error in today's globalization religion I see is that we are trying to implement ONE and the same consumer model for the whole world.

Our world is different with different climate, plants and animals as well as different human cultures. It is this biodiversity that gives the universal beauty, goodness and the truth. A sustainable way of living has to be based on the specific conditions in each part of our world when we learn how to live with Nature.

Instead we are reducing it to a number of air conditioned supermarkets interlinked with free ways and air ways. This ONE way street we are now traveling with increasing speed is a dead end street where we will soon crash. We not only need to stop our car we need to turn around and walk a different path.



Gaia Introduction – The solution? –page 24

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The sane society and sane economy?

"In building the new industrial machine, man became so absorbed in the new task that it became the paramount goal of his life... His energies, which once were devoted to the search of God and salvation, are now directed toward the domination of nature and self-increasing material comfort... Happiness becomes identical with consumption of newer and better commodities... The danger of the past was that men became slaves. The danger of the future is that man may become robots"

These are the words of Erich Fromm in "The sane society" from 1955.

In "Culture of Contentment" from 1992 The Harvard professor John Kenneth Galbraith wrote *"The market has its own truth on which reality does not intrude."*

Galbraith has over the years followed the development of capitalism and he describes it's modern version originating from the Reagan era as self destructive where the established balance between state and private corporations had been removed for a "free market": *"To help the poor and middle classes, one must cut the tax for the rich."* Corporate greed was growing where the income for the big business management increased from 29 times the average salary to 93 times in ten years. The mergers and acquisition mania resulted in a few dominant corporations.

To solve the real estate speculation and banking crisis is besides more military expenditures the only objectives for the state while the rich gets more rich.

So now when we know that the same model that is destroying our earth is also a self destructive economical system for the rich only and does not make people happier (Not even the rich) it should be easy to change to something better, or?

Gaia Introduction – The solution? –page 28

Our Big Change

We have a huge process in front of us. It is a total revolution. And this revolution starts in our minds and souls. To rediscover humanity!

Today we live in a mans world. A rich and white mans world. A man who needs instant gratification and to get this is willing to do anything. Go to war, get drunk, rape, destroy the planet.

Because this is what we really have seen throughout our history with colonization, slavery and what we now call liberalization. The problem is that this is now on an enormous global scale.

This criticism against our present "World order" is not new. So many great authors, scientists, philosophers have showed us the limitations of our "modern way of life and what we need to change. Their conclusion is that our modern world has become linear and divided in parts. We have lost the ability to see and understand the whole. Also today we can only grasp ONE problem and we look for ONE solution.

Jung, Fromm and Maslow and many other thinking humans all say we need a holistic way of thinking. To balance the mental, emotional, physical and spiritual reality. And this is the same "universal truth" as the natural living man knew symbolized in the Medicine Wheel or the circle.

Our present "developed" way of living in our material corner is NOT natural. We need to find our way back to a whole world!

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- More than 2 million people globally die prematurely every year due to outdoor and indoor air pollution.
- The “hole” in the stratospheric ozone layer over the Antarctic – the layer that protects people from harmful ultraviolet radiation – is now the largest it has ever been. salinity, desertification, and the disruption of biological cycles. Poor people suffer disproportionately from the effects of land degradation, especially in the drylands, which support some 2 billion people, 90 per cent of whom live in developing countries.
- The per capita availability of freshwater is declining globally, and contaminated water remains the greatest single environmental cause of human sickness and death. If present
- Unsustainable land use and climate change are driving land degradation, including soil erosion, nutrient depletion, water scarcity,
- Aquatic ecosystems continue to be heavily exploited, putting at risk sustainability of food supplies and biodiversity. Global marine and freshwater fish catches show large-scale declines, caused mostly by persistent overfishing.
- The great majority of well-studied species are declining in distribution, abundance or both.

The Huge Disaster

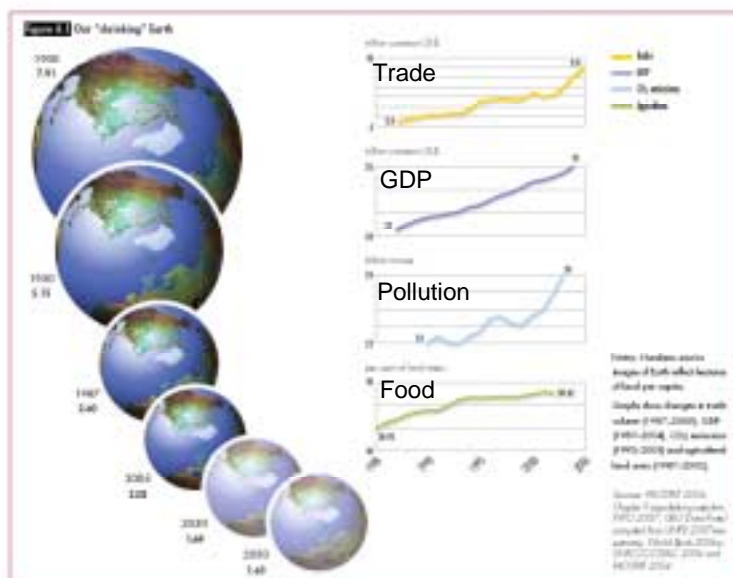
But carbon dioxide and global warming is only ONE of the consequences of our present way of living. More waste is polluting our planet, the

Ozone hole is larger than ever. Land degradation is accelerating. We are “harvesting” too much fish from our oceans. We are running out of fresh water. Species are going extinct in an unprecedented pace since the age of the dinosaurs. And still a large part of the world population is starving. We are the dinosaurs!



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The runaway ”development”



Gaia 1 The Crisis –page 12

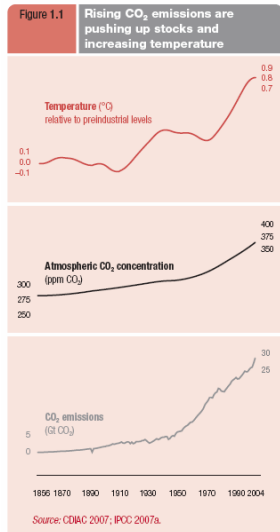
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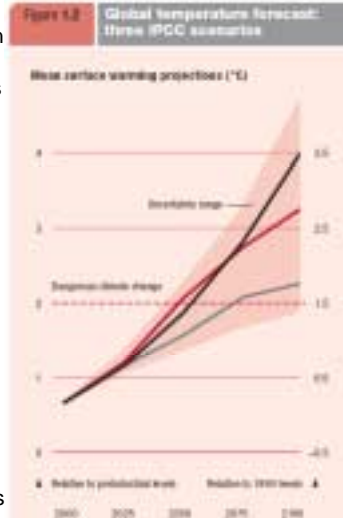
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This is wrong

Our economic model is based on continuous growth. Governments, institutions, corporations, manufacturers, banks and media has one thing in common. To stimulate more consumption of “anything” – excess consumption. When the new “liberal” globalization religion took off as the only goal, pollution also took off.

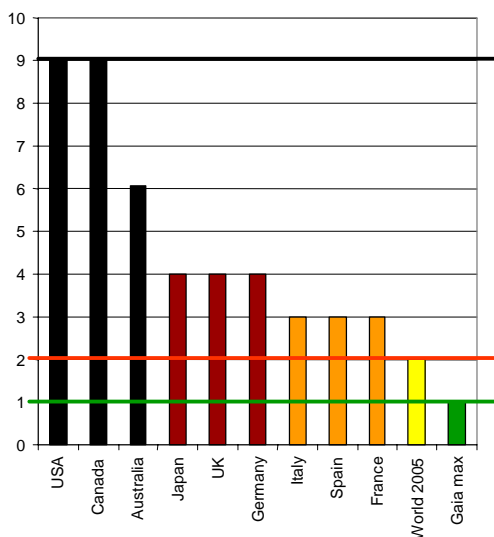


- More excess consumption
- More use of raw materials
- More transportation
- More pollution of nature
- Offsetting natural balance
- Global warming etc.
- Severe climate change
- Starvation & deceases
- Migration, chaos & wars
- Mass extinction of species



Gaia 1 The Crisis –page 15

The consequences of our life style



The present situation is that we are consuming two times the maximum capacity of Gaia, our living planet.

USA and Canada are consuming nine (9) times measured in per capita.

Imagine if Africa, China, India and South America would copy this unsustainable life style.....when we already are consuming two planets.

The rich countries that are economically and military dominating the world is responsible for this disaster. They have also been responsible for dividing the world. And they are now with the help of WTO, IMF etc. pushing the rest of the world to “join the party”. Are we totally insane?

Gaia 1 The Crisis –page 25

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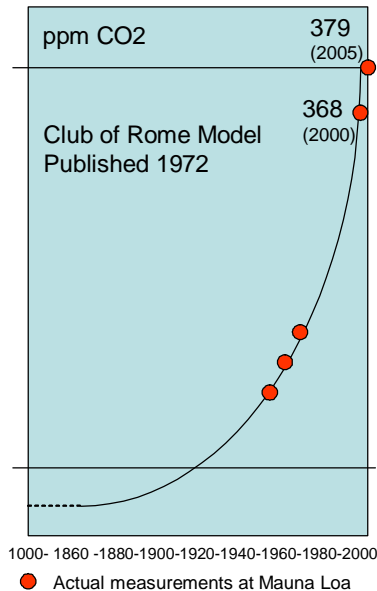
The surprise?

1972 when the first UN conference on the environment was held in Stockholm a large number of reports and books were published with warnings for the consequences of our increasing use of natural resources and resulting pollution.

One of these studies came from “The club of Rome” with scientists using a computer model of the world. This report was criticized by the establishment and soon forgotten like most of the other books.

This report from 1972 (35 years ago) did however forecast the increase of the carbon dioxide (CO₂) and the threat of global warming. When we today compare their forecast with actual result we find....
that they were absolutely 100% right...

35 years ago!



Gaia 2 The Surprise? –page 3

This was the conclusion 35 years ago

“In all industrial activities and the use of natural resources the Nature will impose certain limits which we independent of economical system have to consider:

- The ecological limitations, i.e. Natures own tolerance for pollution and other disturbances in the ecological balance.
- The physical limitations of resources, i.e. that a certain substance is available up to a certain amount.
- The economical limitations, i.e. the cost to retrieve resources.....

These limitations often interact when it comes to consumption of a specific resource. We can assume that that for some resources it is the ecological limitations and not the absolute quantity that will limit the maximum use. As an example we can mention the burning of fossil fuels which are limited by the Natures tolerance for CO₂ ”.....

..... “The amount of coal that for million of years has been stored apart from the biosphere is now being released very rapidly to the eco system. An increased level of CO₂ in the atmosphere will also reduce the heat radiation from Earth with an increased average temperature as a consequence”

” The climate on earth become warmer because of the green house effect which is created with the increased level of CO₂ in the atmosphere. Large and unpredictable consequences for the environment will happen before 2030..... ”

So who wrote these wise words 35 years ago that now have come true?

Gaia 2 The Surprise? –page 5

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Think for a short moment about Gaia

Our earth needed 5 billion years to create all the wonderful life forms which today is our living planet that we also call Gaia. 5 000 000 000 years is a very long time.
- This is very difficult to understand.

Our civilisation was born in Mesopotamia 5000 years ago. Also this is a long time which is difficult to grasp. It is equal to about 100 human generations of 50 years.

Some 500 years ago man understood that we all were living on one rotating planet but we still believed that this Earth was created 4004 B.C until 150 years ago when the scientific and industrial revolution changed our world completely in a very short timeperiod. Still when my own grandfather was born neither electricity, cars nor airplanes had been invented.

One day is equal to 24 hours which is equal to $24 \times 60 \times 60 = 86\ 400$ seconds. One year is equal to $365 \times 6400 = 31\ 356\ 000$ seconds.

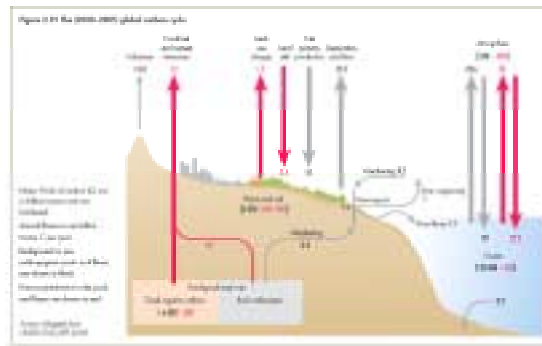
If we imagine our world to be created the first of January this year our civilisation is born on December 31 at 23.59 and 31 seconds before midnight. Half a second before midnight we begin burning the oil for cars and airplanes that now is destroying our planet.

Half a second of a whole year! In such a very short time we have managed to severely damage our common planet – Gaia.
- This is very difficult to understand!

Gaia 3 The Living Planet –page 6

The delicate balance

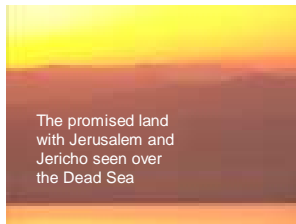
Our living planet consist today of millions of different species who all interact. Each life form exist for a reason . We are all connected in the dance of life. The interaction between water, air, soil and living species has evolved under billion of years. And this life is concentrated to an extremely thin layer around our Earth. Humans and other animals need oxygen and exhaust carbon dioxide which is used by the plants who produce oxygen. This is done in an extremely delicate balance. A balance that we now have disturbed. Such disturbances has occurred before such as when the dinosaurs went extinct. And natural evolution is constantly changing nature. But that one species = homo sapiens during such a short time period has managed to completely upset this delicate balance is unique – and very scary.



Gaia 3 The Living Planet –page 10

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The promised land with Jerusalem and Jericho seen over the Dead Sea



Auschwitz concentration camp

A people without a land

When I grew up it was mandatory in the sixth grade to watch long documentary movie about the German concentration camps with the naked dead and suffering Jews. This was the culmination of a European and Christian Racism that started 1492 (The same year Columbus discovered America) when the Spanish king expelled all Jews. The Massacre of six Million Jews by the Nazis is part of our collective guilt. Because the harassment of the Jews were everywhere in Europe, not only in Germany.

The idea of a new homeland for the Jews around the world originates from 1897 when The World Zionist Organisation was founded in Basel, Switzerland. 1901 the Jewish National Fund was created to purchase land in Palestine.

This was an idealistic venture with many good sides. The problem was that the promised land was already occupied. The problem was also that UK during the first world war had promised this land to the Arabs if they revolted against the Ottoman Turks supporting Germany in the war. But then UK also promised the Jews. 1948 when Israel declared it's own state it was after a number of deadly Jewish terrorist attacks against both Arabs and Britons. The Deir Yasin Massacre, the King David Hotel bombing and others was the start of a long war between two people without a land.

Gaia 4 Our common history – And future –page 30



Another people without a land

On one of my journeys in the Middle East I went with a Palestinian taxi driver from Amman down to what is left of the Jordan river where John is said to have baptized Jesus. He was one out of five million without a country and his family had fled three times. After we had walked along the barbed wire down to one of Christianities holiest place we saw the mines and the Israeli fortress and flag on the other side of the occupied west bank.

1900 only 10% of the population in Palestine were Jews.

After the first world war when Palestine was a British mandate this was about 80 000 Jews or 13%. 1946 after the second world war this was about 600 000 Jews and 1/3. The other 2/3 were Palestinian Arabs. 1947 UN proposed a division of Palestine on one Jewish and one Arabic state. 55% of the land was given to the 1/3 Jewish population owning 10% of the land. This was not accepted by the Arabs. 1948 Israel declared itself as an independent state and after the following war the Jews occupied 77% of the land. Today it is 100% including the concentration camp in Gaza. 2/3 of the Jewish population are 1st or 2nd generation immigrants. Since 1965 mot of them are from America or Ex. Soviet Union. And many of them are moving into the occupied west bank.

Gaia 4 Our common history – And future –page 31

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The Sixty Years Genocide

What is right now taking place in Gaza is a Genocide carried out by the Israeli army under the political decision of the Israeli government and Knesset supported by USA. It is a war crime. A crime against humanity. President Carter compared this as earlier mentioned in this Newsletter for Apartheid. Now we can compare it with something even worse. The Nazi extermination of the Jews. Since then it has been impossible to criticize Israel without being called anti-Semitism. But now this limit has passed. You do not have to be "anti" a whole nation or people to criticize and condemn the criminal actions of their leaders. And now the world have to condemn Israel. Not watching and keeping silent as for the Nazi crimes.

Israel is against all International laws occupying Palestine. Basically creating a huge Ghetto or rather concentration camp. Building walls around it and preventing food and other normal supplies to enter. From their ultra modern airplanes and helicopters they are exterminating hundreds of Palestinians children. Israel even has Nukes. The Palestinians have stones and home made rockets to defend what is left of their occupied land. Israel should be held responsible for these war crimes and brought to justice. Israel has basically not observed any UN resolution. And we should be ashamed accepting this as we did in the war for oil.

We live in a free world and we have a free press. But you hear nothing of condemnation. Instead USA and EU has declared the freely elected Hamas as "terrorists" and refuse to negotiate with them. So shameful by us all but maybe understandable with our own colonial past with slavery and oppression. In our Internet café I have been following the world media.

Here are some of the "news": *Israeli warplanes and helicopter gunships struck 60 targets overnight, the Israel Defense Forces said. "We are tightening the encirclement of the city," Brig. Eyal Eisenberg, commander of the Israeli offensive, told reporters brought in to Gaza to observe the deployment. More than 900 Palestinians have been killed, nearly half of them women and children... More than 4,000 others have been wounded.. Thirteen Israelis, including 10 soldiers, have died in the operation in Gaza and from rocket strikes on southern Israel. An Israeli officer was critically wounded while entering a booby-trapped house, the IDF reported, while two other soldiers suffered minor injuries.*

According to the United Nations, about 30,000 people are living in schools it sponsors and an estimated 60,000 have fled to relatives. Palestinians interviewed in Gaza on Monday cited another reason for their flight: Israel soldiers, they said, are firing rounds of a noxious substance that burns skin and makes it hard to breathe. Meanwhile, Human Rights Watch urged Israel to stop firing weapons containing white phosphorus, a powerful incendiary, in Gaza..... Israel has confirmed sending thousands of army reservists into Gaza, raising concerns that a deadly "third stage" of its offensive - targeting urban centres - could soon begin.... With every image of the dead in Gaza inflaming people across the Arab world, Egyptian and Jordanian officials are worried that they see a fundamental tenet of the Middle East peace process slipping away: the so-called two-state solution, an independent Palestinian state coexisting with Israel.... And these crimes we just accept silently!

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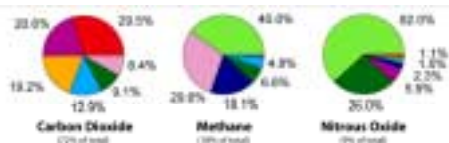
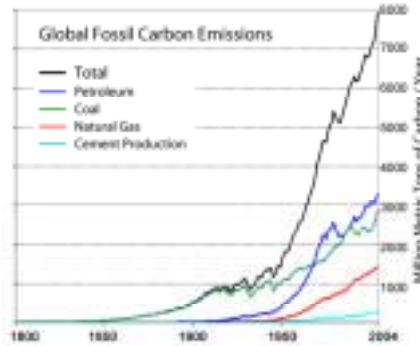
Living in a greenhouse

The fact is we need the green house effect to survive. This is what gives us the relatively favorable conditions for life. This greenhouse has been created during billions and millions of years in a delicate balance we now have disturbed.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia:

Greenhouse gases are components of the atmosphere that contribute to the greenhouse effect. Without the greenhouse effect the Earth would be uninhabitable;[1] in its absence, the mean temperature of the earth would be about - 19 °C (- 2 °F, 254 K) rather than the present mean temperature of about 15 °C (59 °F, 288 K)[2].

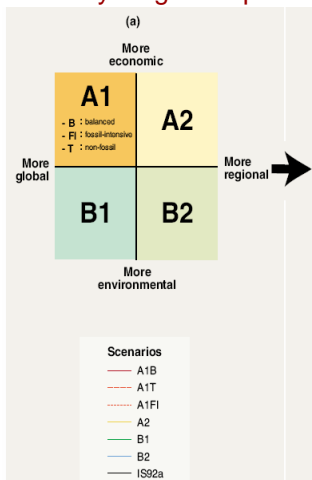
Greenhouse gases include, in order of relative abundance: water vapour, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, ozone and CFCs. Greenhouse gases come from natural sources and human activity; present CO2 levels are 380 ppmv, approximately 100 ppmv higher than they were in pre-industrial times.



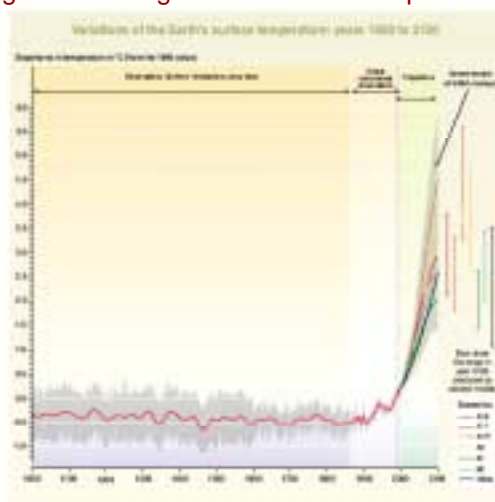
Gaia 5 The Facts –page 4

Our options is warm, warmer, warmest

So we were 100% sure the world was getting warming but not 100 % sure exactly how much warmer. And still we had many of our leaders that did not hear, did not see, did not understand or just preferred not to do anything. Except to built a big boat or a big wall. “The white stupid men”.



IPCC 2001 The Third Assesment Report



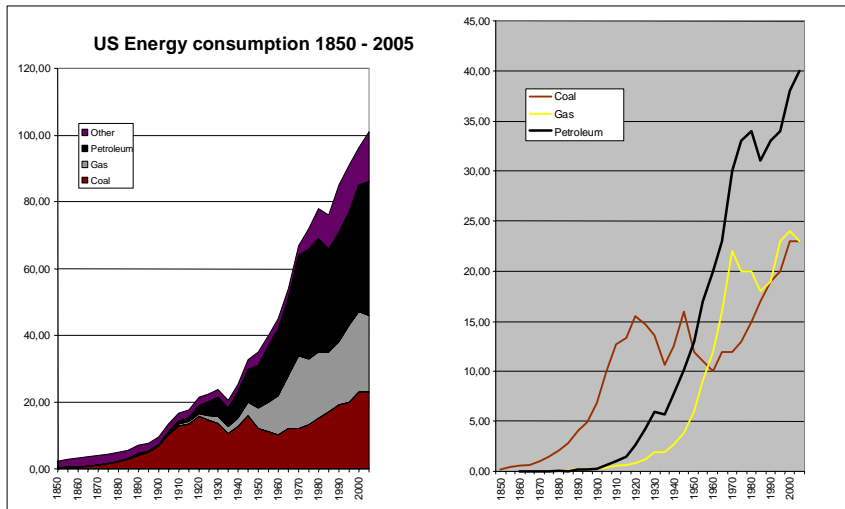
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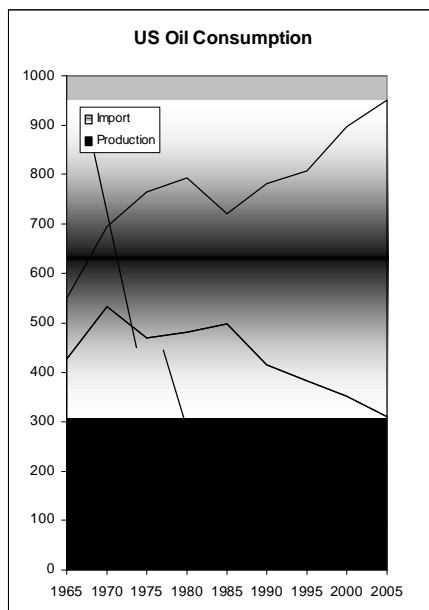
USA burn more and more oil....

So if what is happening in the USA will happen in the rest of the world it is clear what future we will have. We will burn even more oil. After the short dip with the so called "oil crisis" the increase took off again despite raising oil prices.



Gaia 6 The real terrorists –page 7

The US energy gap



This is nothing new. And this has been influencing US foreign policy since many years and keeping both CIA and US marines active in various countries.

What is new is that the gap is increasing so fast. Because consumption is increasing so fast and the U.S. production is decreasing so fast.

If I was the US president I would be very, very worried. Not only because of this but because Europe, Japan, China, India, etc. also need to import more and more oil.

Naturally the present president from Texas is fully aware of this.

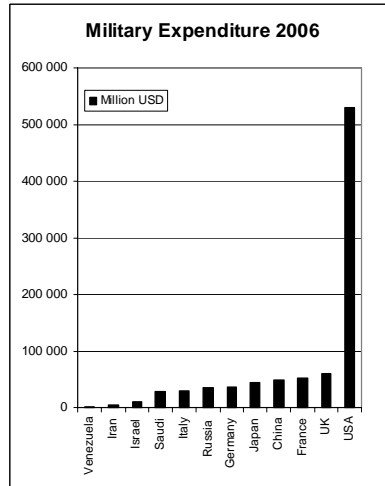
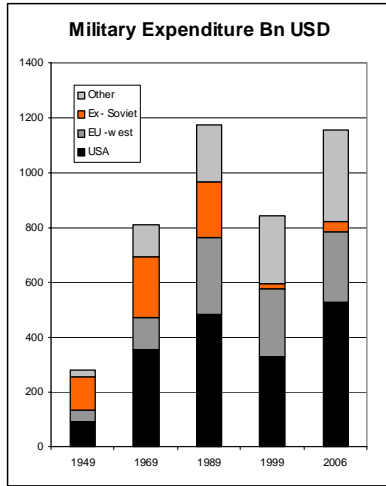
Gaia 6 The real terrorists –page 16

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So who will take the remaining oil?

USA is now spending more money on the military than during the Vietnam war. And USA represents half of the military expenditure in the world. Russia has some old nuclear weapons but hardly any standing army since the break down of the Soviet Union. The second biggest military spender in the world is UK.



Source SIPRI Yearbook 1969 - 2007

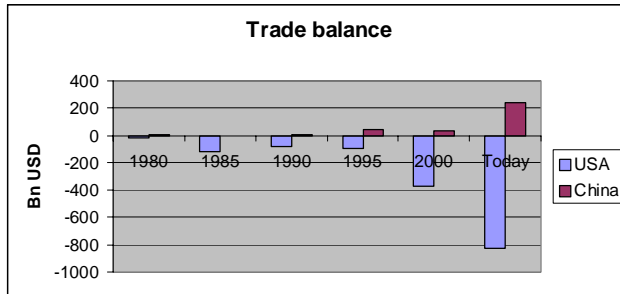
Gaia 6 The real terrorists –page 20

So who is paying for all this?

USA is now the biggest importer of oil in the world. USA is also the biggest importer of consumer goods from China and India. US and UK is heading the war for oil in Iraq and is building up military force globally. The US and UK trade deficit is increasing since several years. So who is paying for all this?

We are! This is the fantastic thing with our system. It does not have to be real money. Our stock market and currencies are based on dreams, expectations and virtual values. This is also what gives the fortunate people who handle this money enormous kick backs, bonus and incentives. This has nothing to do with the poor people growing coffee and rice in South America, mounting television sets in China or scrapping electronic waste in Africa. There is much, much more green dollars circulating in the real and virtual world than what really exist.

BnUSD	2007
USA	-823
UK	-156
China	238
Germany	240
Sweden	20
Brasil	45
Saudi	147
Russia	129
Canada	50
Norway	54
Venezuela	28
Balance	-28



Gaia 6 The real terrorists –page 24

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What is on the news 2007

So in end of 2007 what would be seen as the main story by our "objective" media. That our world is being destroyed by the rich and famous? Naturally not. But I am still surprised and worried that

almost **NOTHING** was written about this global crisis.

Financial Times (Dec 29/30) did however have a story about "*Africa aid wiped out by rising oil prices*". Now almost at 100 USD per barrel. And they "Fears raised that crisis of 1980s may return". But the rest was BAU. Dow Jones down 0.28%. And the worry about the assassination of

Benazir Bhutto causing the majority in Pakistan to come in to power – and get access to the nuclear weapons. **50 pages and NOTHING!**

USA today Dec 28-30 was about Pakistan but the other main story was that "*Results are worst since World War II*". Home prices in metro areas down. "Mideast summit produces no deal" was no real news since this has been going on since 1949. Predictions for 2008 by Bob Bekel and Cal Thomas who are "liberal" and "conservative" and they wrote a book "*How to stop the Partisan war to destroy America*" discussed the Mortgage crisis, if "we will capture bin Laden" and Iran. But

NOTHING on our global crisis.

How about Herald Tribune (New York Times). Front page is the US primary campaign. "Pakistan blames Qaeda". But I did find a small "essay" by Daniel B. Botkin professor at University of California questioning "Science and soothsaying". He is questioning the use of computer long-term forecasting if not absolutely proven. Although the measurements on Mauna Loa started 1957 and we had noticed increased values 1973. But the rest as BAU. Hang Seng/Hong Kong up 1.7%. The Brazilian "*O Estado de Sao Paulo*" had one page on the global warming they call "Suicide" but the other 100 pages did not say anything. The good news for Brazil was presented; +5.2% GDP increase. The market value capitalization of stocks had increased 43.65%. Brazil did produce 425 million tons sugar cane and 19.5 billion liters of alcohol. Oil was discovered in the Santos bay will increase the oil reserves in Brazil from 14.4 billion barrels to 22.4 billion.

But the problem was as usual bad health care, education and infrastructure.

Gaia 6 The real terrorists –page 26

What is on BBC 2007

So BBC got their five top journalists together December 31 to predict the main issues for 2008. They came up with the following:

- The US "brand" improve with a new affection for USA
- House prices will fall
- No Middle East deal
- Food competition

It was not only depressing to watch this on the most respectable TV channel. **It was pathetic.** Now they did say that will come back to discuss global warming. But this is the main issue and it is connected to everything else.

This shows unfortunately that we will not be able to get help from the western media. Not the newspapers, not the magazines and not the news channels, We also see how big business is responding to protecting the brand.

The most polluting are investing in "green ads". So what is happening is that the same guys – the stupid white men – now will "solve the environmental problems" with the same "medecin" that are causing them – Just don't believe them for they are very wrong!

Our own media is the Internet and by utilizing this we can get all information we need and distribute it to others. So lets do this!

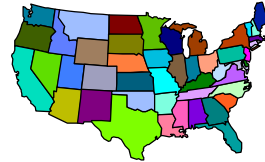
Gaia 6 The real terrorists –page 28

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The American Model

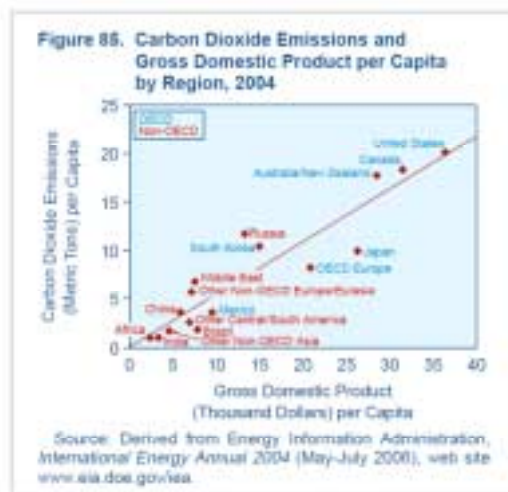


The American model was and is based on continuous growth. A constant flow of new and young immigrants entering the work force and the consumer market. Hungry to realize their American Dream. Hungry to eat meat. Hungry to make money. During the last 150 years you can see how this wave is moving state by state from the east towards the west. The center of gravity moving from New York and Philadelphia to Chicago and Houston to Los Angeles and Seattle.

More people needs more roads, more skyscrapers, more food and more energy. As long as this expansion continues - As long as there is enough natural resources - As long as the nature accept the increased pollutions levels - This model will produce an exceptional economical growth.
But the nature does not!

Gaia 7 The American Dream –page 20

We just cannot afford the American dream



The high consumption pattern of North America and Australia has created a very high material standard of living but also enormous amount of waste including CO₂. Our earth cannot afford 10 billion cars and networks of freeways and parking places. Our world can not afford a model which is based on more and more consumption of throw away "things" instead of efficiency and conservation.

Gaia 7 The American Dream –page 23

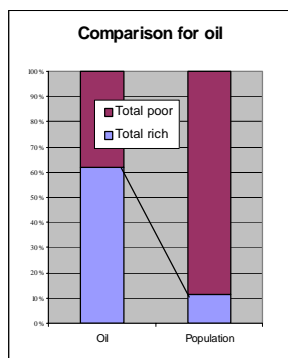
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The rich and the poor

Another reason I choose these countries is that they represents five "rich" countries and five "poor". Or if you want five countries with high per capita oil consumption and five with low. In the "old times" before the economic "revolution" of the 1980s the world was divided in first, second and third world countries, Now they are called developed, transition and emerging markets.

The oil consumption has increased a lot in all rich countries, except Sweden. And it has sky rocketed in the emerging markets – but it is still much lower than in the rich world. The average oil consumption in the five rich and developed markets is more than 3 tons of oil per capita and year while in the poor emerging and transition economies is about 0.2 tons per capita and year.

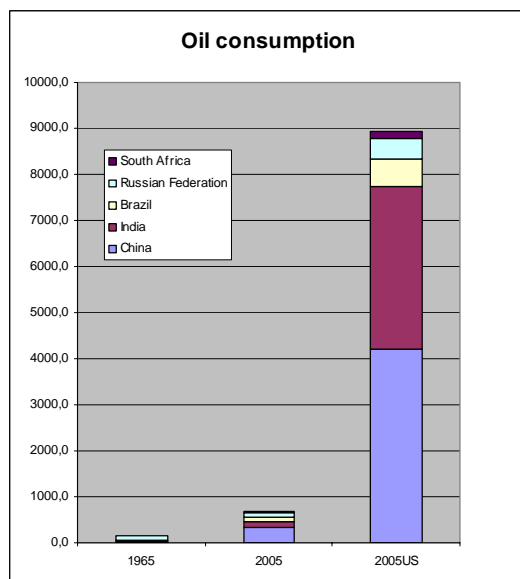


Million tonnes oil	1965	2005	Change	Population	Change/ person	2005/ person
USA	549	951	402	298	1,4	3,2
Canada	54	100	47	32	1,5	3,1
Australia	17	39	22	20	1,1	1,9
Sweden	19	15	-4	9	-0,4	1,7
Switzerland	8	12	4	7	0,6	1,7
Total rich	647	1118	471	366	1,3	3,1

Million tonnes oil	1965	2005	Change	Population	Change/ person	2005/ person
China	11	328	317	1316	0,2	0,2
India	13	120	107	1103	0,1	0,1
Brazil	15	90	75	186	0,4	0,5
Russian Federation	110	123	13	143	0,1	0,9
South Africa	6	23	17	47	0,4	0,5
Total poor	154	684	530	2795	0,2	0,2

Gaia 8 My home countries –page 15

Imagine all as rich as in USA



Although the oil consumption has increased in my poor home countries from 1965 to 2005 it is still just a fraction of the American consumption.

This is how it would look if my five poor countries would have the same per capita consumption as in USA.

A similar comparison can be made for other fossil fuel, gas and coal, but also for steel and aluminum, chemicals andpollution.

More cars, more shopping centers, more airplanes, more air conditioning, more hamburgers and fries will create more consumption and pollution in an already over stressed world.

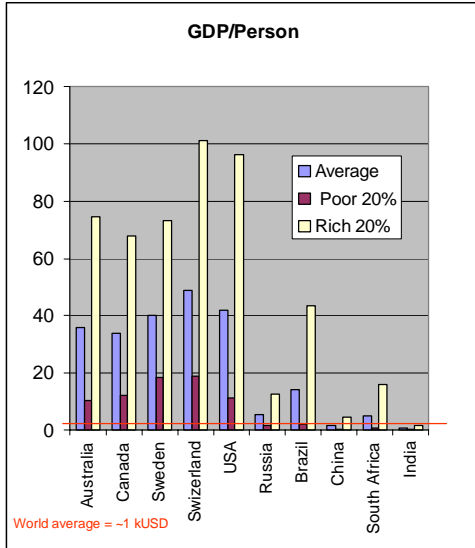
So let us look at the development in each of these countries.

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The even more polarized world



So if you use the UNDP figures for the 20% rich and the 20% poor in my "home countries" you will see a rather dramatic difference. The richest 20% Americans make 321 times more money than the 20% poor Indian citizens or 160 times poor Brazilians.

Good for them!

So is this a problem? Yes because the more you consume the more waste and pollute!

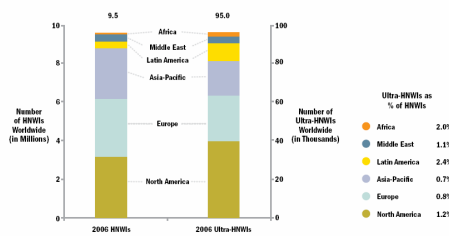
GDP/Person kUSD	Average	Poor 20%	Rich 20%	Ratio
Australia	36	10,6	74,3	7
Canada	34	12,2	67,8	5,5
Sweden	40	18,2	73,2	4,0
Switzerland	49	18,6	101,2	5,4
USA	42	11,3	96,2	8,5
Russia	5,3	1,6	12,3	7,6
Brazil	4,2	0,6	12,8	21,8
China	1,7	0,4	4,4	12,1
South Africa	5,1	0,9	15,9	17,8
India	0,7	0,3	1,6	5,6

Gaia 8 My home countries –page 26

A rapidly expanding minority

John D Rockefeller was the first Billionaire 1918. Based on oil. The world of today has 946 billionaires of which half in North America. The combined net worth of the list is US\$ 3.5 trillion, a US\$ 900 billion increase in one year. A HNWI is a High Net Worth Individual with more than 1 Million. In total they own 37,2 Trillion USD an increase with 11.6% in one year. The number of HNWI grew to 9.5 Million who represents 37.2 Trillion USD. These individuals now controls a quarter of the worlds total wealth equivalent to almost the complete GDP of the world! (Increase of 11%) USA alone has 2 163 000 HNWI Millionaires which is about the same number as is in American prisons. And now this get extremely rich model also works in Russia, Turkey, China and India

Figure 5. Geographic Distribution of Ultra-HNWIs, 2006



Note: Ultra-HNWI is defined as an individual with more than US\$20 million in financial assets
Source: Capgemini Lomez curve analysis, 2007

The 11th world wealth report by Merrill Lynch and Forbes Magazine

World wide top 10

Rank	Region/Country	Number of Billionaires	Category
1	United States	222	Category: American Billionaires
2	Germany	55	Category: German Billionaires
3	France	54	Category: French Billionaires
4	India	23	Category: Indian Billionaires
5	United Kingdom	23	Category: British Billionaires
6	Italy	20	Category: Italian Billionaires
7	Japan	20	Category: Japanese Billionaires
8	Canada	20	Category: Canadian Billionaires
9	Poland	20	Category: Polish Billionaires
10	China	20	Category: Chinese Billionaires

Gaia 8 My home countries –page 27

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A challenge for humanity

Our western civilization has been a history of cruel wars, colonization and slavery. Definitely not a flattering history for neither Europe terrorizing the rest of the world nor America that was built on ethnic cleansing of native humans, plants and animals. Each war has been more cruel with more civilians dead and with more powerful weapons. And we never seem to learn. The civil war on Balkan, the American invasion of Iraq and the African tribal wars are all dirty and cruel independent if it is the American army, African war lords or nationalistic Serbs or Croats who are responsible.

But the third world war we are now entering is going to be much worse.

It could lead to a tribal and civil war on a global scale un paralleled by anything before. A real night mare! When we are fighting among each other for the remaining land, resources, water and food on earth while thousands of plants and animals are going extinct. When the rich and powerful will grab what is left and protect themselves in islands behind bars and guns.

To avoid this we have to rediscover our humanity. The values of human life. This will require a spiritual awakening. But it will also require all efforts and dedication to resist the other way – “The road to hell”.

Gaia 9 The globalization nightmare –page 17

The Global Nightmare

According to the ancient Maya culture the end of the world is December 22nd year 2012. Most probably it will not go so fast but with the present development we are facing a very troublesome future.

Unless we immediately halt the carbon dioxide emission we will pass the threshold that will release the genie out of the bottle. Since the global warming now is causing a more acid ocean the ability to absorb carbon dioxide is reduced. The Niño weather system is affected as well as currents in the Ocean. The Amazon rain forest is not only endangered by human deforestation but with draught and could disappear. When the massive ice caps of Greenland and Antarctica will melt the rise of the Ocean level will be in meters, not centimeters. When the tundra is melting and the plankton dies in the Oceans the nature will start to emit carbon dioxide, not absorb it.

Changes in climate has occurred before. There is a hidden oasis in the middle of the Sahara desert with crocodiles. Fossils on Greenland tells about a warmer period with vegetation. But never before it is happened so fast. The ice is now disappearing faster than the polar bears and penguins can run. Our ecology is a delicate balance between flowering plants, insects and birds. But the nature is no longer synchronized. And the worst scenario is a runaway development similar to what once upon the time happened on planet Venus. This would be the end of life on earth. The biggest mystery of the evolution is how the most intelligent species ever, Homo sapiens can be the absolute most stupid creature to commit a collective suicide.

Gaia 9 The globalization nightmare –page 20

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Small is beautiful”

With so much information available it may be difficult to see the forest for all the trees. The problem is that this is very complex. It involves every aspect of what we do. There is no fast track solution but we need one. Especially now when we have lost 36 years since the first UN conference 1972. There is neither one political party or ideology that can state the “only truth”. In fact we need to combine what we traditionally know as liberalism with socialism, grass root democracy with top down global ruling, scientific discoveries with religious beliefs. But there is still some universal concepts that I do believe in. A world based on the love of truth, beauty and goodness. Out of all these books I still want to mention some simple conclusions – although written by white men.

The first one is E. F. Schumacher “*Small is beautiful*” from 1975:

“We avoid the truth if we believe that the destructive forces in the world can be controlled if we just mobilize more resources – money, education, research – to fight the pollution, to protect the environment, to discover new energy sources and to reach new international agreements on peaceful co-existence. We need more money, education, research and many other things but what is needed today is a revision of the reasons we are using these tools. And this means to develop a life style that put the material things in their right place which is secondary and not primary.”

Gaia 10 So where do we go from here? –page 39

The four laws of ecology

The second is “The closing circle” by Barry Commoner from 1972. His four laws of ecology tells us everything we need to know in order to improve our unsustainable way of living.

- Everything is connected with everything
- Everything needs to go somewhere
 - Nature knows best
 - There is no free lunch

The same year 1972, The Spokesman (Founded by Bertrand Russel) gave an interesting analysis from the left in “Socialism and the environment”. One subject was the comparison of societies based on “hard” or “soft” technology.

This was 1972. What happened to this thinking? Gone with the wall?

Ecologically dangerous	Ecologically adapted
High energy consumption	Low energy consumption
One way use of material	Recycling of material
Narrow time scale	Wide time scale
Predominantly urban	Predominantly rural or small towns
World trade	Local trade
Growth economy	Zero growth
Monoculture in agriculture	Diversity in agriculture
Quantity receives priority	Quality receives priority

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A whole new human in a whole world



Mankind has for thousands of years lived in harmony with nature. Everywhere we discover the “magic circle”, the medicine wheel, Mandala to represent the balance between the four directions. This importance was understood by the Indians living in America but also my farming forefathers living in Sweden. In Asia the same balance was described as **Yin** (陰) and **Yang** (陽) representing the female and the male. Our present male dominated western world has degenerated to the physical dimension with material wealth and economical growth as only goal. All other dimensions has been reduced to minimum. Culture, sport, people, ideas, the future and even plants and genes are branded and for sale. Today’s “wise men and women” are not to be found among scientists, priests, writers, philosophers or anyone from the non-western world. They have been replaced by “the rich and famous”, Wall street and the constant media message “Buy and consume” more and you will be happy.

In order to “save our planet” we have to first “save ourselves”.

To rediscover our four dimensions in life that the natural humans knew. To become whole again. Connect with Nature. Too recreate our ability to experience all the wonderful things that are free in life; love, solidarity, compassion, swimming in the ocean, walking in the forest, looking at the sky. To be creators instead of consumers.

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“Let it begin with me.”

So how could we even dream about achieving this. Influencing our community, the big corporations, our government and even UN. We have to!

This is why the absolutely most important thing you can do is now to start the process and influence others. Become active everywhere. At home, at school at work. On Internet. To demand a change. We do not need new technology or more money. We need to change our values and behavior.

To focus on what is really important for all humans and GAIA.

1. *There is a lack of urgency and speed. We need to change NOW.*

Work for the creation of a regional and national war time assembly.

Because we are in a state of war. This 50/50 male and female assembly should involve all major sectors and political parties of the society and work out the basic frame and action plan for a sustainable society.

2. *We have failed in giving our children the teachings of a sustainable future.*

And this is an big understatement since we have been brainwashing them to become consumers like ourselves. So work to modify all education so it includes sustainability as the major subject including practical aspects.

3. *You are not living a sustainable life and probably not your family either.*

Yes naturally you should do everything you can to change your own life. This is mandatory. But it is NOT enough. You need to “change the world”.

To initiate a global mind change. This is your task for the rest of your life.

Gaia 10 So where do we go from here? –page 48

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My Home Countries – USA, Australia, Brazil & Sweden

In GAIA part 7 My home countries I am comparing eight different countries that I have been working in or me and my family has been living in. The reason is to show that the world is very different around the globe and this is what makes it so fascinating. I was born in Sweden and my wife in Brazil – both in a small farming village without TV or car. Since then we have been living and working in both countries and others. I have worked several years in USA and my son lives there now. One daughter has lived several years in Australia. Right now we live in Sweden but we visit Brazil once per year, however it is taking a big chunk out of our personal CO₂ budget. This year we also visited my son and his family in USA.

For this reason we try to live a very low consuming life both in Sweden and when we are in Brazil as right now when I am writing this. And we can do so and still have a very rich life. The consumption level of southern Brazil is very much lower than other warm areas with similar climate such as southern USA and Australia. We are talking about a difference of up to twenty times! (20 x). It is this difference that was discussed in Poznan. What is a reasonable resource consumption. Shall we let the market decide. If you are rich you can consume and pollute as much as you want. Or shall we have an International agreement?



Caraguattuba in Brazil January 2009



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My Home Countries – USA, Australia, Brazil & Sweden

A larger car on gasoline emits around 0.4 kilo/km and a smaller around 0.2 kilo/km. A smaller car on alcohol emits around 0.04 kilo/km. If you drive 20 000 km per year you will pollute with 8 ton, 4 ton or 0.8 ton depending on the type of car you drive. In addition a larger car takes more energy to produce and takes up more space on the roads. But you can also drive less in your own car and use public transportation.

If you fly you have a similar logic. The more you fly, the longer you fly and the more space you occupy such in first and business class you will use more energy and pollute more. Out two long trips his year to USA and Brazil will cost us 3.6 ton CO₂ per person. (An average American use 20 ton) In addition to this we both travel in our jobs. So this is why we try everything else to lower our pollution. When in Brazil we are basically on zero emission since the electricity comes from hydro power, still we have no heating & air conditioning – not even hot water. We eat local fruit every day. Swim in the ocean. Use the bike when we can and a small alcohol car (1.0 liter) when we have to. Still you can see the enormous challenge we all have – and especially the rich 20% of the world if we also travel by airplanes.



International Civil Aviation Organization

ICAO CARBON EMISSIONS CALCULATOR

Here is your footprint

1 passenger , flying from STOCKHOLM (ARN) to NEW YORK, NY (EWR) to AUSTIN, TX (AUS) to SEATTLE, WA (SEA) (11,549 Km), in Economy Class, generates about **971.81 Kg** of CO₂

[More Details](#)

[New Calculation](#)

Here is your footprint

1 passenger , flying from STOCKHOLM (ARN) to FRANKFURT (FRA) to SAO PAULO (GRU) (11,027 Km), in Economy Class, generates about **776.07 Kg** of CO₂

[More Details](#)

[New Calculation](#)

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My Home Countries – USA, Australia, Brazil & Sweden

In Brazil we always stay in my wife's family apartment in Caraguatatuba. This means we are never alone. In Brazil you are never alone. It is almost impossible. Unless you take a morning walk down to the ocean to swim with the dolphins. SO this is how we start our day. On the way home we buy fresh bread in the bakery. When we do not walk we use our bikes to go down to the fishing boats to get fresh fish or to the Internet cafe to read and write e-mails. And to go to the nearby store or market to get delicious and fresh tropical fruit. Bananas, papayas, mamayas, mango, coco nuts grows practically anywhere so we could even pick them ourselves. Hey we do live a very pleasant and even luxury life on zero emission. Our apartment building is really low energy. Low energy lamps but especially motion detectors have been used in Brazil for a long time. There is no need for hot water or heating. And no one here uses air conditioning since the municipality does not permit. It would increase electricity consumption very much. And everything is recycled.

We hardly need any cloths. Shorts, tank top and sandals is the Brazilian standard. Down at the beach there is free entertainment. Music and dancing everywhere. And what is free is the beauty of Nature, the singing of the birds, the rhythmic sound of the waves. Yes we have rented car. It runs on alcohol like more than 50% of the cars in Brazil. Alcohol from Brazilian sugar cane grass. Yes we are on vacation. But what I try to demonstrate is that a majority of the Brazilian people live a sustainable life in harmony with GAIA – until.....



Our apartment.



Our Internet café



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My Home Countries – USA, Australia, Brazil & Sweden

The western life style has also invaded Brazil. Naturally it started with the invasion of the Europeans like in the rest of the world. The majority of the native “Indians” were killed. Negro slaves in chains were transported from Africa. And Jesuit priests tried to convert everyone to our western religion. So Brazil is today a catholic country with a white, black and yellow population together with a very few original natives and a large group “mixed color”. Brazil is not a racially segregated country like USA. But it is an economically segregated country. The gap between rich and poor is one of the largest in the world.

The rich live in protected and fenced cities – condominiums. The poor live in favelas – built of paper, mud and left over. And there is a growing middle class living in apartment buildings. And all our living in the mega cities. Greater Sao Paulo has now more than 20 million people. The rich are almost always white. The poor are almost always black or “mixed colors”. The rich live in big houses, drive big cars, shop in big shopping centers and fly on vacation to Disneyworld. The poor is waiting for the next bus after work outside the rich mans town. If you fly in Brazil there are almost only white people. If you go by bus it is almost only black people. (I just remember it is the same in USA). The rich and the poor only meets for two reasons. Older women working to clean and cook for the rich. Younger women working as prostitutes for the older rich men. The problem is for the poor young men. (There are few poor old men since they die young). They can either sort garbage for cans, do drug trafficking or burglary and armed robbery. And the dream of Football.

Brazil has now after many years of military dictatorship and conservative government since some years a left wing government under president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. In the 2009 Newsweek Special Edition he writes about Brazil: *“We have said no to macroeconomic adventurism. Inflation is under control and we are growing steadily...Above all, we are redistributing income and reducing social inequality...Weaving a broad social safety net is a central part of this endeavor.”* Brazil has improved under Lula new politics and as he says *“20 million Brazilians have risen out of absolute poverty”*. But like Venezuela and Bolivia this “socialist” or rather “mixed” model is being criticized from the “free” market fundalists And this has not changes even after the meltdown. Lula explains his view on the real crisis:

“The world today is experiencing turbulence unlike anything we’ve seen in decades. The U.S. credit crisis has contaminated the international economy, and financial systems, have been shaken to the core, undermining economic doctrines once treated as absolute truth...The abuses and errors coming to light daily are all evidence that our existing system of international economic governance has broken down. To develop a better one, the worlds major developing countries should be called to join the debate.....

..Other threats loom such as hunger and poverty, the rising price and scarcity of food, the energy crisis and climate change... To often what we lack is political will. We should...forge a new pact to roll back poverty and extreme inequality. Contrary to what so many believe, globalization has only increased the economic and social responsibilities of governments.”

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Global and Local Solutions

Brazil is one extreme with tropical and subtropical climate. Sweden is the other extreme with temperate and sub arctic climate. The environment and people are local. But we are both subject to climate change. Southern Brazil is flooding. In the part of Sweden where we live the winter is gone. So we are local and we are global. This global crisis we are experiencing thus requires global actions and local actions adopted to the local condition. But are one way street to “Globalization” is a fundamental error and an error that has caused both the environmental, financial and war crisis. Environment, people and solutions are local.

During than last 60 years – in what I call the 60 years crisis – we have in one generation tried to uniform a complete world to fit the need of our economy – our market – our financial institutions – our rich elite. When communisms died it seems that also everything around “common” and “community” died. The “free market” demanded more trade – of everything. It is great to be able to eat Brazilian tropical fruit in Sweden – but do we need to. Yes it is good for the economy in Brazil and it gives people jobs - is the answer. Well for most products we import from “the emerging markets”, less than 5% goes to the people doing the work. We should naturally use as much as possible of what we can produce locally. This is better for the environment and it is better for all of us. We do need trade – because we can not all produce everything we need. But trade should not be the overall goal – sustainable life is!.



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Global and Local Solutions

I am often complaining that our media is not really covering the environmental crisis the way they for example have been covering our financial crisis, sports, entertainment or just advertising. When I walk into a book store I always make the same conclusion – hundreds of books on how to be successful in business and other “fictions” as if you could write a book about this after this financial melt down. So I was surprised to find a new book in Swedish about the global warming. Translated to English the title would read – “Farwell to world disasters”. I was very puzzled reading it. Because here was a man who seemed to know everything. Everybody else, The UN Climate panel, scientists, Al Gore, WWF, Green Peace, governments – well everybody except him were wrong. So he was what we call in German – “Besser wisser”. But then I also found out that he was chief economist for the organization of Swedish private companies and professor at my old university where I graduated. This book was published by the largest media group in Sweden.

It is rather amazing that such a book got published at all. And unfortunately a lot of decision makers are reading it and can justify going on as usual. But he had bad timing our professor in economy. Because his only message – if he had any – was that the market would take care of this and fix it if we just could de-regulate some more. And then came the financial crisis! bad luck!

Johan Tell is a Swedish writer who 2008 published a new book Trees can save the world. This has give me a new view of our forests. That trees can be used also as CO₂ “sinks”. If you cut down a tree and use it for building a houses or other permanent products you actually store carbon away from the environment. If you burn wood you will re-cycle it but only if you plant the same amount of trees again. But if you as we are doing right now our burning up old fossil trees we add carbon to the atmosphere. Both Brazil and Sweden are full of trees. And both Sweden and Brazil do replant trees. Part of the Atlantic rainforest has been replaced by fast growing Eucalyptus trees standing like a an army in straight columns. I much better like the rain forest but if this fast growing trees can be used to replace other material this should be good.

Deforestation has been and is a large problem in Brazil. The original rain forest with it's original inhabitants has been reduced dramatically also in Brazil. (As earlier in Europe and USA) In December, 2008, Brazil pledged to cut its annual deforestation rate by 70 percent by 2017 - which could reduce the country's greenhouse gas emissions by 30-45 percent over the next decade. Sun and rain makes Brazil a large green house. Brazil can grow anything. Including suger cane to produce alcohol to replace gasoline. According to “O Estado de Sao Paulo” Brazil has in addition to it's hydro power almost 300 TWh of available wind power. (But today wind is less than 1% of electricity generation in Brazil). So Brazil has a blue – yellow -green future like it's flag, if.....

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Global and Local Solutions

Every time we are in Brazil we will visit the farm of our old friends. I was there the first time 1980 and i enjoy it equally much every time. The farm can grown everything; fruit, vegetables, sugar cane and even eucalyptus trees. If you are a vegetarian you are in paradise when you are in Brazil. Still the meat consumption is increasing in Brazil. And so it does in the rest of the world according to Time Magazine, September 10, 2008 in turn quoted from Observer.

Need another reason to feel guilty about feeding your children that Happy Meal — aside from the fat, the calories and that voice in your head asking why you can't be bothered to actually cook a well-balanced meal now and then? Rajendra Pachauri would like to offer you one. The head of the U.N.'s Nobel Prize–winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Pachauri on Monday urged people around the world to cut back on meat in order to combat climate change. "Give up meat for one day [per week] at least initially, and decrease it from there," Pachauri told Britain's Observer newspaper.

The worrisome news is that as the world economy grows, so does global meat consumption. The average person in the industrialized world eats more than 176 lb. of meat annually, compared with around 66 lb. consumed by the average resident of the developing world.



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Global and Local Solutions

As developing nations get richer, one of the first things citizens spend their extra income on is a more meat-rich diet. Whereas pork would once have been a rare luxury in China, today even the relatively poor in the country's cities can afford a little meat at almost every meal — so much so that pork imports to China rose more than 900% through the first four months of the year. In 2008, global meat production is expected to top 280 million tons, and that figure could nearly double by 2050.

Producing all that meat will do more than just warm the world; it will also raise pressure on land resources. The FAO estimates that about 20% of the planet's pastureland has been degraded by grazing animals, and increased demand for meat means increased demand for animal feed — much of the world's grain production is fed to animals rather than to humans. (The global spike in grain prices over the past year is in large part due to the impact on grain supplies of the growing demand for meat.) The expanded production of meat has been facilitated by industrial feedlots, which bleed antibiotics and other noxious chemicals. And of course, the human health impact of too much meat can be seen in everything from bloated waistlines in America to rising rates of cardiovascular disease in developing nations, where heart attacks were once as rare as a T-bone steak.

So is Pachauri right that going vegetarian can save the planet? (At least the 68-year-old Indian economist practices what he preaches.) It's true that giving up that average 176 lb. of meat a year is one of the greenest lifestyle changes you can make as an individual. You can drive a more fuel-efficient car, or install compact fluorescent lightbulbs, or improve your insulation, but unless you intend to hunt wild buffalo and boar, there's really no green way to get meat — although organic, locally farmed beef or chicken is better than its factory-raised equivalents. The geophysicists Gidon Eschel and Pamela Martin have estimated that if every American reduced meat consumption by just 20%, the greenhouse gas savings would be the same as if we all switched from a normal sedan to a hybrid Prius.

Still, Pachauri is just slightly off. It's a tactical mistake, first of all, to focus global warming action on personal restrictions. The developed world could cut back hugely on its meat consumption, but those gains would be largely swallowed up — sorry — by the developing world, which isn't likely to give up its newly acquired taste for cheeseburgers and pork. The same goes for energy use, or travel. It's great for magazines to come up with 51 ways you can save the environment, but relying on individuals to voluntarily change their behavior is nowhere near as effective as political change aimed at speeding the transition to an economy far less carbon-intensive than our current one.

So Time magazine believes it is a tactical mistake to ask people to eat less meat. When I grew up we ate very little meat. The meat culture is also “Made in USA” and arrived together with McDonalds, Coca Cola, Cigarettes and big cars — the main symbols of this new culture.

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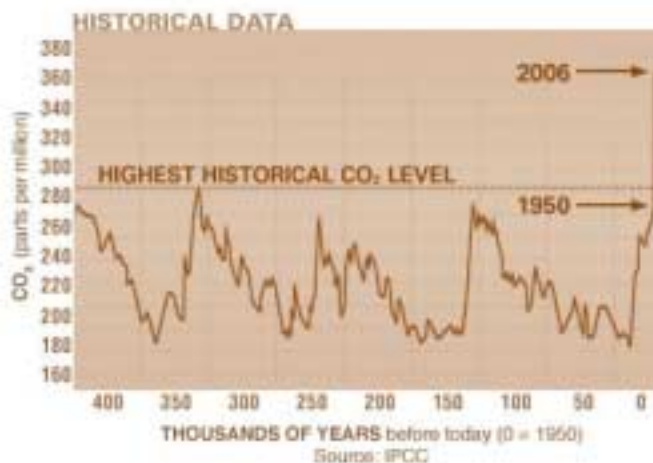
Global and local solutions

The American dream has been the magnet for millions after millions of immigrants from around the world. United States of America was created in a new world of endless resources. The native population and nature was “removed” as these millions went further west. The Buffalos were “terminated” and replaced by cattle to produce beef as we have seen in hundreds of wild west movies.

The American model was built in this endless expansion with increasing population on a complete continent. The discovery of oil and the invention of the car became the engine in this ever growing economy. Highways, fast food and motels became the essentials in this new fast track and transient society of immigrants. In just one hundred years this whole continent was colonized. But then what used to be endless resource was no longer so. America needed to import more and more oil but many other goods and raw material. And then one more thing happened – the rest of the world wanted to copy the American dream or if they did not want to they were forced to by convincing weapons and the US marines.

It is a fact that the American way of life is not in tune with what the earth can supply. To start with the Hamburger culture the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization has estimated that meat production accounts for nearly a fifth of global greenhouse gas emissions. These are generated during the production of animal feeds, for example, while ruminants, particularly cows, emit methane, which is 23 times more effective as a global warming agent than carbon dioxide. The agency has also warned that meat consumption is set to double by the middle of the century.

The American model of “growth” is based on the consumption of more and more resources resulting in more and more pollution. For a long time we all believed that Earth was so big that we had unlimited resources. We still have alot bu what we had not considered was how much pllution we were generating in our exponetial growth during basically ONE SINGLE GENERATION – During a time period of only 60 years.



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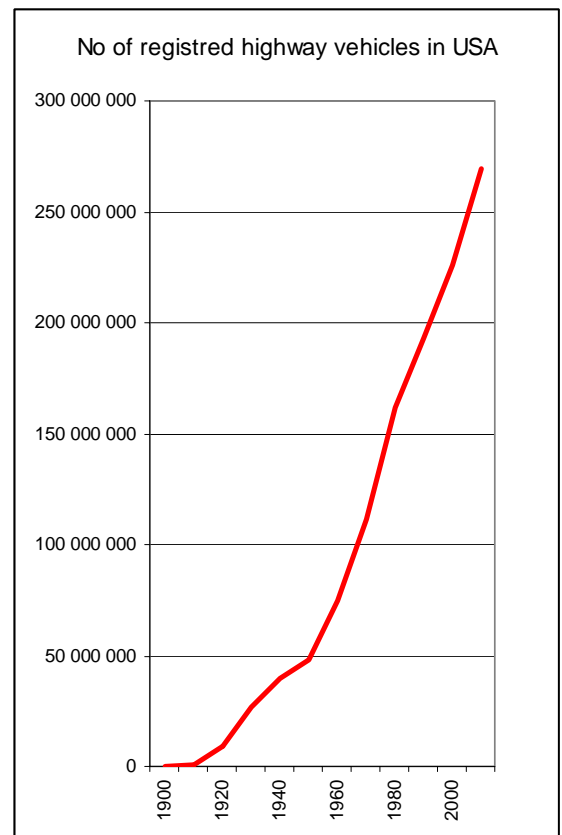
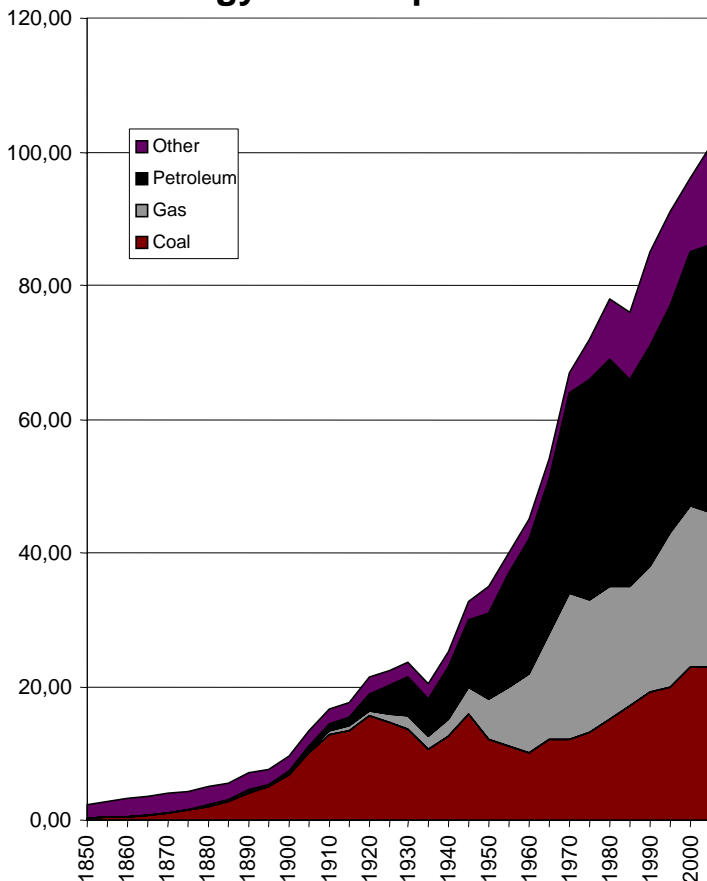
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Global and local solutions

1920 there were 8 225 859 registered passenger cars and 1 006 082 registered trucks in USA, in total about 9 million vehicles. 1960 this had increased to 74 431 800 registered vehicles or almost 75 million. 2005 this had increased to 247 421 120 registered vehicles, i.e. almost 250 million. From 1960 to 2005 the number of airplanes for general aviation increased from 76 549 to 224 352 and number of air carriers from 2135 to 8225. Recreational boats increased from 2 450 484 to 12 942 414. During the same time period the number of electrical trolley busses decreased from 3 826 to 615 and electrical light rail from 2856 to 1645, Amtrak passenger train cars decreased from 2128 to 1186.

During the last 20 years the American way of life has been marketed as THE ONLY SOLUTION. There are two very big errors in this. No one which should be self-evident is that the level of consumption and pollution in USA can no be implemented on a global scale without a total break down of our present ecosystems. What would we do with 10 billion cars compared to today's 650 million. Or the nuclear waste from 10 000 more nuclear power plants. Number two is that the beauty of this planet is the variation of nature, culture and people. Why would we like to force the global population to eat, drink and think the same.

US Energy consumption 1850 – 2005 and No of cars 1900 -2005

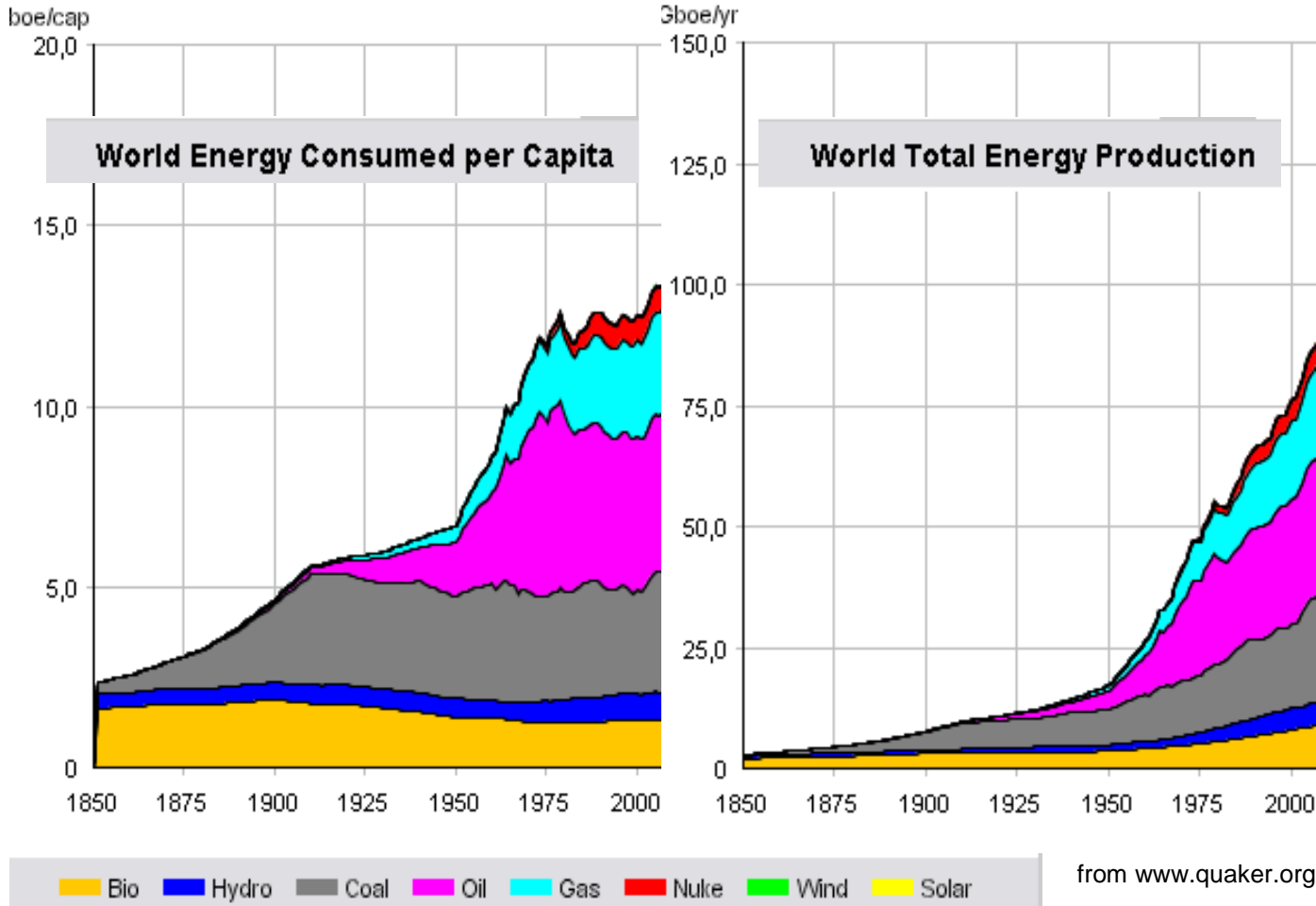


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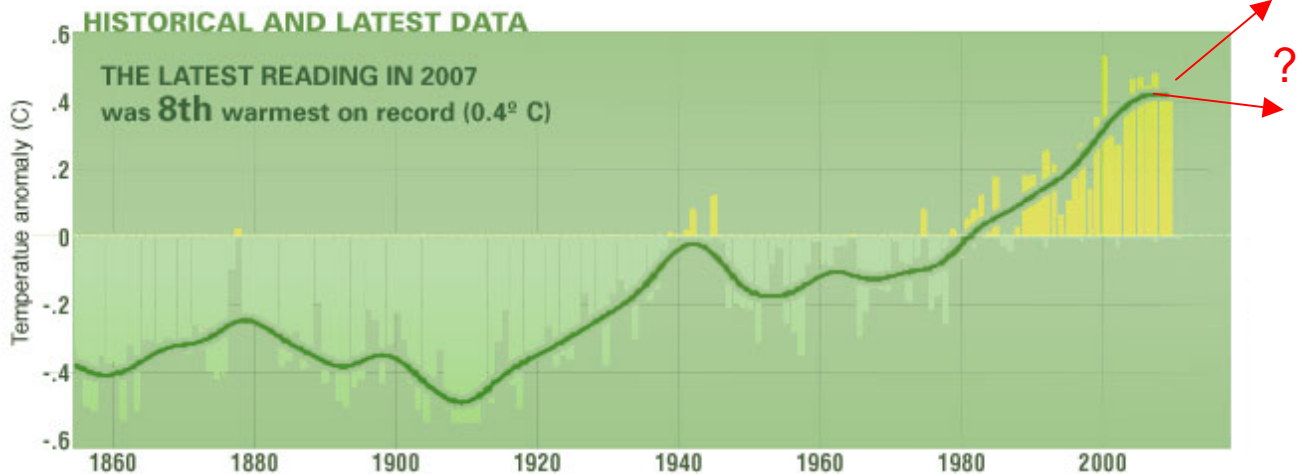
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Global and Local Solutions

This is what has happened so far. So how will our common future be like?



Global Average Temperature Last updated 05.19.08



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Global and Local Solutions

From EIA World Energy Outlook 2008 we can see the below forecast. If this is true we will have doubled the energy consumption and CO₂ emissions 2030 compared to 1990.

Figure 9. World Marketed Energy Consumption, 1980-2030

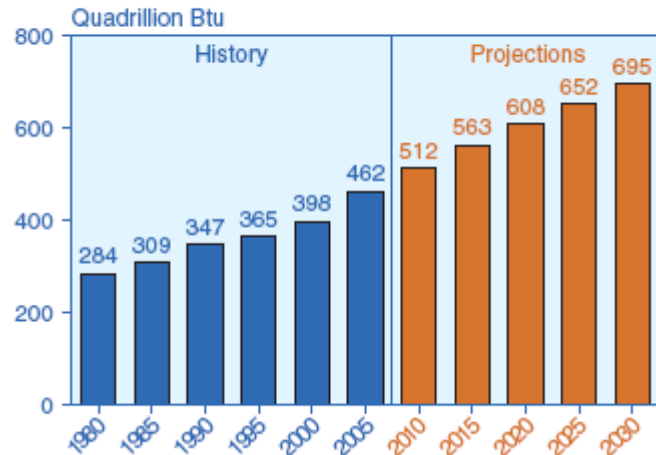
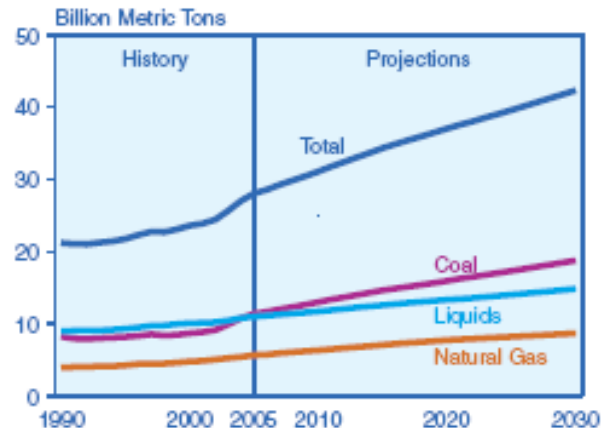


Figure 76. World Energy-Related Carbon Dioxide Emissions by Fuel Type, 1990-2030



So what is really happening is....nothing except a continuation as BAU – Business As Usual. Yes we do have an increase in renewable “green energy” – but the total increase is much higher and achieved with “black energy”. As seen in figure 12 the increase in coal, gas and “liquids” = oil is going much faster than the increase in renewables. This is according to the projections of IEA and with our present market doctrine and way of living. Now this estimate was done before our present economical crisis, so maybe the increase will be lower. But still with the “low economic growth” we will double the energy. So how can we really get a fundamental change in our present way of “burning up Gaia”. A more intelligent way to get energy than burning up old fossils. And a smarter way to use energy than producing things to throw away. How can we be so utterly stupid to continue what we are doing?

Figure 12. World Marketed Energy Use by Fuel Type, 1990-2030

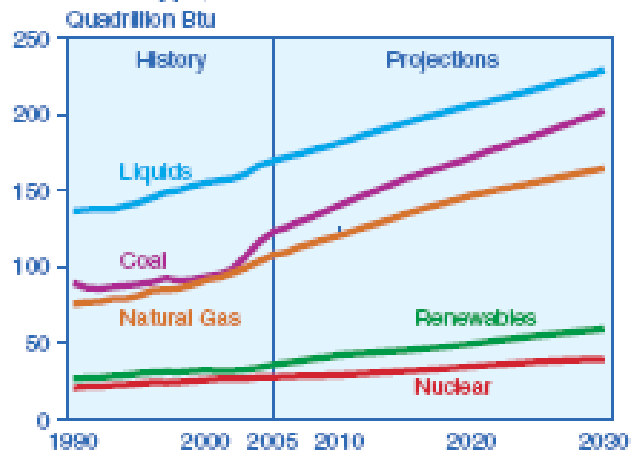
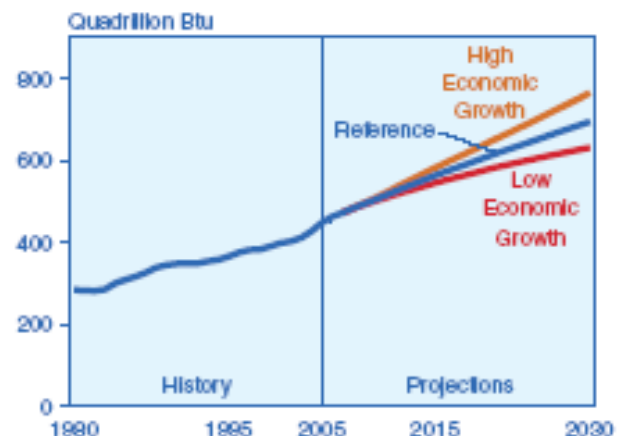


Figure 17. World Marketed Energy Consumption in Three Economic Growth Cases, 1980-2030



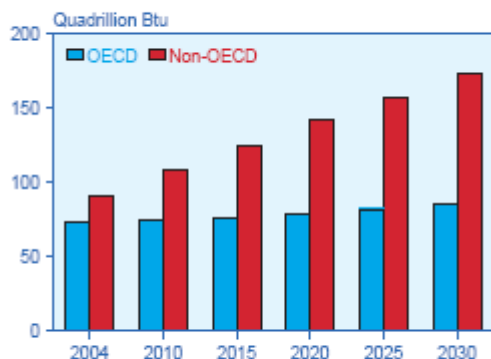
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Global and Local Solutions

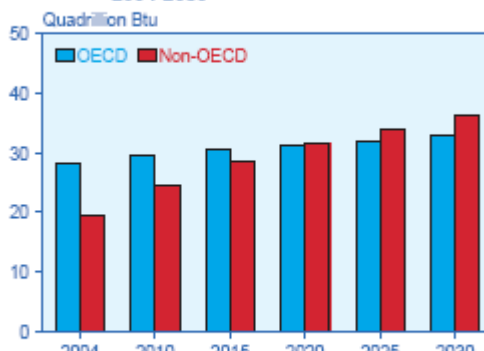
What is happening right now is that this ONE WAY MODEL is being implemented world wide with the same destructive consumption and pollution pattern. This is shown very well in the EIA forecast scenarios. Figure 30 shows that the 80% living in the “poor world” is already using more energy than the 20% living in the rich world – within the Industrial Sector. This reflects that the OECD countries are importing more from “low cost” countries. Also the residential energy consumption in the poor world is increasing to the same level as OECD. But this means in fact that the rich countries still consume 5 times more energy per capita. Both the commercial and transportation is increasing but will not reach the rich OECD countries even 2030. And remember two things- there are five times as many people living in the Non-OECD countries as in the OECD countries and that the income difference is increasing in all countries. So we are still talking about an extremely un-even world.

Figure 30. OECD and Non-OECD Industrial Sector Delivered Energy Consumption, 2004-2030



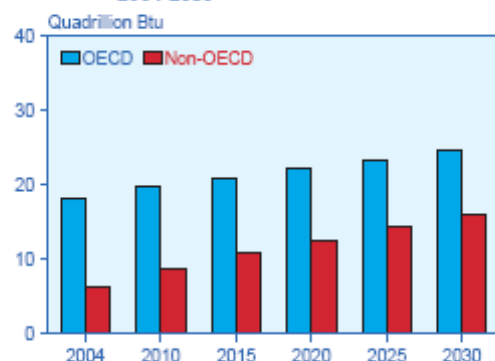
Sources: 2004: Derived from Energy Information Administration (EIA), *International Energy Annual 2004* (May-July 2006), web site www.eia.doe.gov/iea. Projections: EIA, System for the Analysis of Global Energy Markets (2007).

Figure 26. OECD and Non-OECD Residential Sector Delivered Energy Consumption, 2004-2030



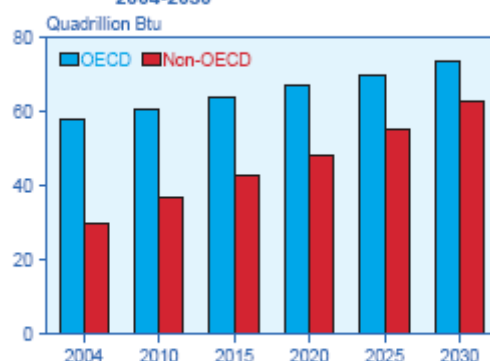
Sources: 2004: Derived from Energy Information Administration (EIA), *International Energy Annual 2004* (May-July 2006), web site www.eia.doe.gov/iea. Projections: EIA, System for the Analysis of Global Energy Markets (2007).

Figure 28. OECD and Non-OECD Commercial Sector Delivered Energy Consumption, 2004-2030



Sources: 2004: Derived from Energy Information Administration (EIA), *International Energy Annual 2004* (May-July 2006), web site www.eia.doe.gov/iea. Projections: EIA, System for the Analysis of Global Energy Markets (2007).

Figure 25. OECD and Non-OECD Transportation Sector Delivered Energy Consumption, 2004-2030



Sources: 2004: Derived from Energy Information Administration (EIA), *International Energy Annual 2004* (May-July 2006), web site www.eia.doe.gov/iea. Projections: EIA, System for the Analysis of Global Energy Markets (2007).

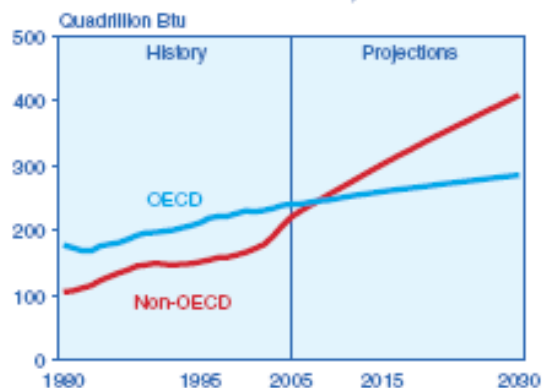
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Global and Local Solutions

2005 the Non-OECD world” with >80% of the world population passed the “OECD” world with <20% of the world population in both energy consumption and CO₂ emission. So what is my main message in all this statistics. The message is that the same model that has made USA so “prosperous” i.e. is having a very high consumption and pollution pattern of fossil fuels, cars, free ways, hamburgers, air conditioning, mobile homes etc. can not be copied for other parts of the world because “the bucket is already full!” It is a “dead end street.” We need an other sustainable life style. And we means both USA and the other rich OECD countries as well as the developing no-OECD countries. Such models of sustainable life styles have to be developed locally and be tuned to local environments and local needs.

Figure 10. World Marketed Energy Consumption: OECD and Non-OECD, 1980-2030



This is not going to happen by itself by the invisible hand of the global market and their fortunate priests in charge of global corporations and banks with short term profits and bonuses. We have the technology to change. We can develop new technology to further improve this sustainable life style. But in order to so we need to first of all change the basic thinking and model in our one track minds. To let the invisible hand of GAIA be our guide.

To find a sustainable way of living may seem difficult – but it is not. Such a way of living already exists in many parts of the world. Such a sustainable way of living existed in my home country when I grew up. What we today believe is a technologically advanced way of living is in fact a very inefficient process to produce things to consume in excess of what is really needed resulting a large escalation of pollution. It is naturally true that we do not need to work physically as hard as in the past. In most cases we even work more than before although we have automated most of the production. We do not have to revert to life 50 years ago – but we can go back to the future – using existing technology to achieve a healthy, inspiring, creative & fun way of living in harmony with Gaia. The main change is within our own minds and the fact that we today are being “brain washed” with the constant commercials and entertainment telling us to consume more. To be honest many of us are today addicted to consume and to break this addiction each one of us has to want to change. The same as with alcohol, cigarettes & drugs – it feel nice but it is deadly.

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WWF regularly publish Living Planet Report – the latest on is from October 2008. It points very clearly out that the environmental degradation is not only about global warming:

The recent downturn in the global economy is a stark reminder of the consequences of living beyond our means. But the possibility of financial recession pales in comparison to the looming ecological credit crunch. Whether we live on the edge of the forest or in the heart of the city, our livelihoods and indeed our lives depend on the services provided by the Earth's natural systems. The Living Planet Report 2008 tells us that we are consuming the resources that underpin those services much too fast – faster than they can be replenished. Just as reckless spending is causing recession, so reckless consumption is depleting the world's natural capital to a point where we are endangering our future prosperity. The Living Planet Index shows that over the past 35 years alone the Earth's wildlife populations have declined by a third.

Yet our demands continue to escalate, driven by the relentless growth in human population and in individual consumption. Our global footprint now exceeds the world's capacity to regenerate by about 30 per cent. If our demands on the planet continue at the same rate, by the mid-2030s we will need the equivalent of two planets to maintain our lifestyles. And this year's report captures, for the first time, the impact of our consumption on the Earth's water resources and our vulnerability to water scarcity in many areas. These overall trends have very concrete consequences, and we have seen them this year in daily headlines. Global prices for many crops have hit record highs, in large part due to surging demand for food, feed and biofuels, and, in some places, dwindling water supplies. For the first time in recorded history, this past summer the Arctic ice cap was surrounded by open water – literally disappearing under the impact of our carbon footprint.

Fig. 1: LIVING PLANET INDEX, 1970-2005

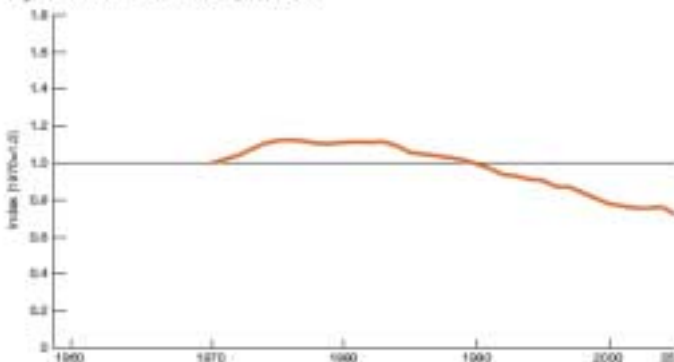
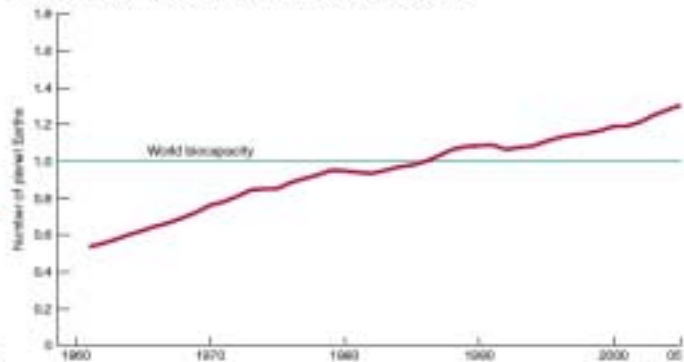


Fig. 2: HUMANITY'S ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT, 1961-2005

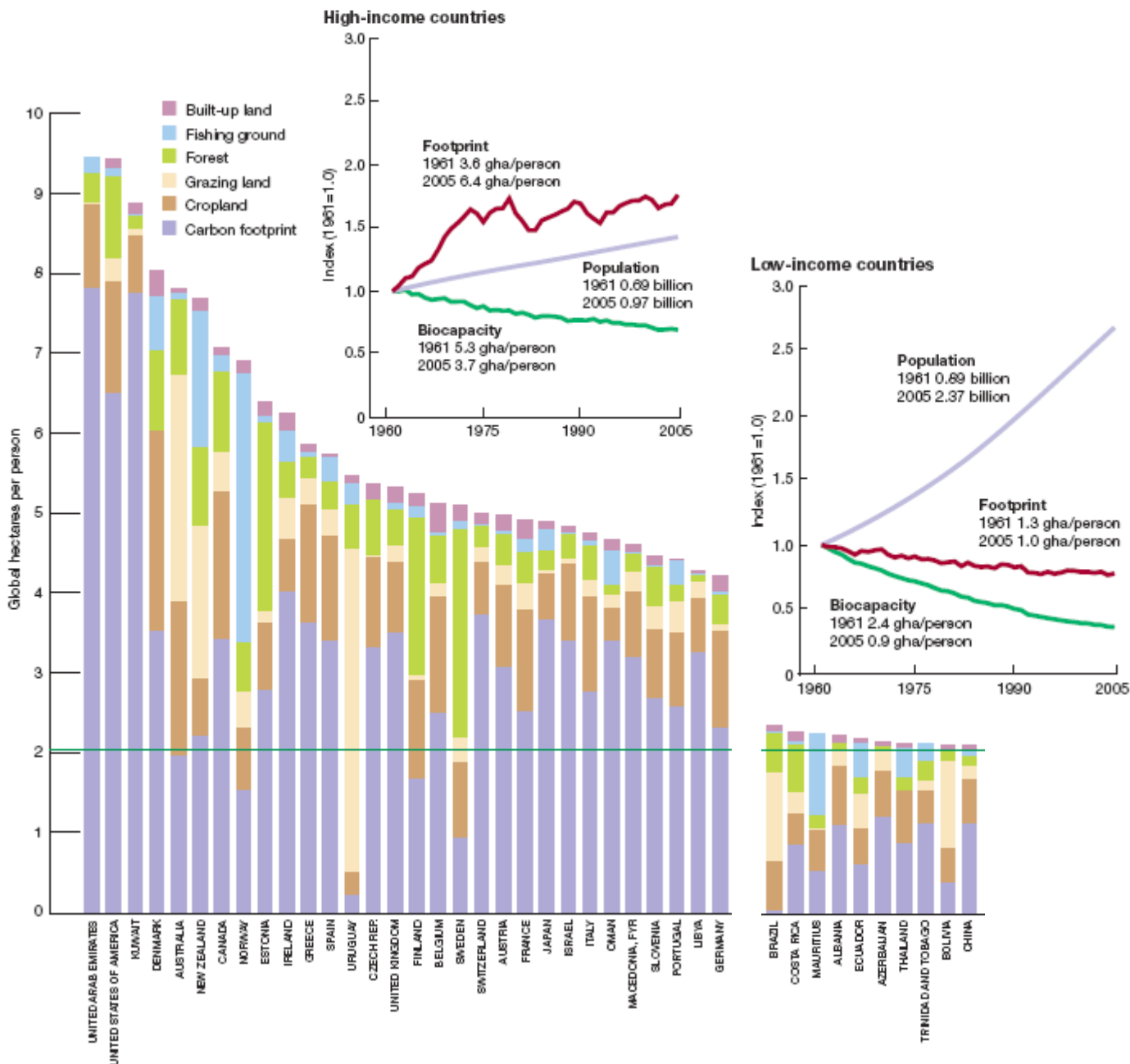


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Also for the total ecological footprint per person USA is now in top only surpassed by UAE – the show case for western society in the Middle East. China is still on the average sustainable level but due to it's population exceeding it's capacity. It s not rocket science to conclude that also this demonstrates that the world can not withstand an lifestyle according to the American model. The footprint has increased and the biocapacity has decreased substantially in high-income countries since 1960 while the footprint per person has decreased on low income countries. Still due to population the biocapacity is going down.



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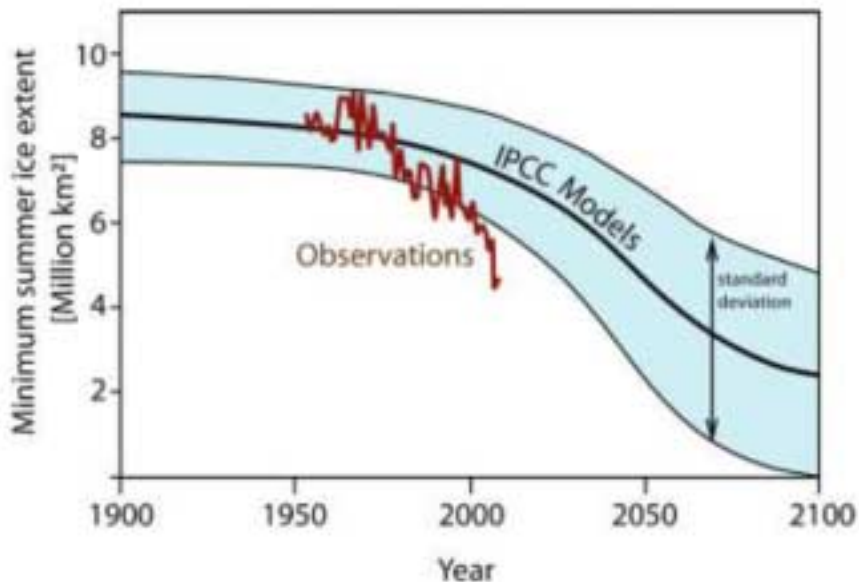
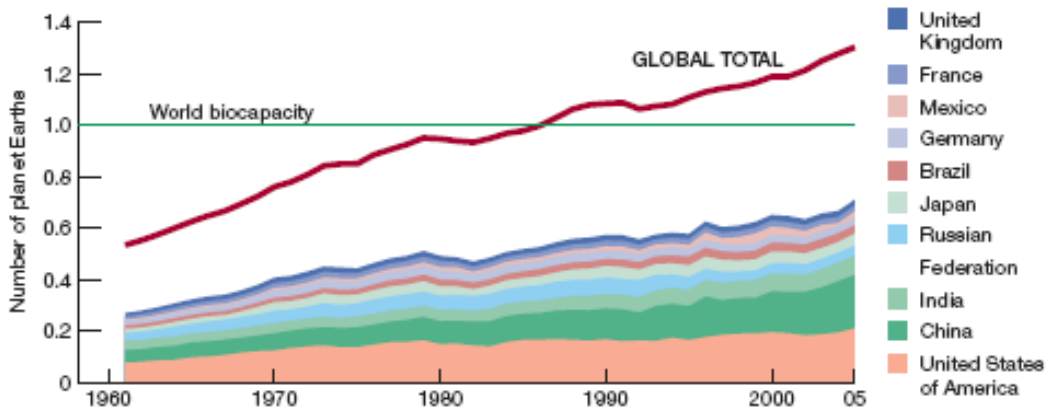
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The ecological footprint in the world passed what was sustainable around 1987. After a short slow down it took off again together with the economic growth for the last ten years. In "A CLOSING WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY -GLOBAL GREENHOUSE REALITY 2008" WWF summarized the situation for the Arctic regions. It is going faster than we thought:

Scientific evidence accumulating since the IPCC's Fourth Assessment Report reveals that global warming is accelerating, at times far beyond projections outlined in earlier studies, including the latest IPCC Report..... The emerging evidence is that important aspects of climate change seem to have been underestimated and the impacts are being felt sooner. For example, early signs of change suggest that the less than 1°C of global warming that the world has experienced to date may have already triggered the first tipping point of the Earth's climate system – a seasonally ice-free Arctic Ocean. This process could open the gates to rapid and abrupt climate change, rather than the gradual changes that have been projected so far.

Fig. 24: **ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT BY COUNTRY, 1961-2005**



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The Nobel price winner Le Clézio describes the genocide taking place on the people of the islands in Oceania similar to the Indians in America. Besides guns various diseases were very efficient from cholera and smallpox to modern aids. He says that globalization is mainly about epidemics and that today's global medicine companies shameful actions are even worse than old crimes – by refusing the inexpensive medicine they are condemning millions to a painful death. Our western way of life refined in USA is today successfully invading all parts of our world as a one way life style based on oil, cars, Coke, McDonalds and shopping malls combined with an even more massive "cultural" invasion from casinos to sex, drugs and violence filled TV and video. It is a model designed around a pyramid game of "investments" and run by a few individuals who we never can elect.

This one way road now has three big "bumps". The Environment, the Economy and the Middle east crisis. All of them to a great extent depending on the base of our present model – oil. All NGO from WWF to Green peace, all UN organizations and many other scientists agree today that we are facing a total environmental break down if we do not totally change our present way towards "hell". In one single generation, our generation – in 60 years – we have managed to severely disturb GAIA and all the life forms that has been created during billions of years. But these three simultaneous crisis's actually gives mankind a tremendous possibility. We can change! Because we have to. But not by adopting the same way by the same people who created this mess. We need a new vision and a new leadership because we already have the technology. It is just in our minds and souls to understand that we have to do so. To work with GAIA and as WWF says *"the environmental assets that are the basis of all life and prosperity."*

Living Planet analysis shows looming ecological credit crunch

29 Oct 2008

Gland, Switzerland: The world is heading for an ecological credit crunch as human demands on the world's natural capital reach nearly a third more than earth can sustain.

That is the stark warning contained in the latest edition of WWF's Living Planet Report, the leading statement of the planet's health. In addition global natural wealth and diversity continues to decline, and more and more countries are slipping into a state of permanent or seasonal water stress.

"The world is currently struggling with the consequences of over-valuing its financial assets," said WWF International Director-General James Leape, "but a more fundamental crisis looms ahead -- an ecological credit crunch caused by under-valuing the environmental assets that are the basis of all life and prosperity."

Download

- ▾ Living Planet Report 2008 [pdf, 4.33 MB]
- ▾ Living Planet Report 2008 Executive Summary [doc, 67 KB]



Living Planet Report 2008
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